



Naked No More by Sean

The rain was starting to come down pretty hard, but we only had a small window of time to take a small team of short-term-missionaries to visit our friends who live under the bridge. We tracked through the mud to see who was there. We had several boxes of clothes that were donated to us by friends in the states and I knew right were to take them. I have written several articles about this community, and I often found myself having



to edit pictures of naked children. I have done things as simple as pasting a dot or box over the exposed areas, to copying the shorts from one picture and pasting them on the body of a little one in another picture. Hopefully I won't have to do that any more since these naked ones should be naked no more. As we set the boxes down, God graciously halted the rain for about 15 minutes, giving us just the right amount of time to distribute the clothes. I believe that all or most of these kids now have at least several changes of clothes. Not only did we have clothes for children, but we also had a good amount of clothes for men, women and teens too. It was a double pleasure for Jessica and me to help because we were not only blessing our Filipino friends, but we were also able to expose our American friends to God's work in missions as we shared one of our ministries with them. I am always blessed when I see someone wearing clothes that we helped to distribute because God moved some of his people to care for those who have less. Although our greatest responsibility to the poor and needy is to share the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, I have come to the conviction that we who have so much *have the responsibility* to share the resources that God has generously made us managers of. If you are among those who donated clothing, THANK YOU! You can see in the picture of the men at right how happy and eager they were to go through the boxes. Pray for them and ask God to use your ministry to them to draw them all closer to Himself. For my part, I have been making it known to these families that it is the love of God that had moved people from thousands of miles away to reach out to them. Also pray that the local church will help by showing them love and feeding them the Word so that much fruit will be produced.



Tuesday morning, July 25, 2006

A Visit to the Emergency Room by Sean

Today was a particularly long day for us because it started at 1:30 in the morning. Jessica woke me up concerned about Tyler. Our little 2 year old had vomited a few times before he went to bed last night. Now, Jessica was noticing that his breathing was very fast and he seemed to be laboring with each breath. It reminded us of the times when our son Christian had asthma attacks. He was also about 2 years old when it started. From that experience, we learned what to look for and we saw those symptoms in Tyler. He had a cough, runny nose, and a fever, but the biggest problem was the way he was breathing. Instead of breathing from his chest we could see him using his stomach muscles and even his throat to help. We knew that we had to take him to the emergency room...[Click here to read the rest of the story from Sean's blog.](#)

Possible Future Ministry Partners by Jessica



The STM Team from The Masters Seminary shown left to right: Jonathan and Xiaxuan Cross, Gideon Dignadice, and Andrew

We had the pleasure of hosting a small Short Term Mission Team from California who came to teach some seminars at a Pastor's Conference held earlier this month. What makes this team very special is that they weren't here



Pastors Alex Montoya and Scott Ardavanis joined the team as the main speakers at the conference

just for a short term exposure. Rather, they are seriously praying about whether God wants them to serve with us LONG TERM here in the Philippines! God seems to have planted in their hearts the same vision that we have for starting up a training center for pastors and ministry leaders, as well as church planting. Now they are seeking God's confirmation that the Philippines is indeed where He would like them to serve.



In addition to the conference, the team was able to serve in the town of Tarlac, visiting an orphanage and serving at a couple of churches. They also had the opportunity to teach at a bible college, to serve at a few different squatter areas, and to join us for part of the time at the EFCM Mission Annual Conference, where they were able to meet and interact with other EFCM missionaries, learn about our mission as an organization, and get a glimpse of our mission's plans and directions for the future. It was a real treat for us to have our friends join us. Please pray for the Lord's guidance for them as they pray about their future.



Our First Annual Minister's Conference focused on Expository Preaching from Sean's Blog



On July 4-6 a team of men from the Master's seminary joined us in Manila to teach a three day conference on expository preaching. In partnership with Greenhills Christian Fellowship's Petra foundation, the team featured Alex Montoya, (Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministries) Scott Ardavanis, (Senior Pastor of Placerita Baptist Church) and was supported by Jonathan Cross (a student at the Master's Seminary), Andrew Choo (A TMS grad and pastor at a Missionary Alliance Church), and Gideon Dignadice (a youth pastor and student at the Master's Seminary). Jonathan's wife, Xiaxuan, taught a seminar for women about discipling and counseling one another. After making a case for expository preaching and teaching basics on sermon prep to three hundred church teachers and leaders, professor Montoya taught on how to preach with power, passion, and purpose.

Having lived in the Philippines for two years now, most of the preaching that we have observed here focuses on felt needs, entertaining stories, and often goes straight to application while ignoring the proper interpretation and explanation of the text. I was blessed as the participants in this conference responded well after being taught, shown, and challenged to do expository preaching and teaching. In a country that has over 40,000 untrained pastors, I pray that this conference will be the beginning of a movement of expositors who faithfully declare God's word instead of their own.

We discussed with a local church the possibility of starting up a training center or seminary that focuses on expository preaching. Pray for Jonathan, Andrew, Gideon, and myself as we endeavor to launch something here in South East Asia. Pastor Montoya and Pastor Scott gave us a lot of great ideas as they challenged us with different possible ways this vision could happen...[Click here to read the rest of the story from Sean's blog.](#)

Our Visit to the U.S. By Jessica

Our visit to the states began with Sean leaving a week before the rest of our family. He had a class to attend on May 14th, while the boys still had another week left of school back in the Philippines. This left me to travel the 18 hour flight alone with 4 children, while 6 months pregnant at that! (Of course, this didn't occur to me when we first made the arrangements 6 months earlier; I was only a few weeks pregnant then and it seemed like a pretty good idea at the time). We thank those of you who prayed for our flight. The older boys were a big help, and the two little ones did great. You know God's hand is on you when you have a 4-year-old with you on the airplane who got motion sickness *three times*. . . and there was no complaining, no crying, and no mess! Whenever she felt queasy, Gracie simply asked for a motion sickness bag very maturely, and the matter was quickly finished without a fuss. The rest of the time she was either happily doing artwork in her seat, soundly sleeping, or getting excited about the next meal service. She made her mommy very proud.



The kids with their great grandmother, Mary Ransom



We shared in a Sunday School Class at Grace Bible Church of Arroyo Grande

We want to give God praise for using many families in California to bless us. One family loaned us their van for our entire visit, and two other families opened up their homes to us so we could stay near our home church in the San Fernando Valley for part of the time. During our 5 weeks in the US, we got to visit 7 different churches, share about our ministry at several of them, and enjoy visiting with many of our supporting families. We also took advantage of "vacation time" and spent a couple of weeks with our parents, siblings, and



We also spoke at Cornerstone International Church, a Filipino congregation in La Puente

extended families: Sean's in Northern California and mine in Southern California. In the two years we have been abroad, Sean and I had 2 new nieces and 1 new nephew born in the states. It was nice to finally get to meet them.

During our first couple of weeks in California, I joined Sean at The Masters Seminary for a summer school class on Biblical Marriage Counseling. It was taught by Professor John Street, who is the current Chairperson over the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling Program at The Master's College. It was a great class! Though biblical counseling isn't completely new to Sean, it was definitely all fresh for me, and the principles we learned from God's word regarding the biblical approach to counseling couples will definitely be valuable for both of us. The timing couldn't be better. Just a short while before we left Manila, we had started a bible study for young married couples. We are currently doing a book study of Love Life for Every Married Couple, by Dr. Ed Wheat. I can already see how the class has given me much more insight, and I can't wait to share and apply the things we have learned.



With Prof. John Street at The Master's Seminary



Our little ones enjoy a visit to the L.A. Zoo.

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Introducing Mang (Mr.) Bert Dolete



One day while Jessica was picking up Grace from pre-school she ran into a very humble man named Bert. In the Philippines, the respectful term for an older man is 'Mang', so we call him Mang Bert. She invited him to our home bible study and he has been coming regularly since last February. Bert was born in Iloilo City, Philippines in 1948. He moved to Manila about 40 years ago to look for work after he graduated from High School. In Manila, he met his wife, Evelyn, and they have been married for 34 years now. They have four children (two sons; 30 and 22 years old and two daughters; 26 and 17 years old). They also have two grandsons (a two year old and a one year old, and one more grandson due in late September). Pictured from left to right is Mang Bert's niece, Jul, Mang Bert, His wife Evelyn, and daughter Ruth.

Bert came to Christ 25 years ago after hearing some Christian girls praying for a neighbor girl of his who was dying. This girl had just left the hospital after doctors had given up on being able to heal her. It was after she decided to leave the hospital and to go home to die that Bert heard several Christian girls praying for the dying girl. He thought to himself, "I can't pray like that...talking directly to God." He was surprised when he peeked in saw his dying neighbor sitting up and laughing with the girls (how could she be so joyful). He asked them what religion they were. They said that they were not religious, but were just followers of Jesus. Bert was Catholic and his wife was in a Filipino cult called Iglesia ni Cristo. The girls invited him to church. He came to Christ during his first visit to the church when the pastor taught on the Holy Spirit and shared the gospel. The next week he brought his family. They wrapped all these idols in newspapers and put them under their bed. However, it bothered them that idols were really still there, so they pulled them out, crushed them all and threw them away. One of the cost for their new faith was rejection from their family for some time. Eventually, the family accepted it and God is using Mang Bert to reach out to the rest of his family.

Mang Bert started out in Manila sweeping floors at an engineering company and worked his way up. They put him through school and he worked for them as a civil engineer for 20 years. After coming to faith in Christ he became conscience stricken over unethical practices by his company. He could no longer work for that company because in their effort to cut cost, they illegally used inferior building materials in their construction. He said that a public swimming pool that the company had built collapsed. His company gave him a severance package. After giving 10% percent to church, he used the rest to pay for his children's schooling and to start a small home business selling food and household supplies.

After being out of work for some time and the home business closing, their money began running low. The Lord put it on the heart of another man to help Mang Bert. He was a pedicab driver, (a bike with a side car) and offered to buy a second pedicab and rent it to Mang Bert for P25 a day. That is how Mang Bert first started driving a pedicab, 16 years ago. Today, Mang Bert owns his own pedicab and takes people who have been dropped off by public transportation near the entrance of our community to their homes and from place to place in our housing tract. He works 6 days a week, giving rides to about 50 people a day. As a pedicab driver, he makes about P250 a day (\$5.00 US), which works out to about \$120 dollars a month for his family of six. Mang Bert is a dear brother and would appreciate your prayers for him and his family.



Please Pray...

- For continued guidance for future ministry as we get ready to begin a training center for national and international pastors and church planters.
- That God will raise up more people to join our support team to help raise our lacking support.
- That God would equip and send a team to work with us in teaching and church planting.
- For God's clear direction for the team currently praying about joining us in the future
- For Jessica and the new baby's healthy arrival within the next month.
- For the rest of our family's health, especially Tyler this month.
- For Kian and Christian, as they start school next week
- For the people we minister—pray for both our bible study and also our friends under the bridge
- For the next short term team coming out in August from Harvest Community Church. May God be glorified in their 2 week ministry visit

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