

"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

A HOME IN HIMAMAYLAN

I had the opportunity to travel down to Himamaylan the second weekend of May. I went down to begin looking for a home to rent. Himamaylan is a very rural community (they call it provincial here). There is not much need for rentals in this sugar cane farming community. I had some good friends who live in the city that had been keeping their eyes open for any possibilities. When I got there they had found two; in all of Himamaylan that was it. I figured that was kind of nice because it makes the decision a lot easier :-). I am praying about which one would be the best place to live and begin holding a Bible Study. Lord willing I would like to move in by the beginning of June.



I am now taking weekly trips down to Himamaylan. I have been asked to teach a youth retreat on May 23rd. I will be teaching on prayer and devotions. It will be a great opportunity to both teach and get a chance to meet new people.

I can't wait to begin teaching through the Bible. I hope to start Friday night Bible Studies once I have a home established.

There is a great hunger for the Word here, but there is no one to teaching though the Bible. I am so excited to begin loving and feeding those whom the Lord will bring.

A LOT OF MEMORIZATION



It goes without saying that I am not the sharpest pencil in the box. It has been a real stretch over the past month with all the new things I have been learning. First there is my attempt to learn the names of all 142 members of my family here at Calvary Chapel Bacolod. So far I have managed to remember about half :-)

Then there is the challenge of learning a new city. You have to appreciate that Bacolod (and all of Negros Island) is not like cities in the US. There are no street signs, very few "straight" roads, and no maps. You have to find things by landmarks. For example if you want to catch the bus to Himamaylan you have to wait at "Goodyear" to catch a ride. "Goodyear" is a street corner named for the

Good year store that resides there. Needless to say it has been fun to try and figure out my way around the Island.

Paul wrote in the I Corinthians 9:22 ~ *“To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”* My desire is to live as a much like a Filipino as I can. Therefore one of the things that I have been learning to do is take the public transportation (Ceres Buses, Dyips, and Tricycles). It is rather efficient and very inexpensive (it costs me about \$2 to take the trip to Himamaylan and back.), and how almost all



Filipinos get around. It has been fun taking trips into Bacolod and Himamaylan, try to find my way around, and then get back home again.

Lastly there is the language... The Lord provided a great tutor for me who teaches me 3 days a week. By Jesus grace I have managed to learn about 500 words so far. One of the things that helps is all the Spanish words that have been absorbed into Ilonggo. For instance, the words table is “la mesa” or the word for work is “trabaho”, both taken from Spanish. Even when

they count it is in Spanish. Who would have thought that my 7th grade Spanish class would one day help me learn Ilonggo!

THE BOOK OF ACTS

I have been enjoying teaching the Book of Acts to the 3rd – 5th graders on Sunday mornings. I have to say that I have a LOT more respect for children’s ministry teachers now. I had a friend write me and tell me that I now get to look at the Book of Acts through the eyes of a child. I like that perspective... It’s been fun looking at Acts that way. No Greek, no original languages, just the simple truth of the Word. Challenging for me, but fun!



I was sharing a few Sundays ago on Acts 7. We were talking about how the Jews trusted in the Temple to save them, and that Steven made the point that it was not the Temple of God that was important, but the God of the Temple! At that point I was going to use a Pastor “Clarkism” and say that just because we are in a garage does not make us a car. The problem was that most here don’t have cars or garages here. I quickly looked for a cultural parallel. As I glanced out the window it came to me... I saw some pigpens behind the church. I asked the kids, if I stand in a pigpen does that make me a pig. They laughed! Its been fun to share with them the simple truths of the Bible simply :-)

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For my language studies... that I would be diligent, and retain all that I am learning
- To choose the right house in Himamalyan and for the start the Bible Study
- For humility (all about Jesus) and flexibility (blessed are the flexible)

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