

*"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*

## THE LOCAL CHURCH

The teachings at the local Bible College, San Antonio (*picture below*), and Elementary school have all been going well. We have been continuing to go through the Sermon on the Mount at the Bible studies in the mountains and the school. The

Inductive Bible Study class at the Bible College has especially been a lot of fun. The school has asked that it be a full 3 credit hour graded course. That means that I have

been doing a lot of homework (*grading papers and planning classes*). It's been a blessing to spend the time with the kids teaching them how to study their Bibles. There is not a lot of emphasis on teaching the Word in the churches here. The churches tend to be more focused on programs and methods.



While in Himamaylan a few weeks ago I was asked to teach a Sunday service at the local Evangelical church (*picture below*). The pastor had asked the week before if I would be willing to teach one Sunday to which I answered that I would love to. Upon arriving the next weekend I found out that "one Sunday" was that Sunday :-). I took an early bus (4:30am) to Himamaylan to make it to the 7:30am service. It was very interesting for me to see the style of ministry in the local church here. It was a very formal service. There was a lot of tradition. From the opening prayer to the closing benediction every aspect of the service was well scripted and laid out. It was a joy though to be able to share with them from the Word.



I also had an opportunity last week to attend a Men's Breakfast at a local church in Hinigran (*about ½ hour north of Himamaylan*). On the way to the breakfast I was asked if I would be willing to teach :-). That is nothing unusual here, I have kind of got used to flowing with last minute

decisions. Flexibility truly is the order of the day here. You might show up to a Bible study only to find that it was canceled. You also might find yourself teaching a Men's Breakfast or Sunday service with little to no warning. Blessed are the flexible! I

happened to have a teaching from Matthew 4 (*from the other Bible Studies*) with me along with notes to pass out to everyone (*Praise the Lord!*). It was very interesting for me to see the style of the ministry. It was again very formal. I also noted that of all the 60+ men who showed up there was only a handful that was under 40.

## NEW WINE, NEW WINESKINS

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As I continue to pray about the ministry here in Himamaylan my heart is more and more burdened with the need to simply teach the Word. I have been blessed to have an open door to the local church here in Himamaylan. The believers there love Jesus and are reaching and caring for the saints that come every week. My heart goes out though to the many who are not there on Sunday mornings.



*"Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."* – **Matthew 9:17**

There was one brother who I met who no longer goes to church, but was open and willing to share why. He saw the traditions and methodology of the church and realized that it lacked substance. He wanted to be challenged, taught about what God wanted. He needed to see the reason for going to church every Sunday. Tradition was not enough. It

is men like this, who are not interested in the tradition but are hungry to hear about Jesus, that stir my heart. I am still praying about what the next step will be, but the desire is to reach out to teach and love the people here. Perhaps something the Lord will do something "new"... like just hanging out in blue jeans and t-shirts, talking about Jesus, and teaching through the Word :-)

## DAD & MOM COMING FOR THE WEDDING

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Thank you all for praying for My Father and his recent surgery. He is doing really well with his recovery. So well in fact that he and my Mom are praying about coming over for our wedding at the end of September! Please pray that he continues to heal well and that he and my Mom (my sister Elaine may come as well) will have a safe trip over. We cannot wait to see them :-)



## PRAYER REQUESTS

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- For the Bible Studies – and those who come to hear the Word
- For my language studies – I'm getting better; I had a taxi driver ask if I was fluent in Illongo the other day :-)
- For a house to call home in Himamaylan. Still looking...
- For humility (all about Jesus) & flexibility (blessed are the flexible)!
- For our wedding on September 22<sup>nd</sup>!

## CONTACT INFO

Cell Phone: 011-63-908-302-6843 ~ Email: [david@ccbf.net](mailto:david@ccbf.net) (contact me if you would like to be added to the email update list)

Calvary Chapel Bacolod ~ Phase 4 Brgy. Handumanan ~ Bacolod City 6100 ~ Negros, Philippines