

January 2021

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine... that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." - 2 Timothy 3:16-17



It goes without saying that 2020 has been an unusual year! As I write this update in the first few hours of 2021 and reflect back on the events that brought us to this point - I am both confounded by all the twists and turns that the past year has taken - and at the same time amazed at how God used it to accomplish things that I would never have imagined possible!

A year that began with Jana Alayra concerts across the Philippines - continued into an extended trip to Japan in the middle (*two months turned into five*) - ended with us taking over a young Calvary Chapel church plant in Bacolod. A year full of lockdowns and quarantines that did little to stop the

purposes and plans God intended! It definitely did mean we had to adhere to the eleventh commandment. I know what you are thinking - there are only TEN commandments. True! But Pastor Chuck was fond of saying there was an eleventh implied command - Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be broken!

December is always a busy month. The events stacked up as we got closer to Christmas and New Years - but typical of 2020 there had to be some unexpected bumps that made it an exciting ride! There was some uncertainty over where the Christmas Eve service should be held. The New Building was almost complete and we hoped we could meet there - but because the facility had just been painted and had a overwhelming odor we had to scrap that idea. The fall back plan was to meet in the Hotel where the church had been gathering - but at the last minute they ended up canceling the venue because we had too many people (*they only allowed 35 total*). For a moment we thought we might have to cancel the service... but the Lord had a Christmas miracle up His sleeve - and Network church (*where we teach a midweek study*) offered to host the event for us! It ended up being a beautiful day (*no snow of course here in the Philippines*) with LOTS of food and some wonderful fellowship as we remembered the greatest GIFT - Immanuel - God with us!



Christmas Eve Service



Calvary Chapel North



Simbahan sa Bukid



We were blessed to be able to travel to Himamaylan to teach a few services in December as well. The Sunday before Christmas we went down to teach a special message from Luke chapter one - the Announcement of the birth of Christ. We also did a Prophecy update on New Years Eve. We first did the Update in Bacolod on December 30 - then the gave the same Update the next day at Simbahan sa Bukid. The only difference was we had fireworks after the service on the mountain!

As we look towards 2021 there are a LOT of exciting developments on the horizon for Calvary Chapel North. The last Sunday of December we held our first service in the New Building. Though it was not without some controversy (*change is hard and there were a few people who did not like moving to a new location*) the new facility is amazing! It gives us the ability to have multiple services throughout the week (*the hotel was only rented for 3 hours on Sunday*). The new facility also has a room for the Children's Ministry! Kids had not been able to come to church since the lockdown began in March. You should have seen the joy on their faces the first time they were allowed to come back to worship Jesus 😊

Calvary North will have its first board meeting next week. I am excited for the opportunity to come together with these men and prayerfully chart a course for the fledgling fellowship. We will use the meeting as an opportunity to share our testimony - as well as our heart for the church!

The facility where the church meets is called the Elisha Center. Located in the very heart of Bacolod - it belongs to an amazing family in Bacolod who desire to see it used as a place to disciple young people in the Word of God. A few months back we were over at their house for dinner. They were talking about their desire to have a training center for young people. As we talked they got excited and said perhaps the Lord was called us to be the ones to teach there! From the beginning our heart has been twofold. The desire was to see a Bible teaching church in Bacolod - but also to see other churches influenced and encouraged to also TEACH the Word! Bacolod has a LOT of churches - but as in many places - there is a famine for the simple teaching of the Word - **Amos 8:11**. The Elisha Center fits perfectly into the desire to influence and inspire others to teach though the Bible. We will be meeting in the next week to lay out the plan for the upcoming year. The hope is to take young people from various local church through and Inductive Bible Study (IBS) course - teaching them and training them in how to dig into the Word of God. We would also like to offer training courses in IBS as well as original languages (Hebrew / Greek) to local pastors! Please be in prayer with us as we step out in this new venture of faith to both inspire and unite churches in a heart for the Word of God - **2 Timothy 3:16-17!**

Love - David, Jen and Hallel



Bell Hotel - old building



Elisha Center - new building



Children's Ministry

