Calvary Bible Fellowship

MARCH 2024 - CHURCH NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

When we first tell people we are giving out Christmas Shoe Boxes in the month of February it always raises questions. The biggest question being why are we talking about Christmas when the holiday was over two months ago! I love getting asked that question because it allows us to talk about an outreach that amazingly displays the love of Jesus to some the most underprivileged children in the Philippines.

Beginning in August every year we partner with several other churches and schools on the Island to gather the names of around 1000 children who likely will have no gifts come Christmas time. Their names and pictures are then given to around half a dozen churches that we know in both the US and Japan. At the end of November - people from those churches will chose a child and put together a shoe box full of gifts specifically for them. They then bring the boxes back to their churches to mail them off to the Philippines. The gifts are sent in the month of December - it just happens to take over two months for the gifts to arrive!

We never know the exact date when we will give out the boxes from year to year. We wait for the shippers to send us notice that the 50+ balikbayan boxes that are needed to send them all have finally arrived at the warehouse in Bacolod. Once they are on the Island the word quickly spreads in the community that the long awaited Christmas gifts have arrived!

We had around twenty people come down this year from Bacolod to help with the distribution. They were scheduled to arrive in Himamaylan around 10am for the first of three locations where we would be handing out the presents.

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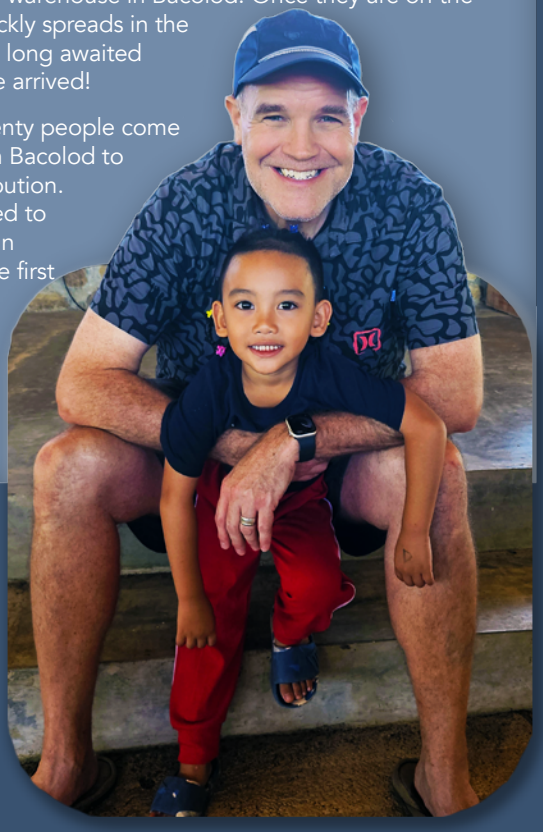

WHAT DOES JOY LOOK LIKE

I am sure there are many definitions that we could give. For me one of the greatest examples of JOY is to watch the wonder that fills the face of a child when they open up a gift from a stranger half a world away, knowing it represents the love of God for them.

No matter where we are today, never forget what God has given to us, the gift of His Son Jesus. When we remember that we likewise will have true JOY that fills our heart!

Couples Dinner 2024

Calvary Bible Fellowship

UPCOMING EVENTS

"He is not here for He is risen."
- Matthew 28:6

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There were around 200 kids who came from the first school in the morning. Another 400 kids who were at the second school in the afternoon, and finally there were around 150 from the church in Himamaylan.

As part of distributing the boxes we make sure to tell the kids about the greatest gift of all. Pastor Bem gave a Gospel message sharing the importance of Faith with the kids. He filled a cup with water and asked a volunteer if they had the faith they would not get wet if he poured it on their head. What they did not know was there was a sponge in the cup that absorbed all the water. He related the illustration to how by Faith God can take away our sin. Pastor Bem then led the kids in a prayer to receive Jesus!

In each location we then finished by distributing the shoe boxes. What followed was absolutely amazing as we watched the kids with great anticipation open up the gifts. As they looked into the boxes there was a contagious smile that quickly spread from one child to another. Our heartfelt thanks to all the families who spent the time putting together these gifts, and the volunteers who took the time to come and distribute them. A blessed day indeed!

Closet to the Community - Bulig sa Bukid, the the outreach arm of Calvary Bible Fellowship, will be sponsoring an Ukay Ukay event this month. All proceeds will go towards upcoming outreaches. If you have clothes you would like to donate, or have time to help man the booth please sign up on the church Messenger page!

Worship & Devotion - Wednesday - March 6 @6pm. Bring a dish to share as we will have dinner together. Gershom Gaston will share a devotion out of Psalm 23, and lead us in an extended time of worship!

Good Friday - March 29 - Good Friday - @10am in the main sanctuary - We will have a special communion service to remember the hope of our salvation.

Resurrection Sunday - March 31 - Resurrection Sunday

- 6am on the New Roof Deck - We will have a special Sunrise Service as we celebrate the truth that our God is alive. The grave could not hold Him, death could not defeat Him, He is risen!

- 7:30am in the main sanctuary - We will have a special breakfast and time to fellowship together!

- 9am in the main sanctuary - We will have a second service for those who are not able to attend the sunrise service.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- Sunday 8:30am & 10:30am - Book of Matthew @CBF
- Tuesday 6pm - Book of Psalms @Elisha Center
- Wednesday 6pm - Book of Psalms @CBF
- First Wednesday 6pm - Worship & Devotion Night
- Second Thursday 6pm - Book of Daniel @Network Silay
- Friday Study 6pm - Men's - Women's - Youth Bible Study

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