

February 2009

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
- I Corinthians 13:13

VALENTINES DINNER...

Valentines day is not a big holiday here in the Bukid (*mountains*). For the most part the day passes without so much as a second thought given that it is a day different from any other. That was until last Saturday when the Pole Barn (*aka our little church here in the Bukid*) was transformed and all the married couples came out for a candle lit dinner with their spouses.



Several of the ladies from the church helped out decorating the barn with candles, roses, palm branches shaped like hearts, and bamboo torches. Some of the single girls volunteered to watch the kids while the single guys served the meal. And what a meal it was... Bihon, Valenciana, spaghetti (*Filipino style*), all the rice you could eat, and litson (*whole cooked pig*)! By the time everyone stopped eating they were so full they could hardly move.



The best part of all was the looks and excitement of the couples who got to celebrate



Valentines together. We had a sweet time of worship then a time in the Word looking at God's perfect plan for marriage. It was a great opportunity to encourage them to keep Jesus, the one who never changes, as the foundation of their marriages!

NEW BIBLE STUDIES...

Over the past few weeks the Lord has opened up the doors to start two new Bible Studies. We had been praying for some time about starting a mid-week service. We tried to begin one here at our house on Fridays but found that it was hard for people to make it from the Bukid (*only about 3 miles away ~ but there are no tricycles at night to bring them home*). Then one of the couples from church offered for us to hold a study at their house in the Bukid. Praise the Lord... we have now begun to go through the Book of Genesis there on Thursday nights.

The other Bible study is on Friday evenings at the local High School. Right after we teach Acts at the local Bible College we head over to the High school (*there are about 5000 students and 70+ teachers*) to teach some of the teachers! It is a great opportunity to be a light and share the hope of Jesus in the public schools.

DAMO MGA BATA (LOTS OF KIDS)

We continue to see a lot of kids (*more each Sunday*) showing up for church. We open up the service with worship (*all in Illongo*). The kids take part and attend the worship with the parents then head off “sa babaw”, to the top of the property to attend children’s service.



The Lord has really blessed us with gifted teachers who have a huge heart to love and care for these kids. Donabelle (*one of the local High School teachers*) teaches the kids a new Bible Story every week.

Bembem and Je help out with coloring pages and games. The Kids LOVE it! They love to hear about Jesus. Every week they bring more of their friends to hear the Word. Some are even beginning to bring their parents :-)



FRIENDS FROM AFAR...

We were blessed to have a team come from Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship to visit us at the end of January. It was great to catch up with dear friends and get a chance to meet some new ones. We took them up to the Bukid where they were greeted by some of the church family and a whole lot of food. Now, it just would not have been right to feed them hamburgers and hotdogs... we thought a more traditional Filipino meal was in order. In spite of the “unusual” food we all had a great time! It was a real encouragement to me and Jen :-)



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Just a quick update on the Web page. We are working on making the page bi-lingual (Ilonggo/English) so if you would like to visit the page in the near future you should be able to read it :-). All the recent teachings: Matthew, Genesis, and Acts are available (*sorry about the chickens and the rain in the recording :-)* ~ *we are in the bukid after all*). You can also now view all the newsletters. Enjoy!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the Sunday service in the Mountains & the other Bible Studies
- My language lessons - the ever present prayer request :-)
- For our marriage, our time in the Word, keeping Jesus at the center!
- For humility (all about Jesus) & flexibility (blessed are the flexible)

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