



We Talked Until it was Too Dark to See Each Other Anymore

- By Sean

They had a fan but it was not running; I think their electricity might have been cut off. We talked until it was too dark to see each other anymore. The small shanty that houses this family of 10 plus a few grandchildren is smaller than my garage. Even though it was dirty, filled with mosquitoes, and humid, nice conversation made these realities fade away. I met Alisa, Irene,



and their neighbor through a fellow missionary who brought me to them so that I could practice Tagalog and minister to them at the same time. Alisa, a 59 year old mother of ten, brightened up when she found out that I was from America. She told me that when her daughter, Irene, was younger, she was sponsored by a family in the States. Alisa brought out a stack of old weathered letters that Irene's sponsors had written to them. The family treasured those letters and the friendship that had developed over the years with this American couple who had it on their hearts to help.

We walked over to another shanty that had some light and Alisa went on to tell me that they lost contact with the family many years ago when the volcano, Mt. Pinatubo, erupted and their farmland was destroyed by ash. They were forced to evacuate and have been squatting in a make-shift home along a dirty river in Manila. Agency policy prevented them from getting

the address of their American friends, who had no way of knowing what happened to Irene and her family or where they moved to. As I examined the letters, I noticed the names of the American couple and Irene's case number so I copied them down. Alisa also told me that the family lived in Florida. The next day I did a search of their names on the internet. The names popped up endorsing a dog training school. The endorsement included the city in Florida that they lived in. I didn't know if this was the right couple, but I entered their names in the on-line White Pages for that city. Sure enough, it popped up with their name and address. I was able to call and talk with the wife (her husband had passed away a short while back). For years they had wondered what had happened to Irene and her family. She emailed me a letter which I delivered to Irene and Alisa, who happily received it. I was able to take some pictures of Irene (now 27 and married with 3 children) and some of her family to email back to Florida. I don't know what the Lord has in store for these families or my new friendship with them, but what a privilege to have been used by Him to bless them.

A WEDDING IN OUR HOME! -by Jess
When we heard that Salyn, one of the ladies in our bible study, was planning to get married but had no venue, Sean and I did not hesitate to offer up our home. The couple thought they would only be able to have a civil wedding, which meant that they would not have been married by a pastor, and their family and friends would not have been able to be there. But in our home, the groom's own pastor was able to officiate, and the couple was able to invite their family. Many of Salyn's family members came from out of town—as far as 8 hours away!



Jhun and Sayln were married on December 27th, joined by 50 members of their family & friends!

Praise and more Praise!

- God has started to provide for Sean's tuition so that he could work on his Doctorate of Ministry. He will begin his 3 year course by attending a 2 week module at Talbot in June, then doing correspondence work after that.
- God has also provided for our ENTIRE FAMILY to join Sean when he goes to the U.S! We will be in California for the last part of May and most of June.
- God keeps on filling our quiver! Would you believe it? There is yet another little Ransom on the way! (Jessica is about 12 weeks along). Please pray for a healthy pregnancy and delivery. This will be our first time to deliver a baby outside of the U.S.

Preaching about Idols in Front of a Shrine

At Manila city jail I have been working with Pastor Noel Alberto (an ex-prisoner himself) and a few other men from his church. At first we were ministering to men from a gang called "Sputnik", but the Lord has opened up opportunities for us to work with another gang called "Bahala na gang" which means "what ever happens, happens". During a visit to their area we walked into a fairly large dorm room with a shrine in it.

Outdoor Education '06 By Kian

Once a year the middle schoolers at Faith Academy go on a special camping trip for 1 week called Outdoor Educaiton. This year we went to Subic, a former U.S. military base. The area is near the ocean and has lots of jungle. During this week we learned jungle survival training. Did you know that you can use bamboo as a plate and a cup? You can even make forks, spoons, and straw out of it! We also learned how to start a fire using only bamboo, and then how to use bamboo to cook rice in it!

Along with these new physical skills, I also gained a lot of spiritual growth. The speakers gave very good and practical messages that moved me and my friends. After the message, everyone was quiet for a long time. O.E . was a great experience. I can definitely use these skills (both the physical survival and the spiritual) in the future.



The shrine had a large statue of Mary, Jesus, Jesus as a child, and several pictures on it. Before these statues were offerings of various kinds. Pastor Noel asked me if I would like to share from the word of God and I felt moved to share with them from the book of Isaiah 44:9-17.

Isaiah wrote: "[9] All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless. Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own shame. [10] Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit him nothing?...[12] The blacksmith takes a tool and works with it in the coals; he shapes an idol with hammers, he forges it with the might of his arm...[13] The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a marker; he roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses. He shapes it in the form of man, of man in all his glory, that it may dwell in a shrine." Isaiah also describes how the carpenter takes a piece of wood, cuts and uses some of it as fuel for the fire to cook his meal. Then he says, "[17] From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, "Save me; you are my god."

As prisoners from outside the dorm were looking in and listening through the bars, I shared with prisoners from both inside and outside the dorm. I told them that we must worship God on His terms and not on ours. God requires that we only come to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. If we believe in His Son and turn away from our sins, He will show us mercy, forgive our sins, and adopt us into His family. God does not accept our prayers, pleadings, and giving of offerings if we don't trust in Him alone and instead try to go through things made by the hands of men to reach and appease Him. The prisons responded well and Pastor Noel followed up by challenging them further. Pray that God would continue to open doors for Pastor Noel in the prison and that the hearts of the prisoners would be open to the good news of Jesus Christ.



Please Pray for . . .

- Jessica's pregnancy and the health of the new little one being knit together
- Our visit to Cebu in March to see our missions' ministry there and meet with our fellow missionaries
- God's guidance as we map out or schedule for our time in California in May-June.
- God's hand as we plan for a conference and short term mission team visits during July and August
- Our current ministries: bible study, Sean preaching at Sunday services once a month, discipleships
- Language study, for God to bless the new relationships we are building with non-English speakers

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