

*“He who has begun a good work in you will complete it...” - Philippians 1:6*

### NOVEMBER 9TH, 2008...

It is hard to believe but it has been three years since we held our first Sunday service up in the Bukid on November 9th, 2008. Reflecting back on the past three years, there have been many challenges, some surprising rewards, and as always lots of unexpected turns as we continue to reach out and love and teach the people in the Bukid (*mountain*).

All the while the vision has remained the same. First - to make disciples of Jesus Christ through the teaching of God's Word - **Matthew 28:19-20**. Second - by Jesus grace to see a church established in such a way that it is dependent on the Lord and duplicable by the national believers.

Along those lines we continue to work our way through the Bible teaching multiple Bible studies every week. We have gone through the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Matthew, Mark, Acts, Romans, I Corinthians, James, and I Peter. We are currently teaching through Luke on Sunday mornings, Deuteronomy for the mid-week studies, II Corinthians in the Men's study, and I Corinthians in the women's study. **Acts 20:27**

The Bible studies take place in nipa huts (*grass roof bamboo houses*), under trees, and the Sunday service is held in an old chicken barn. The surroundings may seem a bit unconventional for church services but the desire is to show that church is not about a building - its about people coming together to learn the Word of God and grow closer to Jesus Christ! If (*Lord willing when*) God raises up some of the people to go out and start new churches, all they need to do is find a tree, nipa hut, or old barn where people can meet to hear about Jesus!

We continue to pray the Lord will raise up men with the desire to step out in faith to teach His Word. Whether that means taking over the existing Bible studies or going out to start new ones!

### RADIO STATION UPDATE...



It has been two years since we began the application process for a license to broadcast here in Himamaylan. Not much has happened in regards to acquiring the franchise we need from our Local congressman. We stopped by again this past week and again we were told they were still working on our paper work. It is definitely turning out to be more of a marathon than a sprint. We were blessed in the past few weeks to have a number of local pastors stop by the station to inquire about recording original worship music in Illongo. From the beginning our vision has been to both, have local pastors and



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churches involved in the programming of the station, as well as to have as much of the programming as possible available in the local dialect of Illongo. We recorded ten songs with the pastors (*all from various denominations*) and have begun to air them on the radio.

### **JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN...**

**L**uke 18:16 - "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God." The vision for the Children Ministry is to teach the kids about Jesus as well as give an opportunity for the youth and adults to be involved in raising up the next generation. We really see the need to teach the children the Word of God here in the Bukid. Many do not have a good example and few have anyone to teach them about Jesus. We are blessed to be able to step out to minister over 50 children every Sunday and to teach them Gods word.

It has been almost three years since Je and I begin to minister the children. At first we only had two classes, ages 7 and below were taught by Je, and I taught ages 8 to 14. The age gap between the children in the classroom was huge and challenging to say the least. About a month back Jesus stirred the hearts of two of the youth in the church to help minister to the kids allowing us to add an additional classroom . Bingbing and Gerlyn now teach the kids 7 and below with the 'Bible alphabet'. Kids in the Bukid have a hard time reading, and sometimes even when they are in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade they do not know how to write there names.

So we teach them alphabet, numbers, and color using the Bible as our textbook.

Je now teaches the kid's ages 8 to 10 going through the New Testament. She teaches the kids songs they perform every week as part of the worship service on Sunday mornings. She is also preparing for this years Christmas play, an event that all the children love and look forward to every year I teach ages 11 to 14 through the life of Jesus on Sunday mornings and Old Testament stories in mid-week studies. Because we had now smaller gaps in the age groups we can go more in depth in our Bible stories teaching the kids about Jesus and applying it to their lives. We are praying for more youth and adults to step up so we can have even more classrooms teaching even more children!

~ Bembem Miguel

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- The Bible Studies - for the Word to change lives
- New Bibles studies to be taught by Filipino teachers
- 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
- Pray for my Dad as he prepares to come over in January
- For things to go smoothly as we begin to build a house in the Bukid
- Our marriage - grow closer to Jesus & each other
- Please pray for God's will for us concerning children
- God's will in the permanent placement of Israel
- Flexibility and humility - we would be full of Jesus!



Cell: 011-63-921-747-3931 ~ Phone: 011-63-034-744-7210 ~ US Number: 951-263-5347  
 Miguel Residence ~ Nasug-ong, Himamaylan City 6108 ~ Negros Occidental, Philippines  
 Email: david@ccbf.net ~ Web: www.simbahansabukid.com ~ Skype or Facebook: davidhinchey  
 (contact us if you would like to be added to our email update list)