

JANUARY 2010

“One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.” - Psalm 27:4



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy new year to everyone! We are so thankful for God’s faithfulness over the past year, and we are looking to see what the Lord will do this upcoming year. The schedule is already starting to fill up!

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY...

We had a special Christmas Eve service at the church on December 24th. The youth and kids put on a play for all to enjoy. The Nativity story was narrated as they acted out the parts. To say that the kids were adorable would be an understatement! We concluded the evening with a special teaching about “the Shepherds in the field”... God chooses the most unlikely of all people to tell others about Jesus! We have included some more pictures of the kids (*just because they were SO CUTE*) for you to enjoy on the back page.



END TIMES UPDATE...

For New Years Eve we did our first ever End Times update. Having just finished **Matthew 24&25** - The Olivet Discourse - and in light of the coming new year - it seemed like the perfect time to talk about current events in light of Biblical prophecy. For most of those who attended (*the church was*

packed) this was the first time they had ever heard about Russia, Muslims, and the Magog invasion of Israel (**Ezekiel 38&39**). It was the first time they had heard about a Revived Roman empire (**Daniel 2&7**). It was the first time they heard about the rebirth of the nation of Israel (**Ezekiel 37**). To say the least there were a lot of wide eyes and uncertain expressions, but everyone understood the bottom line. Jesus is coming soon... be ready!



After the teaching we had our own little fire works display at the church. It actually lasted about 30 mintues (*most of it with me running away from the large explosives that just been lit*). Everyone really seemed to enjoy the whole evening!



UPCOMING EVENTS....

Just next week we will have a team coming from Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship. We are so excited to see our church family from the States! The whole team will spend a day with us doing outreaches in the Local Elementary & High School. Pastor Charlie & Gail will stay with a couple of others through the weekend. They will help us build a new Children's ministry building (*all made from Bamboo and grass*). Then on Sunday Gail will host a special purity retreat for the young girls in the church.

Every year we have our Valentines dinner here at the church. Just like last year we will decorate the "barn" (*our church in a poultry*) transforming it into a beautiful banquet hall. For many of the couples at church this is the only night during the year where they get to have a "date" and sit down to a served meal. This year we will also add a wedding ceremony! Many of the couples in our community do not get married because they cannot afford the lavish wedding ceremony dictated by the culture. Instead they simply move in together - some even have several kids already. The Lord put it on our heart to offer the Valentines dinner as an opportunity establish their relationship before the Lord. There are several other couples in the church - who are married - but have asked if they can renew their vows. It will be a regular Mass wedding for Valentines day.

So when Jen and I were on our anniversary in September we met a young lady who belongs to a church in the nearby city of Bacolod. When she found out that we were church planting in Himamaylan she asked if we would like for her church to come and do an outreach for the kids in our community. In short - we said we would love it - and they are coming on March 6th to do a one day VBS style outreach for all the kids! They will bring snacks (*food is always good*), games, and the message of the Love of Jesus.

Until recently we had been praying on how to better reach out to the men in our community. The culture here says its not macho to go to church or be interested in God. For generations the men worked hard, drank hard, and gambled hard - so they think that is what it means to be a man. About a year ago I had a "chance" encounter with a man in the mall named Jojo who was an Arnis master (*Filipino martial art*). We had struck up a conversation and I had even taken a few lessons from him. Almost a year passed and Jojo got back in touch with me. He was born a Catholic but had been reading his Bible daily and remembered I was a pastor and wanted to ask me some questions. We met one afternoon in Bacolod - and he had AMAZING questions. I was astounded by the maturity and insight the Holy Spirit had given to him through just reading his Bible. He was hungry for the Word - hungry for the Lord. Then we had the idea - he could come down to Himamaylan once a month to teach the men there Arnis - then afterwards we would have a Bible study! It gave both the opportunity to reach out to the hard men from the community and the chance to disciple Jojo more through the Bible! We had our first class on last week - the Arnis was great - the Word was even better!

So a little further out we will get the ball rolling for another week long summer Vacation Bible School for the kids in April. Then in May we are praying about having a camping trip up in the mountains for the youth.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- The Bible Studies (*9 of them*) - for the Word to change lives
- The radio station - favor with the "franchise" and the NTC
- The team coming from Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship
- The upcoming outreaches over the next few months
- Our marriage - constantly grow closer to Jesus & each other
- We would really like a Baby Hinchey... maybe even 2 :-)
- Flexibility and humility - we would both be full of Jesus!



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