

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." - Isaiah 9:6



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! We are getting set for another 90 degree Christmas here in the hot and humid tropics of the Philippines...

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY / THANKSGIVING...

November 9th marked the one year anniversary of the church. The "Simbahan" was packed when we celebrated on the 22nd with a



Thanksgiving Potluck! We had to add new seats and a "kitchen" in preparation. There was no turkey (*they are hard to find around here*) instead we had a 120lbs spit roast pig. The best part was we just started going through Jesus' Olivet Discourse in **Matthew 24**. Most of the people here had never heard End Time prophecy before. To hear Jesus is coming soon to take the church to the Wedding feast in heaven - then follow up the teaching with a little feast of our own - made for an amazing celebration!



CHRISTMAS CAROLING...

A group of us went out caroling in last week after church. We loaded as many as we could in the "Simbahan" jeep and headed up the mountain. It was quite the site to behold - packed on the inside,



overflowing on top, hanging off the back, and sitting on the hood. In all we managed to get over 50 people onboard!



Caroling is a common holiday event here - but it is usually used as a fund raiser.

People are expected to give money to those who come singing. For that reason most people pretended not to be home when we arrived... but it's hard to ignore 50+ people signing on your doorstep. We wanted to give them the real meaning of Christmas so we handed out candy to show it is not about what we can get - but what we have been given. The greatest gift of all - Jesus!





WHITE ELEPHANT...

We have been praying for months now about starting a youth ministry for the teenagers at the church. We were seeing a solid and consistent group of youth coming out every week for the Bible Studies so we prayerfully decided to start up a new Bible study just for them on Saturday afternoons. We will go through a 4 week rotation: 1st week - Youth Bible study, 2nd week - Fun & games outreach, 3rd week - Servanthood (*helping out with practical needs of those in the community*) 4th week - Worship & prayer. We started the 1st Saturday in December with a teaching from **Acts 6** on being a Servant of God. The best part - Bembem (*the church's Children's leader*) will be teaching the Bible Studies. It is a HUGE blessing to me to see him teaching the word of God to the youth in Illongo. He did a great job the teaching from **Acts 6** and all the youth were blessed!



The 2nd week we had a gift exchange. Most of the youth will not get anything for Christmas as just putting food on the table is a challenge here for most families. We had all the kids bring a gift (*under \$1*) and put it under the tree. We then opened the gifts "White Elephant" style. If you have never had a "White Elephant" Christmas (*everyone either picks a new present from under the tree or they can "steal" one that had already been opened*) you have missed out on more laughing and fun than one afternoon should be allowed to have! It was a great way to remember the greatest gift of all - Jesus! This week we will make oil lamps to give out to those who do not have power to light up their homes at night. We will give them out as Christmas gifts telling them about the Light of the World that came to take their sin away.

RADIO MINISTRY...

We have a great praise report from the radio station. We have been jumping through all the legal hoops for months now with very few results, but this past week we were finally granted temporary rights from the city mayor to broadcast while we are going through the NTC (*National Telecommunication Commission*) licensing process. That means we will be able to start airing Bible teachings immediately. The next step is to find (*prayer is greatly appreciated*) a congressman who is willing to present a bill before the congress to grant us a "franchise" here in the Philippines. Once we have the franchise (*requires the president's signature*) we can move on to the actual application for a radio license. The time line for completing the process is likely several years. Though we expect to find lots of challenges we are getting more and more excited with the opportunity to reach so many with the Word of God!

UPCOMING EVENTS....

Next week we will have a special Christmas Eve service at the church. The kids & youth have been working on a special nativity play. We will follow that up with a special Christmas message and communion. Then on the 31st we will have an Prophecy Current Events update. After the service we will have a fireworks show for everyone to enjoy.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the Bible Studies (*9 of them*) - for the Word to change lives
- For the radio station - favor with the "franchise" and the NTC and licensing
- For our Christmas and New Years services
- For our marriage - constantly grow closer to Jesus and each other
- Still praying for a Baby Hinchey...
- For flexibility and humility - that we would both be full of Jesus!



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