



**Dear Praying Friends,**

This week is being spent processing through two major transitions. First Saturday we will be moving to another apartment in our building after living in our current one for 9 years. The new one will be a little cheaper and easier to manage since it is smaller. For quite some time Mary Ann and I have been in a downsizing mode getting rid of a lot of stuff, which is long overdue. Jacki & Lori Rouleau have been a big help to Mary Ann in reorganizing and downsizing her home office and we feel much "lighter" because of it. Sunday marks our 2nd major transition in that I will no longer be our field's director after serving in this capacity for 10+ years. Somebody asked me the other day how I'm feeling and I said, "much lighter." And another guy said to me this week "you're looking much more relaxed." Even though Mike Gingerich will now take the lead for our team, I have been asked by our Board and Council to help with this transition until we leave for furlough in December. One of our staff people and I were talking the other day and I said to her "even though I will not be director in the near future, I still carry a sense of responsibility for the team and want to help as called upon" so pray over the next several days please while we lean on Jesus "Who is the same yesterday, today and forever." Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)

**Here are ministry reports and updates for your ongoing faithful prayer.**

### **1. July and August Camps**

We had 45 lively street kids at our July camp where we taught the "True Love Waits" material. I've got to believe this is the first time the kids heard about God's standards for our sexuality and the consequences of not obeying Him. The material was taught lovingly and sensitively by pastors and counselors both trained in using this material and who work with street kids on a regular basis so the teaching was well received by the campers. Along with this everyone had lots of fun, plenty to eat and made new friends.

We are now gearing up for our August 10-13 camp and we're hoping to recruit 60 kids. Our budget has been covered by a supporting church in Minnesota for which we're praising the Lord. Pray as kids are now being invited to camp and workers and churches are preparing.

### **2. Honest Hands class started**

Honest Hands, our life-skills discipleship ministry for former street boys and school drop-outs started their new class July 7 with 10 guys. Carl Loewen, the leader of the ministry, tells me the class is going well and off to a good start.

### **3. Fire relief**

July 11 a horrific fire late in the evening in a squatter community of Navotas City burned out 280 families. Although one child died, which is tragic, many more could have perished if it weren't for the heroic efforts of one man who saw the flames and went around yelling "fire, fire!" which alerted people to escape through their two very narrow passage ways. Because the paths are narrow, firefighters could not get in to put out the fire so they just let it burn itself out. The next morning I received three requests for assistance from pastors in the area and we immediately released enough funds to supply practical items such as a pot, pan, eating utensils, plates, glasses, rice, a sleeping mat and mosquito net along with a Gospel of John in Tagalog for each family. A Gospel message was given by one of the pastors and several indicated trusting Christ as Savior and the pastors are now following up their new friends.

After the distribution we toured the fire zone and it was devastating to see people living in the rubble and standing water while it was beginning to rain, trying to save and reuse whatever they could. Many expressed heartfelt gratitude for the items they received because they had not received much help since the fire. Pray for these dear ones please.

### **4. School supplies distribution**

We're finishing up the distribution of school supplies to over 200 kids of families who were severely affected by typhoon Ondoy. The kids and their parents are extremely grateful to receive these items and the pastors who have selected the families to receive them are serving their communities well. Pray that these acts of kindness will continue to point people to Jesus as they are now connected to partner churches.

Last week we delivered 25 brand new Bibles to mothers regularly attending Bible studies at the Pillilia's tent city where we are sponsoring a six month feeding program. When the mothers got the Bibles, with huge smiles on their faces, they clapped and said thank you over and over again for them. They also thanked us for the school supplies their students received the previous week. Pastor Nestor is doing a great job overseeing the feeding and leading Bible studies as we now have a core group for a possible church plant. As a reminder, there are many families living possibly for up to 5 years in this tent city because they were wiped out by Ondoy and have nowhere to go. We thank the Lord for the opportunity to befriend these dear people and serve them in the name of Christ.

### **5. Jacki & Lori**

The Rouleau girls have been with us for 7 weeks and return to the US tomorrow. They have been a delight, a big help to Mary Ann and me, have worked hard and certainly got their eyes and hearts full of ministry among the poor. We thank the Lord for First Baptist Church in Anoka, Minnesota for sending them and trust the girls will be received back well by family, friends and church-mates.

### **6. Trip to Seattle & LA**

Mary Ann and I will be making a trip to Seattle to see Danny and Micah Scott and meet with Doug Nichols and Nelson Reed in the ACTION office. We're meeting with Doug and Nelson to work out our future ministry roles with ACTION but my new international title along with leading the street children ministry in Manila, and coordinating disaster relief and development

is, "Senior Consultant for Street Children and Children in Crisis". We're not sure yet what this means so we think it is better to discuss this face to face rather than trying to do it via the internet. I will also continue on as Associate International Director. We leave for Seattle September 22 then go to LA to see Amos October 7, returning to Manila October 13. We are available to speak in churches September 26 in the Seattle area and possibly in Spokane October 3 since we're planning to go there to see Danny's folks Chris and Janet that weekend. October 10 we're available in the Pasadena area which is where Amos lives so if your church would be interested in having us speak in a Sunday School or give the morning and/or evening message, let us know and we'll see what can be worked out.

### **7. Turning over the shepherd's staff ceremony**

July 16 our team had our annual Fil-Am picnic at 2nd Mile which is always a rich time of fellowship, good food, fun and relaxation. One of the activities was a "turning over of the shepherd's staff ceremony" led by our Board chairman and two other Board members in which I handed over to Mike Gingerich a shepherd's staff followed by prayer. This simple but profound ceremony signified me stepping aside and allowing Mike and others to step into ministry leadership roles. As an organization ACTION operates by and endeavors to teach and model servant leadership and not operate with an unbiblical hierarchal structure with positions of power. Leaders serve with the trust and confidence of others as we hold each other accountable to the Lord and each other as we serve one another. Of course ACTION has leadership positions with the accompanying authority to carry out responsibilities but our mandate is found in Philippians 2:3-4 which says,

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind, regarding one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also the interests of others." (NASB)

Pray for Mike and his wife Cindy as they transition into their new ministry and for Mary Ann and me as we transition into ours. Our common passion is to glorify God, edify His people, spread the Gospel among those who do not know Jesus and lead many to a saving relationship with Him then see them grow in a local church.

Sincerely in Christ, your brother and servant,

**Jeff**

"Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts."  
--Is 26:8 NIV

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