

"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 BOOK OF MATTHEW

About 4 weeks ago I was asked to teach a session for a weekend retreat that one of the local churches in Himamaylan was having. It was a wonderful opportunity to go down and for the first time teach there :-). It was a great time of sharing from the Word (*I taught on personal devotions and prayer*). When I was finished one of the ladies (*a school teacher*) asked if I would be willing to come back the next Friday and attend a Bible Study for a group of school teachers (*all of whom speak English. Yeah, no need for a translator*).



I had a conversation the next day with a couple that had been at the Study. They asked me why so many of the pastors in the Philippines do not boldly teach the Word of God. There is a tendency to quote a lot from books, tell entertaining stories, and then make the occasional reference to the Bible. "We are hungry for the Word", they said. "We want to hear about Jesus."

When I returned the following week I was not sure exactly what (*or if*) I would be teaching. There were not a lot of details given only that they would like me to come to their Bible Study. When I arrived they asked me to share from the Word again. In the conversation I had with the couple the week before we had talked about the nation of Israel. They were fascinated to hear about both Biblical Israel and how modern Israel is a fulfillment of God's promise to His people. The same couple was there at the Bible study that night and asked if I could share again about Israel. We had another great time of going through God's Word together. Through the course of the Study the subject of the 2nd coming of Jesus came up. When we were finished they asked me if I would come back again the following week and teach about the 2nd coming of Jesus (*it would be the 3rd week in a row teaching in Himamaylan*). I eagerly agreed.

I came back the 3rd week to teach about the 2nd coming of Jesus. We gathered at one of the teacher's houses and about 15 people showed up (*all teachers at the local schools*) for the Bible Study. There were even several Catholics (*the national religion of the Philippines*) who attended. We had a great time going through the Word and when we got to the Great White Throne Judgment (**Revelation 20:11-15**) we prayed and asked if anyone would like to receive Jesus and have their names written in the Lambs Book of Life!

After the study we spent about an hour just talking about the Bible. They had great questions about the Word! They asked if I would come back every Friday to teach

them. They also asked if I would be willing to teach several other groups who were also eager to be taught the Word (*elementary school teachers, city hall workers, and at one of the local Barnagays – poor area - in the mountains*). They were all hungry for the Word :-)

I went down this past weekend to begin teaching from the Book of Mathew (*the plan is to teach through the Bible*). I also went up into the mountains to meet with a pastor in Barangay San Antonio and arranged to begin teaching a Bible Study every Saturday morning there. Please pray for these Bible Studies and for those the Lord stirs to come out and hear His Word! It's exciting to see the hunger and desire that the people here have to learn about Jesus :-)



HOUSING UPDATE

The search continues for a place to live in Himamaylan. I thought I had a place all ready to go (*there were two choices even*), but the door closed on both. The larger house was leased the day before I went down to rent it. The smaller house will not be available for some time. There is another house (*one of the school teacher's*) that has become available to rent (*the picture*). Please be in prayer about whether this is the right house to rent.

BUILDING A POLE BARN

I have had the opportunity to help out with several construction projects over the past few weeks. I am helping to build a basket ball court at Calvary Chapel Bacolod for the kids. I have also been helping one of the families in Himamaylan to build a pole barn. For those who do not know what a pole barn is (*I did not know till I started helping to build it*), it is a "barn" made from chopped down trees, bammbou, with a tatched roof.

It has been a great opprtunity to spend time with everyone. Expecially in Himamaylan where they are not used to Americans doing manual labor (*they most common question I get asked is "kapoy na" meaning "are you tired?" Tired no, HOT yes! It is about 95 degrees with 90% humidity – Yuk!*) It is one thing to tell others that Jesus is the answer. It is another to walk in their shoes and live that answer.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the Bible Study(s) – that the people would be blessed as we go through God's Word
- For my language studies... that I would be diligent, and retain all that I am learning
- For a house to call home in Himamaylan (still looking)
- For humility (all about Jesus) and flexibility (blessed are the flexible)

CONTACT INFO

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