



Pastoral Training of Asia

Ministering to Ministers

Jeff and Jamie Martin's Newsletter for November 2015
(Please see the bottom of page 2 for Jeff & Jamie's contact info)

Greetings from Dumaguete City!



It is nearing the end of our trip here to the Philippines so this newsletter will only cover the first part of our visit.



After a few days with our son in California, we arrived in Manila on October 26th and the following day traveled by plane to Bacolod City. There we went to Calvary Kids, a ministry of our friends Pastor Joe Rosmarino and his wife Billie. For over twenty-five years their family has become a home, school, church and working farm for the one hundred and fifty plus (and counting) children who live there. (We actually did not take a lot of pictures of the kids, leaving what is appropriate to publish up to the ministry there. To see many more pictures, learn how to support and pray, please take a look at their latest newsletter posted on our mission webpage. Visit www.mountaintruth.com then under "Fellowship Churches" click on "Latest Calvary Kids Newsletter".)



The children range in ages from newborn to over thirty years old and many have special needs. Others run and play with their brothers and sisters and it is not obvious that many have been abused, used, abandoned and mistreated in every way imaginable, and several of these have ongoing court cases against their perpetrators. And still more have been placed there because their families realized they could not support another mouth to feed and they asked Joe and Billie to take them in so they could have a chance for a healthy and safe life. One major goal of the ministry is to make each child feel they are an important and loved member of a family, and especially the family of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Prayerfully some may one day be able to return to their birth parents.



And Jesus is the center of everything. From the pillows on each bed that bears His name, to the daily morning devotions and the songs they sing on the nights they gather in the, "family room," which is the sanctuary of the Church, Calvary Chapel Bacolod. Even the boys in the barn, who daily feed and care for the herd of dairy cows, stop after they return from cutting grass and have a morning devotion at 7 A.M. The barn dogs lay in the middle of them, the newborn kittens play at their feet and the cows munch on the fresh greens and look on at the scene.

Jamie and I did the best we could, wrestling with the usual jetlag for the first few days in the country, trying to get up early to serve alongside them in their daily routines. A group of older boys led by



Noah and Samuel, with their older sister Mary Vic, along with Tita (“Aunt”) Teri and Pastor Joe are up and out the door by 5 A.M. everyday (except Sundays) to fill their big blue converted bus with a load of grass. On Saturdays they make extra trips to get loads of sawdust and hay for the stalls. We accompanied them on two trips to get more livestock: a new pony now named “Flicka” and a huge black and white dairy cow aptly named, “Cupcake”. The cows reproduce and the female dairy cows are kept to help offset the cost of milk, ice cream, cheese and yogurt and some of the male calves go towards the protein needs of the family (sorry guys!). We both spent time in the barn and joined them for their morning devotions. Jamie enjoyed time in the “Holy Cow Kitchen” where all the baking is done (and ice cream is made!) and where she learned a lot from the master baker, Billie. In addition to being there, to offer hugs and encouragement, I was blessed to be able to share a message at their weekly men’s breakfast, then lead worship and give the Sunday morning message before we departed for Dumaguete.

Finally, it must be stated that this is a ministry the glorifies the Lord through the faithful declaration of God’s Word and the demonstration of God’s Love not only to the family inside their property, but even outside to the people living in the nearby barangay. Pray that God would give them: the wisdom necessary to manage the court cases and dealing with the government for school and social services; complete protection from those who view some of the children and their ongoing court cases as threats to their own freedom; adequate provision for the enormous amount of groceries and supplies that have to be bought on a weekly basis; the ability to provide medical care for everything from runny noses to surgeries and physical therapy. (Praise the Lord for the team at home in Rochester who help gather, sort, pack and ship many of the medical supplies used here!)

When we left, what else could we say? We promised we would be back as soon as we could! Please pray the Lord would show us how and when we can continue to serve alongside and support them. We will continue to be on their board and prayerfully, by the Lord’s leading, be available to help.

One thing is certain to us during this trip, the Philippines and missions is still part of our lives and we’ll continue to pray about how God is using all of our experiences to weave this into our lives and the life of Petra Christian Fellowship. In next months newsletter we hope to be able to share that vision.

In Christ,

Jeff and Jamie

Jeff & Jamie’s Contact and Ministry Information

Ministry Website: www.mountaintruth.com / Support Page: Visit mountaintruth.com and click “Donate”
 Email: jsmjtm1987@yahoo.com / Facebook: Jeff-Jamie Martin / Petra Christian Fellowship: www.petra-roc.com