

Island Outreach Ministries

Bohol – Philippines

News & Prayer – March 2011

Dear Friends

March is the month of endless graduation ceremonies. But it's still pretty special to me when another island young person has succeeded in completing a college degree. This is Len Len who we've been helping for the past 4 years. She's from Banacon island, was saved at a Youth meeting at Jagulio island, and lived with a mainland pastor, helping in the church's preschool and kids ministries, while earning her degree in Computer Science.



We had fun attending the Mahanay Church Preschool Graduation. It was held at the village plaza/basketball court. Quite a crowd gathered. It poured with rain and the amplifier blew up, but Pastor Romeo was still able to preach and everyone – including the Barangay Captain – listened very attentively.



We've seen very good attendances at special services held in the churches this past month. Pastor Joel (4th from the right below) has been doing a good job on Jandayan Island. Below some of his people present an item at their 20th Church anniversary. I had the pleasure of dedicating their 5th child, a little girl – Angelica Hillary – after 4 boys.



At Calituban island, I enjoyed speaking to a good crowd of parents and children who attended a special Sunday service before the Preschool graduation ceremony. Dan & Eden have been running the school there now for 15 years. That is great commitment for an island ministry. You really have to visit and stay a night or two to really appreciate that statement. I slept there one night last week.

There was a karaoke blaring & thumping well into the night right next door; and I was awoken in the small hours of the morning by a procession of “prayer walkers” chanting Ave Marias and other things. I was told that it happens every morning, except Sundays. At the moment, there are treasure hunters digging a huge hole in the sand right beside their fence-line. A large crack has appeared in their kitchen wall beside the fence. They have made complaints to the island Captain or Chief, but no action is being taken.



Ptr Dan playing guitar during Sunday service at Calituban

Last Sunday I travelled to Mamowan island to preach at a special Kid’s Club Recognition Service. I had not been there for a while and was surprised to see the church full of people. The church had been struggling for some time with a new, young, inexperienced fellow leading. Glen has been attending our pastor’s training and Jun2 has been giving him a lot of help and encouragement and I was thrilled to see the progress there.



Mamowan Church



Giving gifts to the faithful Kid’s Club attendees – a new pair of thongs!

More than 40 island women gathered for a special 2-day women’s fellowship. Ptr Max’s wife, Theresa, was the special speaker.



Women’s Fellowship

April will be a big month of ministry so we would really value your prayers throughout. I’m very much looking forward to the visit of my mother, Julie. She’ll be travelling alone and staying for 18 days. We are also thrilled to be having Dr Joseph & Esther Tan visit us from Singapore along with Dr Ferdie Pabrua from Manila. They will be our special speakers at a combined gathering of all the island churches on April 15 & 16. Our last combined gathering was Christmas 2009 and almost 400 people came from the islands. April is also DVBS month and another busy schedule of training and 5-day clubs is being prepared.

Thank you so much for all your prayers and support. God bless.

Steve & the Ministry Team.