

“When you see these things happening, look up... for your redemption draws near.” - Luke 21:28

## HAPPY NEW YEAR...

Happy new year to everyone! We stand amazed at God’s faithfulness over the past year, and we are excited to see what the Lord will do this upcoming year. The calendar is already starting to fill up!

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES...

The week before Christmas we were asked by the local High School to share a Christmas message with their students. Coming from the United States I never cease to be amazed at the unparalleled access pastors are given to preach Jesus in the public school here. We were able to go and share with the kids, not only about the birth of Jesus, but more importantly His death and resurrection! We concluded the teaching by offering to have the kids pray to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Talk about the best Christmas gift ever!

The week of Christmas the timing worked out perfect - we just ‘happened’ to be in Luke 2:1-20 (*the story of the birth of Jesus*) in our verse by verse Sunday study through the New Testament! It was a blessing to share a special ‘Christmas message’ about Jesus - born in a manger in Bethlehem. Bethlehem was the city where the Passover lambs were raised - which is why there were shepherds watching over the flocks by night.

Why Was Jesus born in a manger (*in a barn full of animals*) - seen first by shepherds - because He was THE Lamb of God - John 1:29 - who came so that sin would ‘pass over’ us!

On Christmas Eve the kids in the church performed a special Christmas nativity play. This is the 2nd year the kids acted out the Nativity - but this year they also put together a full choir to sing along with the narrative. One of the little girls, little 9 year old Ronalyn, even sang a solo to the song ‘I adore You’. It was

an incredible way to remember the reason for the season - Jesus!

Christmas is a difficult time in the Bukid (*mountain*) for people to stand up for Jesus. We have noticed over the past couple of years that church attendance drops off because everyone is going to ‘Christmas’ parties and all night discos. With that in mind we were moved to share the kids Christmas Nativity play in all of the



communities in the Bukid. In the week following Christmas we performed the play 3 more times - reaching out with the real purpose of Christmas. Not parties, dancing, and gifts - but Immanuel come to live among us. Jesus born in a manger so that He might one day die for the sins of all men!

### NEW YEARS PROPHECY UPDATE...

On New Years Eve we had our 2nd annual Prophecy update. It was exciting time of going through the outline of End Times events laid out in God's Word - comparing them to the current events we see unfolding every day in the world around us. It left everyone looking up - because Jesus is coming soon! After the teaching we all went up to the top of the hill and had a wonderful fireworks show (*minus the part where one of the fireworks went sideways and blew up only a few feet in front of me*). It was a GREAT way to ring in the New Year.



### UPCOMING EVENTS...

In just a few weeks a team from Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship will be coming over to spend a week with us. We are really excited to see our church family from the States! They will 'take over' the local Elementary and High schools here for 3 days giving the Gospel message in each and every classroom! Then on the weekend they will be hosting a one-day Women's Retreat at Mag Aso (*jungle water falls*). Gail Glasgow will be teaching on Proverbs 31 - the Godly woman. The husbands are also invited to come along - to cook and serve the ladies. Most of the ladies have never been on a women's retreat before and are really excited to see what the Lord will do in their lives!



We are planning on having a Valentines dinner again this year in February for the couples in the church. This is a highlight of the year for many of them as they rarely if ever have the opportunity to have a 'date' night. It looks like we will be having a wedding ceremony again this year as part of the evenings events. So many of the couples here live together but do not get married because they cannot afford the lavish ceremony dictated by the culture. The Valentines dinner/wedding gives them the opportunity to make their relationship right before the Lord.

Bembem, the children's ministry pastor, is already getting things rolling for our Summer kids camps and Vacation Bible School outreaches. Summer in the Philippines is from April-May - so it is only a couple of months away. We plan to take the kids on a week long summer camp in April. Then a week long VBS in May. All in all it is looking like a busy start to a New Year!



### PRAYER REQUESTS

- The Bible Studies - for the Word to change lives
- Upcoming events - Bible fellowship team / Women's retreat Valentines dinner / Summer camps / VBS
- The people in the Bukid (*mountain*) - to be open to Jesus!
- Strength for those families who are standing up for Jesus!
- The radio - favor with the 'franchise' - and the NTC
- Our marriage - grow closer to Jesus & each other
- Still praying for God to give us a 'Baby Hinchey'...
- Flexibility and humility - we would both be full of Jesus!

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