



"I am Still on a High from my Adventure"



Last month was a very busy, but good month for the Ransom family. We had a team of 22 people from two churches (Shepherd's Community Church, in Canoga Park, and Harvest Community Church, in Palmdale). We thank the Lord for the opportunity to show this team around the Philippines so that they could see some of it's many ministry opportunities. We visited men's, women's, and youth



prisons, a blind school, public schools, ministered in local churches, worked with the poor and street kids, prayed for sick children at Manila General Hospital and ministered to orphans. You can check out our web site at (www.ransomreport.com) to see the team's schedule and pictures of them in action. Just click on STM 05 Updates and photos.



One of the highlights that sticks out in my mind was when we supported "One in Christ Community Church" a local church in Tondo, Manila. This church is located in a depressed part of town and has a burden for the poor, homeless, and x-prisoners. We went with the church's pastor (Pastor Noel Alberto) door to door in the community sharing the good news that Jesus Christ forgives the sins of those who trust and obey Him. We invited them to a free showing of the "Jesus Film" in the evening at the church. We did not know what to expect that evening, but we were extremely blessed to see nearly 200 people show up. Pastor Noel said that it was the fullest that he had ever seen their church. About a dozen people professed faith in Christ that night and I was recently told that many of them have become regularly involved with the church since that night.



Jessica and I were very impressed by the team that came out this year. They seemed to adjust very well to the culture, were very unified as a team, and ministered very hard during their entire stay here. We know that the churches and people they ministered to were very blessed as well. We would love to have more STM teams join us. I pray that you might consider coming out with your church someday to see what God is doing on the mission field here in The Philippines. Just drop me an email if you're interested (sean@ransomreport.com).



Here are a few comments from team members after their ministry trip to the Philippines:

I can't believe that I am still on a high from my adventure...I was totally blessed by every experience I had with you and the team. I plan to do this again, and whatever else God has planned for me. I am being changed- the things I had planned out for my life are being transformed in my head. I don't know where I will end up yet, but this was only my first step. Maybe I'll be a teacher at Faith Academy! Who knows! God has been stirring thoughts in me that I didn't know I could do. I'll let you know what's up when I do. Love - Jenn

The DVD of the trip is turning out to be a pretty good evangelistic tool. I was able to show it to a group of about 20 people at work yesterday (most of them are not believers), and the response was quite positive. - Larry

What an awesome time it was to be with you and to serve alongside you. I have been truly humbled by this experience, and if the Lord allows, looking forward to more. - Robin

Thank you for allowing us to drop into town and catch a glimpse of what God is doing here through you...I've had a "taste" of the blessing of full-time ministry and everything else seems "tasteless" in comparison...It has been my joy and my privilege to be a part of this team and I know my life will be changed forever because of it. - Carrie

Please Pray for . . .

- **Kian's right eye:** He microwaved something in a plastic dish (which was not microwavable) and parts of the dish melted. Somehow, without Kian even realizing it, some microscopic particles of plastic splashed up into his right eye and adhered to its surface. Praise God that he is in no pain and there is no burning or discomfort—believe it or not. Kian didn't even know that this had happened. The eye just got very red and so we took him to the ophthalmologist. It was only through the doctor's examination that he discovered the many particles in Kian's eye. We then proceeded to the emergency room to run saline over the eye, but it only reduced the foreign particles by about 30%. The next option is to have the ophthalmologist scrape the particles off with a knife—a thought that is even scarier to a 12 year old than learning of the particles in the first place! Kian has a follow up appointment on Saturday 10/15. Please pray that somehow, through normal tearing, etc. that the particles might naturally work themselves out.
- **Jessica's parents visit:** PRAISE! They are staying with us Oct 2—Nov 7. Pls. pray that they would have a great time visiting with their grandchildren and that we might glorify God during their stay with us. Pray also for their safety in travel.
- **Our weekly Bible Study:** we just finished the book of Luke and will be starting the book of Acts next week. Pray that God might use this to draw additional members to the group. PRAISE! One of the attenders, Chito, joined us at church one Sunday and prayed with Sean afterwards to make Jesus his personal Lord and Savior.
- **Discipleship Relationships:** PRAISE! God has provided several opportunities for Jessica to disciple a few more ladies. Sean is also now starting to disciple several inmates at Manila City Jail, and Chito who just became a believer.
- **A dear friend making a big decision:** Pray for a young lady Jessica has been discipling who is planning to marry a nonbeliever. She got engaged before she was a believer, and now she knows the Lord but he still does not. Please pray for his salvation, and for the Holy Spirit to give her the will to be patient and wait.

I'm Changing My Plea to Guilty!

He is only about 5'2" and couldn't weigh more than one hundred pounds. There is nothing threatening looking about this young man. Yet, Caloy is in prison for robbery and murder. At about twenty five years old, Caloy was running from the scene of his crime. To his surprise a small crowd chased and surrounded him. In his desperation to escape he stabbed one of the men who tried to capture him, and the man died as a result. Others in the crowd were able to subdue him and he was arrested. While waiting for his trial he heard the good news that Jesus paid the penalty of sin for anyone who trusts in Him alone. He came to truly believe this in his heart and received Jesus as His Lord.



It's common to hear prisoners say, "I found Jesus!" but it is uncommon for prisoners to plead guilty because of their faith in God. Prisoners have often claimed to be Christians hoping for leniency or for some other perceived benefit. However, Caloy proved that his faith was real by following God and doing the right thing. He pled guilty even though he knew that he would be facing the death penalty, the due punishment for his crime of "murder during a robbery". But he is encouraged by the truth that he will be with God when he dies. This is just one of many stories that I could share with you about Manila City Jail. I started going there twice a week to minister to prisoners while at the same time practicing to speak Tagalog (A Filipino dialect). I go there every Monday and Thursday to teach the bible, encourage the prisoners, sharpen my ministry skills, and to learn Tagalog. Pray for me as I minister to Caloy and many other men like him.

It's not a Demon, it's a D. Min!

A big part of my vision in the Philippines is to train men in the area of expository preaching. I thank God for what I have learned at the Master's Seminary, but God has put it on my heart to deepen my knowledge in this area further by pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry in expository preaching. I shared that desire with Jessica and she is very supportive of this pursuit. The only thing that she didn't like is that the degree is called a D. Min. It sounds too close to demon in her thinking. I can assure everyone that I am not seeking a demon; I just want to be able to offer more to my brothers in The Philippines when it comes to training in the area of preaching. In my observation and estimation, sound expository preaching is the greatest need in the Filipino church. There are a lot of great men of God here, but many of them struggle with explaining the word of God. It is all too common to hear messages that make the points of the preacher rather than the points that God has made in His word.

After a lot of prayer and research, I believe that God has lead me to choose Talbot theological seminary to continue my education. It will better equip me in my own preaching as well as help me to be better able to train other men to grow in theirs. The course will focus on teaching several ways to preach in the various writing styles that are found in the bible (narrative, poetic, historic, prophetic, etc.) The program is three years long and will require me to travel to California once a year for two weeks during that time. It will cost about ten thousand dollars, which I trust the Lord will provide. If the Lord puts it on your heart to help with cost of this program or if you would like more information don't hesitate to email me at sean@ransomreport.com