

Andrew & Megan's Update



Andrew and Megan Smith
Box M-049
1550 Mandaluyong City
Manila, Philippines

(604)628-2180
(805)633-1249

Andy_smith@ntm.org
Megksmith@hotmail.com

www.ntm.org/andy_smith
www.goingtribal.blogspot.com

June 2011 Volume 5 Issue 2

"Missions is not a recruitment project for God's labor force. It is a liberation project from the heavy burdens and hard yokes of other gods." –John Piper

Prayer Requests:

- *Trip to Palawan- the details, stay healthy during trip, and encourage the missionaries there*
- *Diligence in our language and culture studies*
- *Keep building strong relationships with people here*

Palawan

In July our family is really excited to be taking a trip to the island of Palawan. We will be taking a break from language study and also visiting a couple different tribal works of New Tribes Mission.

Palawan is the largest province in the Philippines in land mass, and has several tribal groups on it, some containing thousands of people. We are hoping to get a look at a tribe that has a full team of missionaries and hear some teaching, and then visit a tribe that is looking for partners.

Please be in prayer for this visit- and be expecting a special update on it in August with pictures!



Kaden and Brenna ready to go play outside!



Easter in the Philippines...

...was a great chance for Megan and I to observe Filipino culture as it is probably the most important religious holiday for Catholics (roughly 80 percent of Filipinos are Catholic).

Black Friday is very somber as it is the day Jesus died, and people will reflect on his suffering in many ways. Some "share in His suffering" by walking long distances, self-flagellation, not eating certain foods and even crucifying themselves. Many engage in these "extreme" acts of devotion to receive blessing or forgiveness.

Resurrection Sunday is celebrated early in the morning with a reenactment of Jesus' appearance to Mary.

Andrew travelled out to Pampanga on Friday to view some of these practices there, a province which has become famous for its crucifixions.

Working together to Share the Gospel...

Did you know that New Tribes Mission Philippines has their own training center near Manila where Filipino believers can be trained to go out as missionaries? Well, I didn't really know that until last month when I had a chance to visit the training center during a youth camp.

The youth camp teachers there used tribal practices to demonstrate the need for the Gospel in the tribes. I had a chance to witness a Kanyaw, which involves drinking, dancing and pig sacrifice.

Other animistic rituals were reenacted such as a burial ceremony where a mother died during childbirth and was to be buried with her surviving baby. Also there was a headhunting ritual where heads are presented as a bride price.

We praise God for the national believers He is raising up that we can work alongside in bringing the Gospel to the unreached tribes of the Philippines.



The reenactment of the pig sacrifice and dance.