

October 2017

Trevor's Ministry Update

Hello friends! Here's October's update on my ministry here in the Philippines!

Grade 6 Bible: Reading through the Old Testament

While teaching Grade 11 Bible comes more naturally to me, I love this class of grade 6 students. They really encourage each other to learn and ask questions and often respond surprisingly maturely to the different issues in the Old Testament.



Four of my grade 6 students and one former grade 6 student

Last week we read the book of Joshua. So far I've had them read a few chapters of the Bible each week and write about it in their journals. However, I found that only some of the kids get into it while others seem disinterested. So this week I mixed things up. For some of the chapters, they had to answer questions online. For the most important chapters, we used a program that allows me to post a video and them to also film videos responses. It had tremendous results. Because it was filmed, the students were more insightful, thinking more about their responses. It was also great to hear from and engage some of the students that are usually quiet in class or don't write much in their journals. I'm planning to continue using this method, saving the journals for in-class personal reflections.

Grade 11 Bible: Learning and Discussing Our Beliefs

I really enjoy Grade 11 Bible. The topic is Doctrine and Apologetics and we learn about a different doctrine every 1 to 2 weeks. The goal of the class is that the students will come to an understanding of what *they* believe about each of these doctrines, by considering the arguments, discussing them with one another, and writing papers summarizing their beliefs. It's been going really well. I over heard one student say a few weeks ago, "I feel like in last year's bible class we were told what we should believe while this year's bible class is all about making us question our beliefs!" I think that means I'm succeeding.

My Contact Info:

Mailing Address: MCPO Box 2016, 0706 Makati City, Philippines

Email: tloken@teachbeyond.org

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TrevorPhilippines/>

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for my grade 11 students as they continue to wrestle with what they believe about God and Christian teachings and that they may be receptive to the Spirit's work in their lives.
- Please pray for my grade 6 students as they work through the OT, that this experience be one through which the Holy Spirit speaks to them and grows them in faith.
- I have a pretty heavy weekly marking load each week and find it hard to keep on top of it. Please pray that God give me the endurance to not get more behind.
- Last week I got to spend a day meeting with the other Middle School Bible teachers to discuss curriculum. It was a great experience. Please pray that God uses the plans we came up with that day to improve the school's Bible classes.
- Please pray for my students as we finish the last two months of the semester, that they may not get tired or apathetic but keep learning and striving after God.
- This Christmas, I plan to decide whether I will continue at Faith after my two year commitment is up this summer or return to Canada. Please pray that I listen to his will above my own.

Early on in the year, I had the problem that my students (especially in 1st period) were always tired and had trouble engaging with the class. So I started bringing providing boiling water and 3-in-1 coffee packages (instant coffee that is really popular with Filipinos). This not only fixed the tiredness problem but went a long way in building a comfortable friendly atmosphere for the classroom!



One of my grade 11 students made this poster when I started providing coffee

Trapped, Naked, and Alone: A Missionary Story

This story I want to share isn't specifically about my ministry but I think exemplifies the kind of unique experiences that missionaries go through.

The other day the door to my bathroom broke and couldn't be opened. Unfortunately, I forgot this when I went to take my evening shower. I soon discovered that I was trapped, completely naked, without tools or a cellphone. After attempting in vain to open the door, I decided I needed another solution. The window had metal blinds over it which I would not be able to remove. Besides, I was pretty sure my house was locked so I wasn't convinced being locked outside of my house naked would be helpful. There is also a hatch in the ceiling, leading up to the roof space. However, the idea of climbing naked through a dark, rat-infested crawlspace did not appeal to me. So I settled on the only option left to me: break the door open.

I was on the wrong side of the door to force it open by slamming against it so I decided to use the lid from my toilet tank to smash it open. I ended up breaking a sizeable hole in it and removing the doorknob. Unfortunately, I couldn't get the latch out so I was still stuck. By this point I started to give up so, in an act of desperation, I went to the window and yelled for help. A Filipina woman heard me and got the subdivision guards. After a little while, the guards came into my house (fortunately the front door was *not* locked!) and used tools to finish my work and remove the door latch. I was freed! When I got out I looked at my phone and discovered that it was 11:30 PM. I had been trapped in there for 2 ½ hours! It certainly wasn't how I was expecting to spend my Friday night.

Want to Join My Support Team?

If you would like to partner with me financially, you can do so on my support website at:

<https://give.teachbeyond.org/support/trevor-loken>. You can also mail a cheque to TeachBeyond at:

TeachBeyond Canada
2121 Henderson Hwy.
Winnipeg, MB
R2G 1P8

TeachBeyond US
PO Box 610
Downers Grove, IL
60515-0610

If supporting me by cheque please include a note indicating that it is a gift for Trevor Loken #30198. If you intend on supporting me monthly, please include a note indicating your pledge. Support forms are also available at

<https://give.teachbeyond.org>.

My Contact Info:

Mailing Address: MCPO Box 2016, 0706 Makati City, Philippines

Email: tloken@teachbeyond.org

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TrevorPhilippines/>

