

The Bicol Bulletin

January - March 2004

Prayer Concerns

Please pray for:

- Follow up from the Jesus Film Outreach with evangelistic Bible studies in the homes of friends.
- Safe travel to camps and CPM training.
- Perseverance in the continuation of language learning and translation of Church Planting Model.
- The salvation of our daughter, Carly.

Thank God for:

- Lost souls coming to know Christ.
- More than 80 people who came to our house to watch the Jesus Film!

Special points of interest:

- The Magayon Festival is a month long festival celebrated by all 17 municipalities in Albay during the month of May. Highlights include: parades and street dancing, beauty pageants, sports events, and arts exhibits.
- Magayon is the Bicol word which means "beautiful." It is also the Bicolano name for our famous volcano, Mount Mayon.

Reaching Out... "in Jerusalem" - by Wade Allen

Many people have asked me, "Who are you targeting for ministry?" When asked, I usually look at the person in confusion and say, "Well, [long pause] I guess you could say that we are 'targeting' people—friends, neighbors, people around town that we see all the time,

etc. Basically, we are 'targeting' the people who God is putting in our path

on a day to day basis!" And wow, God is faithful to bring people into your path on a regular basis!



We have now officially completed our first year of language training and are beginning to transition into active church planting ministry. We have begun this process, we believe, in the same manner

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First New Believer in Legazpi! - by Wade Allen

Do you believe in the power of prayer? You probably answered, "Of course I do!" I do too, but isn't it nice when God decides to remind us in remarkable ways! My heart has recently been burdened for some of our friends



Nueca Duran (center) is the first new believer here in Legazpi!

who need to know Christ. Not too long ago, I sent out an email to a few prayer partners who had written to me. In that email, I included the names of some of our friends who need to trust in Christ as their Savior. Nueca was the first friend that we named in that email! The email was sent on Saturday, and Nueca was saved the next day! Praise the Lord!

Roger, Nueca's husband, has been working as my language assistant since March of 2003. Roger has been a

member of First Missionary Baptist Church of Bulan, Sorsogon, for many years. Roger and I have been translating the Evangelism and Discipleship modules of the Church Planting Model into Tagalog, so each day, we sit and discuss all the details of the material. Well, one rainy, Sunday morning, early in March, Bong and Nueca were on their way to our house for Bible study. Suddenly, a gust of wind blew the rain sideways, completely soaking them. They were so wet that they had to return home to change clothes. Roger called me to tell me what had happened. I suggested to him that he and Nueca should just stay there and have a Bible study together. I said, "You remember the study we translated on Jesus and Nicodemus. Why don't you share that with her?" The next day, we received tremendous news. Roger led his wife to the Lord as he led his first evangelistic Bible study!



What a remarkable sight to see his face that next day! My, how God works in such amazingly perfect ways! Pray for Nueca in her spiritual growth as a new born believer in Christ!

Awana Clubs in the Philippines - by Joanna Allen

Before we came to the Philippines, Wade and I were both involved in AWANA Clubs, both at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, and Sheridan Terrace Baptist Church in Palestine, Texas. We



knew that if the Lord opened the doors, we wanted to use AWANA in a church plant here in the Philippines. During the meantime, we've just been doing the handbooks with our daughter, Carly. Another missionary family wanted to join us and so each Thursday afternoon we have Sparks with our 3 girls.

A couple of weeks ago, we had a chance to visit a church about two



Awana leadership team from Bible Baptist Church in Naga City, Camarines Sur.

hours north of us and observe their AWANA program. It was pretty much as we expected—similar to other international clubs we have seen before.

The kids learn the same verses, just the awards and uniforms and club names are a little different.

We are now in the process of contacting the AWANA Philippines Headquarters in Manila in order to apply for a charter. Please pray for the Lord's will to be done in this situation. Since we are not officially a "church" yet, we're not sure how all of this will work.

However, we do feel the Lord leading us this way and we do have a neighborhood full of kids that need to hear and understand the Gospel.

We are hoping to start our AWANA with the opening of the new school year here, which is



Opening ceremony at Bible Baptist Church.

the first of June.

If your church has an AWANA program that would be interested in helping to sponsor ours, please contact us at wade@filipinomissions.org or joanna@filipinomissions.org.



Please pray for God to open doors for us to start an AWANA program here in Legazpi City. Please pray for many kids to be reached through the program. Please pray for the financial needs of starting a program. Please pray for the Lord to provide more workers for AWANA.

Our prayer is that God would open the doors to one day have many AWANA programs in our BMAP churches!

Caleb Speaks... -by Wade Allen

When my three year old son talks, you never know what he will say next. He is a people pleaser, and nothing brings him greater joy than to make someone laugh! The good news is that he is funny!



One day I caught him sitting in the floor of my bathroom with my guitar and hymnal. When I asked him what he was doing, he said, "I'm just praising the Lord!" I said, "OK!"

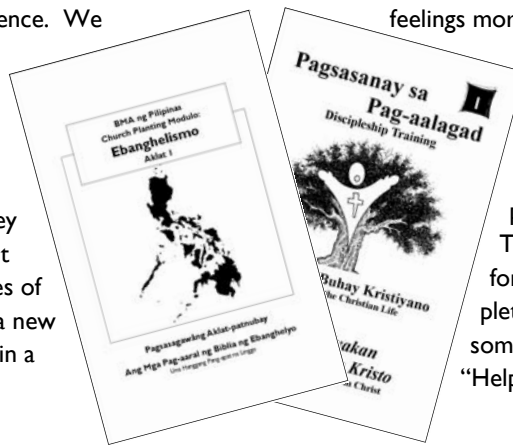
Every school day, we begin with Bible class for the whole family. Carly has Bible verses that she memorizes for class. Not long ago, Carly was learning Proverbs 3:5-6. Caleb wanted to say it as well, so he stood up with a smile on his face and proclaimed, "Trust in the Lord with all your parts!" He was so proud. He had said the verse and gotten us to all laugh at the same time.



Help! I Can't Language Anymore! - by Wade Allen

Everyday of my life seems to be an exercise in language learning. Whether I am at home or out in the community, every conversation requires extra care and attention. Living in a culture where English is commonly used but usually not the first language of the speakers requires patience. We often use the same terminology as one another, but many times it means something completely different! For example, if you ask, "Are you not going?" A Filipino would say, "Yes!" to mean that he is NOT going. This is perfectly logical seeing as they are agreeing— "Yes, I will not be going!" It can, however be quite confusing! The cases of miscommunication are endless. Everyday a new situation seems to arise. Last week, I was in a

marriage counseling session with a couple. In these situations, we use Tag-lish, which is a combination of English and Tagalog. Toward the end of our session, the young lady exclaimed, "I cannot language anymore!" I told her that I understood her feelings more than she realized!



We are, however, very excited to be steadily translating the Church Planting Model into the Tagalog language. These translated materials are proving to be very effective among our Tagalog church planters! Please pray for us as we are endeavoring to complete this project, because there are some days when we want to scream, "Help! We can't language anymore!"

APRIL 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Schedule of Events

- ◆ May 10-14 – Central Luzon Youth Camp - Quezon City, Metro Manila
- ◆ May 17-21 – Vacation Bible School - Legazpi, Albay
- ◆ TBA – Central Luzon Church Planter Training - Quezon City, Metro Manila

Schedule of Events

- ◆ April 2 – Evangelistic Film Outreach - Legazpi, Albay
- ◆ April 6-10 – Bicol Church Planter Training - Irosin, Sorsogon
- ◆ April 12-16 – National Youth Camp - Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
- ◆ April 19-23 – Bicol Youth Camp - Bulan, Sorsogon

MAY 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Our Vision

In seeking God's direction, we believe that He has given us a vision to . . .

- Plant churches among un-reached peoples of the Philippines.
- Equip those churches to plant new churches.
- Encourage them to work together to reach out with the gospel beyond their national boundaries.
- Network together with other BMA fields in Asia to carry the gospel throughout Southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

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Reaching Out... (Cont'd)

in which Jesus encouraged His disciples to begin their church planting ministry—at home! We are delighted that we have been able to develop many new relationships among our neighbors and local community. The Christmas party for our neighborhood kids was a great



success. We had about 50 kids who came! We played games with them and shared the true meaning of Christmas. Since then, the kids up the street

have been coming every week to play in our yard and play basketball. Because of one of these relationships, Joanna had a unique opportunity.

She writes, "A few weeks ago one of the girls down the street brought me a 'support letter' for the school choir to participate in a children's choral festival held at the mall. Anyway, I returned it with a few pesos and a letter to the music teacher explaining my situation and offering to help in anyway that I could. I also told her that I would be at the contest and looked forward to hearing her choir. Well, the night before the contest, she sent me a text message saying that

the contest had been postponed a day and because of that, her accompanist was unable to play for them. She asked me if there was any way I could play for them. (Realize, this was a competition



of Filipino folk music, of which I knew none!) I ended up going to the school for a couple of hours the next morning and after spending a little time with the choir and the music, agreed to play for them the next day. Anyway, I had quite a bit of time to visit with the music teacher and a few other teachers, most of which live in our own neighborhood. I am praying that the Lord will use these contacts in whatever way He sees fit. Who knows what He has in store!?"



We are eager to see what God has in store for us and the ministry here! We are seeking God's will in where to start new Bible studies. We have several possibilities at this time, but we are waiting for God to open the door! Please pray for the following areas where we hope to begin new Bible studies: Barriada, Gogon, Old Albay, and Santo Domingo.