

## OCTOBER 2011

*"To give them beauty for ashes, and oil of joy for mourning..." - Isaiah 61:3*

### OUR 3RD YEAR ANNIVERSARY...

We can hardly believe it - but we celebrated our 3rd year wedding anniversary on September 22nd. It has been an absolutely amazing 3 years! Looking back we cannot figure out how we ever made it through a day without each other. The Lord has truly blessed us with a wonderful marriage!



### AN END AND A BEGINNING...

Many of you were praying for my Mom. During the last week of August, while we were in New York, she was diagnosed with aggressive cancer. Her health failed rapidly and she went home to be with the Lord on Friday September 30th. She was truly an amazing woman of God and we will all miss her VERY much. Thank you for all your prayers and comforting words.

I am always amazed at how God can take the most difficult circumstances, and somehow turn them around and make them a blessing. My father has wanted to serve the Lord overseas as a missionary for as long as I can remember, but it seemed an impossible dream. His first ministry was always his family - loving his beautiful bride and raising his three children. Even once we kids were out of the house Mom never felt comfortable traveling far away from the grandkids for very long. Dad has also been a type one diabetic for over 60 years. All these put together meant it looked like Dad would never be able to go overseas full time - but God had a plan! My father will be moving over in January to serve here in the Philippines. He will be living with us (*we are in the process of building a house in the mountain close to the church*), and help teach some of the weekly Bible Studies. He is very sad about the loss of his bride - but very excited to see what the Lord wants to do through him here in the Philippines! *"Beauty for ashes, and oil of joy for mourning..." - Isaiah 61:3.*



Another unexpected blessing was a twelve year old boy - Israel. The Lord brought him into our lives shortly after coming back from our trip to the States. He comes from a troubled family near Bacolod and asked if he could come and live with us. We are working with child welfare to find out the best permanent arrangement for Israel. Please be in prayer with us as to how to best be a blessing to this young boy.

### NEW BIBLE STUDIES, BIBLES, AND BULDINGS...



We were really encouraged by how well everything went while we were in the States. Coming back to the Philippines it was a blessing to see the church family all growing and hungry for God's Word. One of the young couple in the church (*Ali and Bililing*) came up to us a couple of Sundays ago and asked if we would be willing to teach another Mid-week Bible study at their home. They love hearing about the Life of Jesus on Sunday

morning as we are going through the Gospels. They also enjoy attending another Mid-Week study going through the Old Testament. They thought it might be a blessing to also learn about the first church in the book of Acts. We started up the Bible Study the very next week! It is such a blessing to see the people hungry for more of God's Word!

While we were away a couple of days in Bacolod for our anniversary we happened to run into a Gideon convention. The Gideons are an international group of business man whose ministry is to pass out free copies of the Bible (*just open up a drawer in a hotel room to find a Bible placed by the Gideons*). We are always looking for more copies of God's Word to give away so we stopped and asked and found they had a group in Himamaylan. They made arrangements to come up the mountain and pass out over 600 Bibles in the schools! They even had copies for all the teachers and the local government officials.



The Lord put it on the heart of our children's ministry pastor to begin to divide up the children's ministry into three separate classrooms. The idea is to be able to minister to the kids at a more age appropriate level. Up to this point Bembem has been teaching a group of 40-80 kids that range in age from 2 years old to 14 years old (*if you have ever served in a children's ministry you understand how difficult that would be*). The challenge was we did not have three classrooms to break the kids up into - until now. While we were in the States the guys (*along with Tito Roger*) had remodeled the existing children's ministry closing in the building and increasing its size - perfect for the 20-30 toddlers we get on many a Sunday. Over the past month the guys finished off a 2nd building just down the hill from the original. This will serve as a 1st through 4th grade classroom. Then one final 5th - teenage class will be held in the main house next to the church. We are excited to see how it all comes



together as we look to teach the next generation of saints here in the mountain!



### TITO ROGER...

We bid a tearful goodbye to Roger Bates this month as he hopped on a plane back the California. Roger had been here helping out with the church for about six months. He was a blessing every step along the way. Whether it was re-roofing the church, cementing the stairs from the road down to the church, remodeling the children's ministry, building a new classroom, or teaching Mid-week Bible studies he was a part of it all. We are all going to miss you Roger. We know the Lord will bless and make you a blessing where ever He takes you next. You will be in our prayers!



### 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
- Our marriage - grow closer to Jesus & each other
- Please pray for God's will for us concerning children
- Pray for God's will in the permanent placement of Israel
- Flexibility and humility - we would be full of Jesus!

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