

We Hired a New Teacher!



For those who don't remember, Ivan taught us last September while Lorie took time away to study for her board exams. After conducting interviews in early March, he was the candidate that we felt would best meet our needs, and we were right!

Ivan has shown a lot of initiative in setting goals for our learning, is consistently early to work, and has a phenomenal grasp of the Cebuano language. In fact, he has been able to correct us when we have accidentally been speak Tagalog.

Please pray for Ivan as he works hard to teach us, takes care of his family, and saves up for his wedding next year.

Brittany goes to camp!



The Thursday through Saturday before Easter, I (Brittany) got to join our new church family for a 'family' retreat! Every year, this young church goes with its members to work on building relationship with one another and growing closer to the Lord before Resurrection Sunday. Though James had prior work responsibilities, I took a leap of faith and ventured out on my own. It was just a short drive out of the city, but enough away to enjoy the exclusivity of the church community. James and I have been searching for a place to call our church home, and have enjoyed opening ourselves up to this church being so. I personally enjoyed getting to grow closer with the 'young wives' small group I'm a part of, and feeling encouraged and lifted up by these remarkable women. Thank You all as you pray for our community here. It's so important, and something we've been missing for a while. I'm so thankful to be getting closer to having that need met here.

Bringing Missionaries in!



This July, Pastor Wes of The Sanctuary Fellowship will lead a team to model and coach one of our local churches in evangelism and discipleship. Together, we pray, their obedience will result in the salvation of many and the transformation of Lapu-Lapu City.

All of this work is based on the calling that Jesus gave us to share the gospel.

Will you begin to pray for them as they prepare to come?

Sending Missionaries out!



This month, I had the privilege of training Emman in Cross Cultural Ministry. He is excited and gearing up for his trip to serve in Thailand and Cambodia! If you are interested in supporting Emman with a one time gift, here's the link to his giving page:

<https://worldventure.com/pworker/4000-531-suarez-emmanuel/>

Please keep praying for Emman and his trip this coming May!

I Got Second Place ...

Or at least my chalk bag did!



This past month, I got to have a 'first,' and entered a bouldering competition! The bouldering gym has been one of my escapes for 'me' time, while also allowing me to make friends here in the Philippines. I know many of the people in this picture, and most do not have a personal relationship with Jesus. As I continue keeping my body in good health, I pray for an opportunity to share the Good News with these friends of mine. I've already had several spiritual conversations here, and pray for so many more.

The dream? One day for there to be a Bible study/ house church that takes place in this gym. Please pray that with me as I continue to grow here. As for the competition, I didn't place. But I happily cheered on my 'best bouldering friend' as she took first (right side), and lent my chalk bag to the second place winner (middle.) I truly enjoy this gift the Lord has given me here!

Family Camp



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Thank you for making it to the end of this months newsletter! See you next month.

If you are impatient for next months updates, check us out on Facebook!

Blessings, See you!

Searching for a New Teacher!



Last Sunday, March 3rd, we attended the graduation party of our Cebuano teacher, Lorie. Throughout last week, we realized that the event would also serve as a going away party for Lorie.

We are excited to announce that Lorie was able to secure a position at a nice private school here in Cebu. Although we hate to lose her, the hope I had all along was that we could invest into her for the betterment of her future. She's now working at a good school, making more than we could afford to pay her, and has great opportunities for the future. What a blessing!

I have already had two candidates fill out our application and will hopefully conduct interviews sometime this week. Please pray with us as we search for our next language tutor!

Sending others out!



Remember Emman? Well Emman is open to serving full time in missions at some point in the near future. In this pursuit, he is going on an exposure trip see what it could be like for him to serve full time. Until he leaves, I will be conducting his training. We will cover topics such as, cross cultural orientation, spiritual warfare, and much more!

Are you looking to serve in Cebu?



This past Saturday, we had our first “Holy Huddle” of the new year. After meeting three times last year, the group finally asked, “So what’s the goal of the Holy Huddle?”

Until now, I did not blatantly disclose my intentions with the pastors because I wanted to form a solid relationship with them. Here in Cebu, relationships are EVERYTHING. Locals here do not care how much you know until they know how much you care. In short, we all as a group (pastors and missionaries) discussed and determined that this group can best serve the local pastors by being a support group. Each month, this team will hold each other accountable, problem-solve with each other, and make plans to serve one another in reaching the cities God has placed us in.

My personal goal is to serve the pastors in whatever way I can to help them accomplish the goals that God had given them to reach their communities. I aim to serve them by bringing interns, teams, and other resources to aid them without them becoming dependent on these resources. Therefore, this provides opportunities for you, your church, or your community to come and serve here in Cebu City.

If you are interested in coming to Cebu to serve, reply to this email with SERVE CEBU!

January 2024

We're Back!

Team Riggins is Back!

After 3 weeks in the United States, we made it back to Cebu safely. Our time in the US was predominantly used to visit family, however, we did spend time with some of our partners and churches. There are so many people we didn't get a chance to see; however, we hope to see you here in The Philippines or the next time we return.

Are you interested in coming to Cebu?

Let us know by emailing me at J.riggins@worldventure.com



Language Learning Resumes!



Team Riggins hit the ground running by immediately jumping back into language learning. (as you can see, our Christmas tree was still up)
Phase 3 has been my favorite so far, thanks to Charlie Chaplin and all the stories we listen to.

Speaking of Language, our team needs
Prayer about the future of language class here in Cebu. We are currently working through some shifts in class time, practice time, and making sure that our whole team is thriving. Will you join us in prayer for these things? Thank you.

Pray through the book!



This past month, Brittany and I joined one of our CBAP churches where I was asked to lead their Wednesday night prayer meeting so that the pastor could tend to his newborn, wife, and oldest child.

The topic I was given was "lead the group in praying through 1 Thessalonians Chapter 2"

This was my first time leading in this way, and I wasn't sure how it went until the pastor messaged me the next day saying "People were blessed last night, bro! Praise God!"

I'm looking forward to developing skills on how to teach/lead in this format.

James Starts Physical Therapy



The Doctor Told Me Go To Rehab, and I said let's Go Go Go!

Let me explain,

Last Monday night, I was out running errands and started hearing a strange clicking noise in my neck with each step. The next morning, I woke up with a little tightness that progressively became worse throughout the day. Wednesday I made it to an orthopedic doctor who sent me to do X-Ray's and to talk with a neck surgeon. The surgeon told me that I have "spondylosis" due to my neck losing its natural "C shape".

He concluded that there would be no need for surgery; however, I would need to begin rehab ASAP. So starting last Thursday, I have been going to a Physical Therapist every day for one hour.

How am I doing? Yesterday was one of the hardest days. Today (Monday morning) has been easier.

Will you join us in prayer for my recovery?
Thank you.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!