

April 2021

"[We] are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." - Matthew 5:14



Simbahan Sa Bukid



Receiving the Shoe Boxes



Sorting the Shoe Boxes

It is that time of year again... Christmas in March! This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Christmas Shoe Box outreach from Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship. The heart from the beginning was to match up families at church with kids in other countries who likely had never gotten a present for Christmas. It gave a chance for the local ministries there to hand out these little boxes filled with love and share with the kids the greatest love of all - Jesus. It also provided the chance for the families at home to get to know the child they were reaching out to and pray for them!

At first the main focus of the outreach was around one hundred students in the country of Belize. Then in 2004 we did the first outreach to Calvary Chapel Children's Home - an orphanage in Philippines. In 2005 we

included Colina De Luz - an orphanage in Mexico. In 2014 we began sending the Christmas blessing to the church plant in Himamaylan. A year later we also included one of the communities devastated when typhoon Yolanda ripped through the Island of Leyte.

As the years went by the number of gifts given continued to grow to over four hundred each year. Then in 2019 Calvary Chapel Dickinson and Calvary Chapel Iwakuni (*in Japan*) joined in the outreach. That year almost 1000 shoe boxes were sent encouraging countless families with the Love of Jesus! This year - in light of the pandemic - those gifts were invaluable as the kids got to see that even in times of hardship - God had NOT forgotten them. Words cannot thank you all enough for the Love you pour out through these gifts!



Volunteers from Calvary Bible Fellowship



Giving out the Shoe Boxes





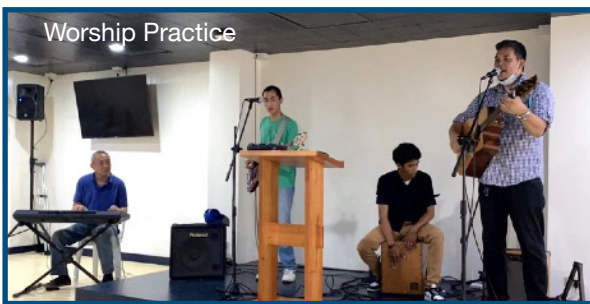
Lunch after church

March proved to be a VERY busy month. The ministry at Calvary Bible Fellowship in Bacolod continues to grow.

We have five Bible studies throughout the week. We continue working our way through the New Testament on Sunday mornings and are currently in the book of 2 Timothy. Tuesday nights we have a discipleship class training up young leaders for ministry, followed by a verse by verse teaching through the book of Genesis. Wednesday nights we are in Silay (*a city to the north of Bacolod*) also working our way through the book of Genesis (*we are currently in the life of Joseph*). Then on Thursdays Jen leads a women's Bible study to build up and encourage the ladies in the church. We have also enjoyed seeing the children's ministry bloom as the little saints get to come and hear about Jesus too!



Elisha Center - Origins of the Bible



Worship Practice

There were a number of firsts this past month. For the first time this month we had a full worship team leading on Sunday mornings. We had our first wedding! It was such a blessing to be asked to perform the ceremony for Ian and Hannah Mariano. The backdrop was stunning as they had an outdoor service in the mountains overlooking Bacolod. The only down side of the evening was having to wear a suite and tie - in the Philippines - where the average temperature is just shy of the surface of the sun. But God was gracious and merciful - and the evening was blissfully temperate with a cool breeze coming off the mountains that made the insufferable polyester layers almost pleasant to wear.



Children's Ministry

This week marks the start of Holy Week here in the Philippines. It is by far the most important holiday of the year. It is looking to be especially hectic for us. I was blessed to be able to teach at a pastors conference on Saturday at one of the local churches. On Sunday evening we were asked to share at a gathering of churches to kick off the Holy Week celebration. On Tuesday at the Elisha Center, and Friday at Network Christian Fellowship, we will be doing a Seder presentations of the Last Supper. Then this Thursday we will be teach a half day Couples Seminar on the Biblical view of marriage at Lamp-stand church in Bacolod (*it is a good time for seminars because everyone had off from*

work). Finally we will have a special family service followed by a potluck and baptism for Calvary Bible Fellowship on Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please be praying with us as we continue to reach out, love, and teach the Word to those who Lord brings into our lives here in the Philippines!

Love - David, Jen and Hallel



Guest speaker

