

“As cold water to a weary soul, So is good news from a far country.” - Proverbs 25:25

MINISTRY UPDATE...

We are all set to head out to the US next week for the Missions Conference in California... well almost ready. There are always those last minute details that need to be tied up before you go - but by Jesus Grace everything has come together beautifully! Jen has her 10 year visa to the States, Doug MacRae and Nick Nunez are here to help cover the church while we are gone, and with tickets in hand we are excited to get a chance to see everyone! If you have not contacted us yet and would like to get together with us while we are in the US please do - our schedule is filling up quickly.

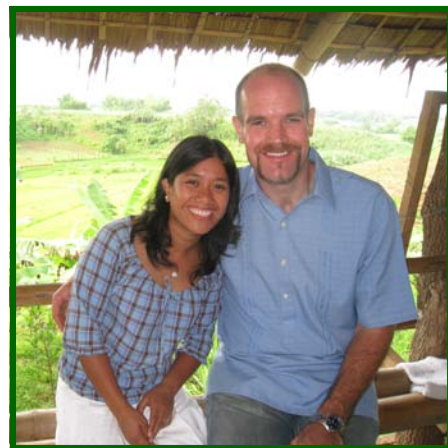
The Church and Bible studies are all going really well! We are now teaching 9 times a week :-) Sunday service and Sunday night Men's study, Tuesdays night discipleship class, Wednesday at the Bible College, Thursday mid-week, Friday (& Wednesday) at the High School, Saturday in San Antonio and the Saturday night leadership study. What a blessing to be in the Word!

CHURCH BAPTISM & PICNIC

Last month we had our first ever church Baptism and Picnic! We had a couple from the church ask us about being baptized so we decided to have a church baptism and invite everyone out to attend.

We loaded the church (*about 100 of us*) into couple of vehicles and headed out to the beach. It was quite the sight. About 70 of us were all standing in the back of a HUGE sugar cane truck. Not the safest way to travel - but a lot of fun! When we got to the beach the Lord blessed us with a perfect day. We all had some good Filipino home cookin' - fish, rice, bihon, and spaghetti - and after lunch had a short teaching on Baptism.

Most Filipinos think of Baptism in terms of religion. The thought is that you get baptized if you change your religion (e.g. - Catholic to Baptist). We went to Romans 6:4 for the real meaning of Baptism...



the outward confession of the change that has taken place inside when you believe in Jesus... Buried with Him in Baptism (*dunked in the water*) raised up in newness of life - **II Corinthians 5:17**. We did not want anyone to feel pressured to be baptized so we just walked out into the water with an open invitation for anyone who wanted to follow.

To our overwhelming surprise we had about 40 people come out to be dunked! I am not sure how long we were out in the water, but I do know that I turned about as red as a barn in the county! What a blessing though! Young and old alike all came out to say that they had given their lives to Jesus and they wanted everyone to see it! Man is Jesus good or what!

THE GIRLS...

There is a really special group of teenage girls that have become a regular part of the fellowship. They show up just about every time we have a Bible Study. It has been a real blessing to see them growing in Jesus and in His Word! Please be praying for them as they are a real light in their community and people are really beginning to take notice. Lord willing we may see a youth group started sometime in the not too distant future :-)



FRIENDS FROM AFAR...

Last week the California crew began to arrive. Danny Lybeck came out for a couple of days. Then Nick Nunez came and will be staying here for 6 weeks. Doug MacRae will arrive in about a week then He and Nick will cover the church while we are gone. They will have a pretty hectic schedule covering the Bible studies, worship, and children's ministry. Please pray for them and for Bembem who will be translating for all the studies.



RADIO STATION...

We have run into a bit of a snag with the NTC (National Telecommunication Commission) over licensing for the radio station (*they are requiring us to go through the same process for our little 5watt station that a full power FM station would have to go through*). We have a good friend looking into the requirements and at first it looked like we were excluded from licensing, but it turns out they do have a category for ultra low power transmitters. Their requirements are anything but clear. The first stipulation is that we get a congressional franchise. When we asked the NTC what that was they simply said they did not know, we could have to contact the Philippine Congress to find out. Welcome to the red tape. We will continue to step out in faith to see if God wants to part this "Red sea" of red tape so we can step through.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the Bible Studies - for the Word to change lives
- For the Men's Bible and the community of Lagtapon where it meets
- For the radio station - that the Lord would open the door for the Word to go out to the whole community
- For our trip to the US - safe travel and lots of opportunity to catch up with family and friends
- For Doug MacRae and Nick Nunez as they care for the fellowship while we are gone
- For our marriage - that we constantly grow closer to Jesus and each other
- A little Hinchey :-)
- For flexibility and humility - that we would both be full of Jesus!

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