

May-June 2006 Newsletter

Focusing on the Word

Over the past couple of years we have been working to establish the members of our bible studies in the Word of God. The first step has been to focus on the context of the Word and not be distracted by the things that others say or that religion says concerning the truth. Recently one of the bible study leaders that we have worked to train was leading a bible study in a home that did not have electricity. It was already dark when they arrived for the bible study and the homeowner mentioned that they only had one candle and would not all be able to see to read the passage of scripture for their lesson that evening. The bible study leader made clear the importance of everyone reading the Word and gave money to one of the children to go and get more candles.



With the additional light the bible study began and soon the light of God's Word illuminated the hearts of those precious members. Each member read a portion of the passage and then there was discussion to determine the context and application of what they had read. During the bible study the owner of the home began to really focus on the explanation of the leader forgetting where he was holding his bible. To the leaders great alarm, the owner was holding his bible directly over the flame of the candle and the back cover and a few pages had caught on fire. The focus of the group immediately went back to the Word of God, but not because of its timeless truths but because it was being stamped out by the leader with great care. He smiled as the flames were extinguished and calmly said to all in the house that God had shown them a great lesson that evening and that the Lord had convicted him to allow the Word of God to speak more and for him to speak less.

When he shared this story with me I initially laughed, but as I have given it more thought it grieves me that so many times in my life I have allowed my focus to be removed from the Bible and placed on particular styles, leaders or programs. We are finding that in this young church planting movement the greatest strength that we have observed is the focus that we maintain on the Word of God. Please join us in prayer for the protection of our focus on the Bible as we establish New Testament churches.

Missions Conference



The first part of May the Murphy family loaded up and drove to Bacolod (8 hours by land and sea). We went to meet with Bro. & Mrs. Higgs, Bro. James Speer



and to attend a mission's conference there over four nights. As usual, the Higgs and Bro. Speer were a great encouragement and we

enjoyed hearing the reports of several Filipinos serving as missionaries to other Asian countries. Their ministries are being blessed by God and the Harvest is indeed plenteous. Please join us in praying for the billions in Asia who have yet to accept Christ and also for the countless Filipinos who will be the ones to take the Gospel to them.

SFA Team



SFA Team and Ruthie help teach kids

This past month a group of college students from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas came for the second year. They are part of a church planting movement



SFA Team

in East Texas. Marquis and Udoro Gatewood led the team of servant hearted church members to serve with us here in Cebu and Leyte for almost two weeks. They were a blessing to our people and ministered to our family. Thanks guys for allowing God to use you here ministering to Cebuanos. Please pray for the different leaders in their church as they seek to plant new churches in Houston, Texas.

Connie and the boys trip home



Murphy boys all dressed up for wedding

The SFA team was such a blessing that Connie and the boys decided to go home with them. Well... they were a blessing, but Connie and the boys planned long before to make a trip back to Houston to attend the



Connie and her sister, Christy

wedding of Connie's sister. It was a long 4 weeks in the states, but she got to enjoy family on both sides, and got to see some old friends of ours. They are back here in the Philippines, getting rested up and ready for the VSM team to come July 15th-25th. Please pray for them as they start to get back into the swing of homeschooling sometime the end of July.

June travels

With an empty house and many pastors needing a visit, I packed up and went to Mindanao for 10 days at the first of June. I was the speaker at two anniversaries and a couple of other church meetings and got to meet many members and see several areas of work for the first time. God is blessing the ministry in Mindanao. We have some very dedicated workers who are doing such a great job there.



Pastor Delosantos baptizing in Mindanao

Later in June I traveled to Bacolod to visit with some of the new bible college students and meet with the Moore's. After a short time in Bacolod I went on to Iloilo for a time of fellowship with the Newsom's. As usual it was a joy to meet with veteran missionaries and hear about their ministries. Please pray for the workers in Mindanao and for the ministries throughout the Philippines as we focus on following the will of God in this great harvest field.

As always, we are very thankful for all of you...for your prayers and your support. May God bless each of you!

The Robert Murphy family
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