

"And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation, but as it is written: "To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand." ~ Romans 15:20-21

HISTORY OF HIMAMAYLAN

There is a lot to be said for a name. When I found out the meaning of the name Himamaylan I was left to wonder what I was getting myself into.

Himamaylan is derived from the Hiligaynon (Ilonggo) words "*hima*", which literally means a disease inflicted by evil spirits, and "*babaylan*" which is the witch doctor that drives out the "*hima*" through rituals.



Turns out that the Malays (original people of Himamaylan) were a very superstitious people. They would hire the "*babaylan*" whom they believed had the power to drive away the evil spirits.

OK, I would have preferred finding out that Himamaylan meant something like "*God is good*". To find out that it means that "*the witch doctor can cast out evil spirits*" is a little troubling. I figure it only stands to emphasize the great need for the Gospel here. The people are genuine and really sweet, but are lost and desperately need to hear about Jesus who will set them free!

PASTORS CONFERENCE



Joe, Billie, and I went to the annual Senior Pastor's Conference in Dumaguete. We took 2 cars the 6-hour drive through the mountains to the south side of Negros Island. It was interesting to realize that once we crossed the Island more than just the scenery changed, the language was

also different. We often think of the Philippines as one nationality. It is one county but with many ethnicities, languages, and cultures all very different from one another. Even within one Island (the Island I am on for example) there can be two very different cultures and languages. When we arrived in Dumaguete they no longer spoke Ilonggo the main language there was Cebuano.

The Conference was a great opportunity to see the work that Jesus is doing in other parts of the Philippines. There are over 30 Calvary Chapels in various places in the Islands. I was most interested to see that there was no work near Himamaylan. The theme of the Conference was "Ministering in a Difficult World" out of the book of II



Timothy. Although the Philippines is very different from the States in many ways (there is no separation of Church and State here... they have daily prayer and the Bible is taught in public schools), yet there is a great need for the Gospel and teaching of the Word of God here. Love the sheep and feed the sheep, that's what my Pastor taught me.

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE

The next few weeks will be a lot of fun as, with the Pastor's conference over,

it's time to begin the work of learning Ilonggo. I could use a lot of prayer for this one! I am not all that sure I speak English very well much less trying to learn another language. I will begin by taking the mornings to teach myself using some manuals that I was able to track down. I hope to find a tutor in the next few weeks. It will be a challenging language to learn, as Ilonggo is not taught anywhere. The language is only spoken in homes and because it is not taught it is not standardized (you can spell a word anyway you want to... actually I kind of like that as I have been doing that with English for years!)



WORKING AROUND THE HOUSE



The remainder of my time has been spent plugging in around the Rosmarino home doing anything from construction (I got to use a sawzall the other day ~ it was great!), to cooking, washing dishes (not small task when you have 150 to cook and clean for), to leading worship and teaching the Sunday service. Its been a blessing to blend into and become part of the family here.

DAVE & JEN UPDATE

For those who are curious about how things are going with me and Jen... we are enjoying our courtship and

waiting on Jesus for His timing. We appreciate your prayers as we seek the Lord and desire to be a good example to all the other kids.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For my language studies... that I would be diligent, and that Jesus would provide a tutor
- For a house in Himamalyan to live in and start a Bible Study
- For humility (all about Jesus) and flexibility (blessed are the flexible)
- For Me and Jen ~ that Jesus would be the center of our courtship

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