

September-October 2006 Newsletter

Recently at a baptism attended by three of our home groups, Nang Karing called me over to see her newest grandchild and to talk for a minute. As we talked about recent events in the lives of the members and what God has brought her through in the past few years, she paused and then smiled. She reminded me of the first few weeks of our ministry in Lapu Lapu City and how that she had attended the first bible study group we began over 3 years ago. She then recounted how she had been hesitant to accept Christ and then to be baptized but how the Lord had led her through the entire process by His Word as we all had studied together. As I listened to her it was as if these things she had been so reluctant to accept were now milestones in her life.



Then with the biggest smile and a finger pointing to her newly baptized daughter, she reminded me that all of her children that live in our area had accepted Christ and now are following Him. As she cuddled her young grandbaby I couldn't help but believe that her faith in Christ would be a legacy that would long outlive her children or even grandchildren. She is a symbol of what the ministry here is all about. A regular woman who has never led a formal bible study or been a part of our leadership training but with great diligence has succeeded in winning those members of her family with whom she has regular contact. That is the picture I feel best represents our vision for the ministry here in Cebu. Regular people on mission with God!



The BMAA Missions vision of "a church in every community, planted by ordinary members, equipped with practical skills and encouraged to work together" has been our goal from the outset. We have had such an incredible experience watching the Lord as He has taken "ordinary" members and used them in extraordinary ways to strengthen the ministry and to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. We praise the Lord that this Vision is becoming a reality through the lives and commitment of the members of Simbalay (Cebuano word for 'worship in the house'). They are continuing to own this vision and to work to see it accomplished not just in their lives and families but in those with whom they come in contact. Nang Karing is just one of the many

members that have purposed in their hearts to do this ministry. Please pray for all the members and leaders in the different Simbalay in Metro Cebu as we continue striving toward our vision by sharing in evangelistic, discipleship and leadership bible studies.

Leaders Stepping Up:



I mentioned a few months back that we had several new leaders in training and they would soon be leading in a new wave of Simbalay. The wave is beginning. A couple of these men have begun their ministries and are excitedly leading new small groups with the vision of establishing small local churches. Please pray for these men and their families as they seek to follow the Lord in their lives and leadership.

Bacolod Bible College Students:

Several weeks ago, Bro. Doyle Moore contacted us and asked if he could send a few of his graduating students to observe our approach to church planting here in Cebu. We set the date and 6 students and 2 professors arrived to experience church planting by way of Simbalay. We divided them up and sent them with our local leaders for the entire Sunday to take part in the inductive home bible study groups. They learned about a different way of church planting and hopefully went away with a better understanding of the dynamics of small group ministry. We are looking forward to what God has planned for their ministries and how He will use them to expand the Kingdom. Please join us in prayer for these fine young leaders as they find their place in God's will and service.

Pastors Conference and Basketball Camps:

Bro. Mike Goodwin, Bro. Larry Markum, Kurt Goodwin, Chad Stephenson and Nathan Hill all came during the last couple of weeks of October to work with us. Bro Mike, Bro. Larry and I went to Luzon to work with Wade Allen and help lead a pastors and workers conference. We spent a few days in the Bulan, Sorsogon ministering to the fine men in that area. Bro. Mike and I then traveled to Bayawan, Negros Oriental for a City-wide crusade there with the local churches. We had two nights of crusade and





during the day we shared in the prison and in a nearby army field base. We saw several accept Christ and enjoyed a great time of fellowship with the believers in the area.



At the same time of the conferences and crusade, Kurt, Chad and Nathan were leading basketball camps here in Cebu. They held a two day camp for kids from the area and then an intensive 1 day camp for the young men from the Simbalay groups in our ministry. They also saw several young men accept Christ and we have several opportunities to start bible study groups in new areas of our island. Thanks team for the ministry that you are to our family and to Filipinos. Please join us in prayer for the follow-up and discipleship of those new believers and for the establishing of small New Testament churches throughout our island as a result of God's working through the ministry of these men.

Closing Thoughts....

As I sit writing this, Filipinos all over are observing All Saints and All Soul's Day. The country is basically shut down for two days as they honor the dead with vigils and food and drink offerings in the cemeteries. During these few days each year we are vividly reminded of the spiritual cloud that looms over the Philippines. Please join us in prayer for the millions who know about God but have yet to accept His precious Son.



And Thank You's....

We are blessed to be your missionary partners in the Philippines. We are thankful for each one of you and the huge role you play in the ministry here. We thank God for the things that have happened here and for what He is doing at this time, but we are most excited to watch and marvel at the even greater days of ministry that are still ahead. Thank you for joining us in this great adventure!!! The Murphy's