

"Yes, Lord!" Email Update October 25, 2010

Dear Praying Friends,

This morning while Mary Ann and I were praying, I prayed "Father, help us to write our email newsletter for Your glory for the work You are doing in and through us and to show the effectivity of the prayers and giving of those who support the work." That, my friends, is our hearts' desire as I write this letter. May God be glorified, people come to have a saving knowledge of Christ, the needy helped and you our dear readers encouraged.

1. Summary of trip to Washington and California

Ministry Activities

Mary Ann and I had a couple productive days in our ACTION USA office with our International Director Nelson Reed and ACTION's Founder Doug Nichols as we worked on the initial draft of my new ministry which is called "Senior Consultant and Advocate for Children-in-Crisis. Much was accomplished as we discussed ACTION's current ministries with children in crisis and where we want to go in the future. Mary Ann and I were strongly affirmed in this new role and people have said it fits us well. If you would like a draft of this job description, I'd be happy to send it to you so you can know more about the direction the Lord is leading us. Our feet will remain firmly planted on Manila streets as we minister directly with Filipino children in crisis in partnership with local churches and ministries but now in a strategic position to assist other ACTION fields as requested.

With this change of ministry direction, Mary Ann and I are considering renaming our personal newsletter and we would welcome any suggestions you have. Currently we send out monthly email updates and quarterly 4-page hard copy letters called "Yes, Lord!" Proverbs 31:8-9 have strongly influenced our ministry for years and strengthens us for the future. In the New Living Translation the verses read, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice."

While in the Seattle area we ministered at Kingston Christian Church where I spoke in both of their morning services and the after church fellowship. It was wonderful to stay in the home of Tom and Brooke Ann Moreland and fellowship with the saints at KCC as we were received like long lost friends. We also shared about the ministry with a home fellowship of folks from Danny and Micah's church in Lynnwood.

We also had the great joy of ministering at Amos' church in Pasadena CA, Trinity Baptist, in which I spoke to the adults during the Sunday School hour and Mary Ann to the children. Following the service Mr. & Mrs. Wicks sponsored a wonderful lunch which was represented by people from many countries who attend the church. Mrs. Wicks who has roots back to Cook, MN, told us about her mother who used to provide meals and lodging to missionaries who were traveling in the area and did the same when she moved to Pasadena. The timing of us visiting Trinity was good because they were launching a special mission's project.

Family

Besides working on our ministry assignment with Nelson and Doug, it was great to help Danny and Micah (our daughter) Scott pack up and move their household items from Lynnwood to Spokane. Danny's last day as Nelson's assistant was September 29 and he now works for Olive Tree Bible Software (you might have some of their software on your mobile gadgets). It was delightful to attend a send-off lunch for Danny and Micah at the office and it was clear to Mary Ann and me that they are loved, appreciated and will be missed by their colleagues. They are now living in a home they purchased in Spokane and are settling in while doing several fix-up jobs in the house. They have found a good church so they are settling in well in their new community. While we were in Spokane we stayed with Danny's parents Chris and Janet and it was a delight getting to know them better.

While in Pasadena we stayed with our son Amos who lives in and cares for Trinity's parsonage. As always Amos was a good host and provided many stimulating conversations. We were also blessed by spending lots of time with several of his friends who are either working on their PhDs, post docs or working and are active at Trinity Baptist Church. It was also great to visit our long-time friends Joe and Judy Rehfeld and two of their sons Jimmy and Jason. Whenever we see each other it is like we pick up where we left off.

All in all it was a fruitful 3 week trip and well worth the time and expense so thank you for praying.

2. Upcoming Furlough

While we're writing about travel, visiting friends and family and representing ACTION, we will be leaving for our 6 month furlough based in Roseville, MN December 14. We will be staying in our apartment in Roseville for which we continue to be grateful. As I have previously mentioned we have had 12 months of furlough total over the last 10 years. Someone asked me recently what we plan to do and I said "recharge our low batteries, resupply our toolbox and represent ACTION." We are in need of a vehicle so if anyone has a lead on a reliable, winter-worthy car we can use until we return to Manila June 14, please let us know.

I have been approved to lead a workshop at the Vancouver Mission Fest January 28-30, 2011 and the following weekend in Winnipeg February 4-6 entitled "Restoring Children of the Streets." Pray that God will raise up more workers to work among the world's children in crisis through these conferences and wherever the Lord leads us to speak on their behalf. * If your church, Bible study or school would like us to speak, please contact us and we'll work on setting a date. Refer to the calendar on our website for the latest itinerary information. <http://web.me.com/jima.anderson/jeffmaryann/Calendar.html>

3. Fish and Bread Feeding Update

We are extremely grateful to the senior saints at Grace Church Eden Prairie led by Dick Edstrom for their packing and sending 11 large boxes of Feed My Starving Children food to us monthly. We currently have 33 boxes on the way and when they arrive, they will go out the door to our faithful partner churches and ministries who are feeding malnourished children. I continue to be amazed at the creative ways our partners prepare this food which the children devour and their health improvement is obvious. Our church in Manila, Greenhills Christian Fellowship, recently gave us boxes of beans and noodles which are also being used in a variety of ways so thousands of kids are being fed because of the commitment of both churches to feed the hungry in Christ's name.

* Connected to some of our feeding sites is our educational ministry using the Department of Education's Alternative Learning System (ALS) of which we have 10 sites. October 17, 76 kids from our ALS ministry took the Acceleration and Equivalency Exam and they'll know the results possibly in November. Pray for these students, former street kids or school drop-outs who have come to faith in Christ, who are studying hard under the tutelage of church and agency workers.

* Several times we've written about Jomar Hernaez, a young woman who was severely burned in a house fire when she was little and is now undergoing a series of surgeries to repair her scar damage. Last Wednesday Jomar underwent another outpatient procedure when Dr. Arroyo removed a large portion of dead skin between her jaw and neck. Jomar is now home recovering while she continues to tutor several kids in their ALS studies. Jomar is a radiant young Christian woman whose gifts, personality and skills are blossoming while she is undergoing these treatments. We thank God for our friend Dr. Arroyo who is doing these procedures free of charge and the generous people who have provided funds and medicines in order to make this happen for Jomar.

4. Evangelistic Christmas Party Ministry

November 5 we have our first planning meeting with several churches and ministries for our fast approaching Christmas ministry. Malls are now decked out with Christmas decor with Christmas music playing and our partners remain enthusiastic for this strategic and fruitful ministry. Pray that the Lord will provide the needed \$16,000 (\$3.50 per person) so we can carry out our full ministry.

5. Department of Social Welfare & Development (DSWD) Training Day

Last Thursday, 34 ministry leaders working with children in crisis, met with a head of DSWD who explained the government's requirements in providing social welfare ministry to children and their families. While the government's requirements are high, they recognize the church as having a vital role in helping the poor masses so they are committed to assist us improve our ministries. We welcome their assistance and they are not allowed legally to meddle with our core values as Christians. As a matter of fact, they appreciate our values. It was a day of learning for the DSWD rep as well as the ministry reps with more to follow.

6. 2011 Budgets and Proposals Meetings

Wednesday and Friday last week and Wednesday this week, our Council meets with each ACTION ministry leader who presents their '11 Budget and Proposal for possible approval and prayer. These are rich meetings and provide great insight into the faith of each missionary as we corporately serve Christ and the Gospel. One thing is definitely clear, each of us is a cracked pot filled with the treasure of God's grace and Word and it is a joy to serve with each one. I presented 5 budgets and proposals and all were approved.

Conclusion

"Not to us, oh Lord, not to us, but to Thy name give glory because of Thy lovingkindness, because of Thy truth." Psalm 115:1 NASB. This verse has been coursing through my mind and heart for several days. All the work, tears, laughter, miles travelled, different beds slept in in differing time zones, prayers prayed, letters written, help extended, preaching, meals served and received and administrating ministry is for the glory of God because of His mercy and truth and the good of those we serve. My dear friends, be encouraged in the Lord as we trust Him together and thank you for your partnership in life and ministry.

Sincerely in Christ,

Jeff