

"Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles." - Acts 14:27

### MISSIONS CONFERENCE

We were so blessed to be able to be a part of the 2009 missions conference at the church! We were not only able to attend the conference but also catch up and fellowship with family and friends. There were many days when we had more than one breakfast, lunch, or dinner just to try and fit in seeing everyone. Thanks to everyone for making the trip such a blessing!



While we were in the States the Lord blessed us with a couple of wonderful servants who came over to the Philippines to love and care for the church while we were gone. We thought it might be nice to have Doug MacRae and Nick Nunez share about their time here...

### DOUG MACRAE...

My time in the Philippines was a blast. I got to know dozens in people in the Himamaylan area where Pastor David and Jen are serving. The Philippine people are amazingly friendly and always ready to smile. They have a strong sense of family. Many families are very large and it's wonderful how they take care of one another, the elderly are respected, and the extended family seems to always stick together.

There were many Bible Studies including a twice per week study at the local high school, a missions class at a Bible college, a Sunday night men's study, a Thursday study in the village of Calasa, a Saturday study in the village of San Antonio, and the Sunday morning teaching at the church.

The Sunday morning service is held at Simbahan Sa Bukid (*Church in the Mountain*) in a barn on the farm owned by Jen Hinchey's parents. The building is in the typical Nipa hut style. It's made of bamboo, with a palm frond roof, open on all four sides. During the services the wind often blows through the sanctuary. It rained a great deal and amazingly the building did a good job of keeping things dry. God's beauty is all around when looking out over the rolling hills of the Bukid farmland.

I taught for four weeks so each Sunday we dug into a chapter of Philippians. It was quite a learning experience for me in preparing for the teachings. Giving the message for the Sunday service is not something that's natural to me, or that I thought I'd ever do, but by God's grace and His grace only it was a blessing!

We can learn a lot through Paul's dealings with the church at Philippi. He was a person

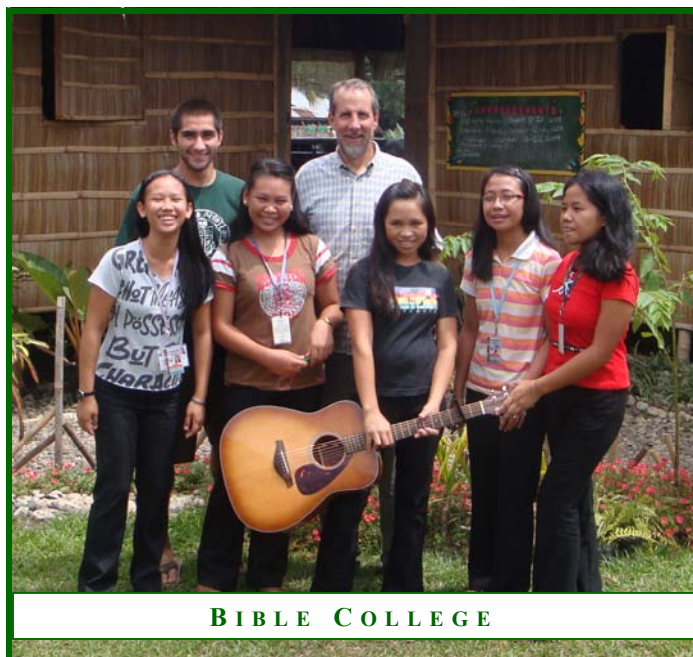


whom we could say had everything - a Pharisee and Jew among Jews. He also was a strong persecutor of the early church. After he got saved and had walked with the Lord for quite a few decades he ended up in a Roman jail with nothing, yet he was able to write a most encouraging and joyful letter to the Philippians. He proclaimed from jail, "*But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ*" - **Philippians 3:7**

It's was great to be there with Nick Nunez who is also from the Barn in Temecula. He's a young man seeking God and learning to trust Jesus in everything. All the kids love him.

Being in the Philippines had it's unique challenges. The culture is deeply entrenched in religion. I was talking to some of the college kids the other day. There is a cultural problem they call the three P's - pungko, pamati, puli. That means sit, listen, go home. You see most people here attend church or believe in God, but having a living personal relationship with Jesus is not very common. We read in the gospels that a sower went out and sowed the word in four types of soil. I would say because of the culture the soil here is very rocky. Please continue to lift up Pastor David and his wife Jen as they sow the word and God turns the soil.

### **NICK NUNEZ**



**S**alamat Ginoo (*thank you Lord*)! The time went far to quickly but it was a blessing to be apart of the fellowship here in the Philippines at "Simbahan Sa Bukid". The 7 weeks I spent in Himamaylan were so much fun and the Lord has poured out so many blessings! It was a real joy getting to know the people on a more personal level, and the more time I spent there, the more I fell in love with them all and did not want to leave! Its impossible not too fall in love with such sweet people! Sunday, August 1st, was an especially great day at church. We all gathered after the message and partook in communion as the body of Christ to remember all that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has done for us.

The Lord used my time there teaching me and stretching me so much, beyond anything I could ask for. The family at Simbahan Sa Bukid was really a blessing to be a part of. They are all such dears, and I'm so thankful the Lord put them in my life. As you may know, I went there to help with the worship, and although it was a challenge (*the worship is all in the native language - Illongo*), it was also a joy. Singing praises to God in English is hard enough for me... learning to lead worship in Ilonggo was definitely a stretch. The teenage girls at the church helped me with my pronunciation and it was always fun to watch them laugh at me when I said a word wrong! Nonetheless it was such a blessing to worship the One True and Living God on the other side of the world with the brothers and sisters at "Simbahan sa Bukid."

Another stretching experience was teaching a few bible studies. I had never given a message before, other than a short devotion, and I loved having the opportunity to lead a few studies. Though they required much study and preparation, it was always a blessing to dig deeper into the Word of God and then share with others what the Holy Spirit taught me while studying the Word! It sure is great to be stretched and used.



We had the opportunity to take a trip to Mag Aso which is where a beautiful jungle waterfall is located! It was such a fun day of fellowship and relaxing while enjoying God's awesome creation! One Monday Doug and I also had the opportunity to go to Bacolod city and spend two days with the Rosmarino family at Calvary Chapel Bacolod! The

kids absolutely melted our hearts. It was such a joy watching them love the Lord! They truly are some of the wealthiest kids I have ever met because they have found the greatest treasure - Jesus!

I enjoyed getting to know Bembem and Je (*Jen's brother and sister*). They were both wonderful servants and were constantly helping Doug and I. Bembem was an amazing chef and constantly whipped up some delicious food for us. He was also very patient with teaching me how to make Filipino foods. Mango Float and Lumpia were my favorites! It was fun trying different foods. Dandan (*another of Jen's brothers*) bought me some Balut (*cooked fermented chicken embryo*). Out of pressure from others I tried it and managed to force it down. It wasn't too bad... just interesting. Bembem also showed me where to find some tasty Durian fruit. It smells quite horrific but is actually very tasty! I enjoyed it so much we actually ate it more than once! Je was a blessing as well. She was such a dear to come home from a long week of school and help clean up after me and Doug! She would even try to take over the dishes if I was doing them. When she would leave the house would always smell and look much better than before she arrived!

Doug did great as well! He led all the Bible studies and it was truly evident why the Lord brought him. He is surely fit for the ministry. The kids all loved when Tito Doug came around with his camera and it was always a blessing to hear his teachings. He had a heavy load of teachings, but did great. It was so much fun to serve with him in the Philippines!

Whether it was spending time in the Bukid (*mountain*) with the family in Himamaylan, enjoying God's creation at Mag Aso, enjoying a tasty Balut, attempting to worship in Ilonggo, teaching the Word, playing with the kids, having corn throwing battles, loading 40 people on a jeep (*inside and on top*) or taking a nice sunday nap, it was such a joyful blessing to be there. God has been so good to me, and it was bittersweet to leave. Christ is definitely moving amongst the people there in Himamaylan, and it was more than a blessed experience to be a part of it.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the Bible Studies - for the Word to change lives
  - For The Sunday service at Simbahan sa Bukid
  - For the midweek studies in Calasa and San Antonio
  - For the Men's Bible and the community of Lagtapon where it meets
  - For the High School teacher's study and the Bible College study
  - For the Women's Study on Sunday nights (*Jen will be starting to teach the ladies*)
- For the radio station - that the Lord would open the door for the Word to go out to the whole community
- For our marriage - that we constantly grow closer to Jesus and each other
- Still praying for a little Hinchey :-)
- For flexibility and humility - that we would both be full of Jesus!

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