



## MUSTARD SEED DISCIPLESHIP VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

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*ACTION International Ministries, Philippines*

*Prayer Update: September 1, 2010*

MUSTARD SEED DISCIPLESHIP VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

*Prayer Update: August 29, 2010*

Greetings! And may I be the first to wish you MERRY CHRISTMAS! Yes, I know it's a bit early, but here in the Philippines the season begins early. Sales at the malls in August and September, music in stores at the end of August, and I'm sure that Christmas décor will be on sale this week. Our students are already excited about our Christmas party 3 ½ months away.

### **TERM 2 ENDING, EXAMS TO COME!**

But to things really happening now. Last Friday concluded teaching for Term 2 (ten weeks already!!). Next week we will be having Evaluation Week, exams are given in each class. I know that the students would appreciate your prayers as they prepare for exams in each of their courses; discipleship, math and finance, sewing, dorm life and guidance/social. Marks are due on Thursday in the afternoon, report cards will be sent home on Friday.

### **MID-PROGRAM BREAK:**

With the end of Term 2 comes our mid program break. The week of September 6 – 10 we will have a week off!!! Hurray! We are all looking forward to this time of relaxation and rest. Our two students from the island of Mindoro will also head home, the first time in 23 weeks. They are SUPER excited. It will be for them a two hour bus ride to the port of Batangas, then a 2 ½ hour boat ride to the island, next a 1 ½ hour jeep ride to their home area and, finally, a 45 min walk up the mountain. We are all ready for some R and R.

This Thursday evening the staff and students of Mustard Seed will be enjoying a hot dog roast, with chips, soft drinks and all the condiments on top. We'll make pasta salad and veggies and dip. For dessert, what else? S'mores! This is not a typical Filipino meal but everyone enjoys the time together. The big concern is the weather. We are praying that it doesn't rain Thursday evening so we can make a fire outside to roast our meal. Please pray for a good evening!

### **A TRIP TO THE HOSPITAL...**

No, not me!! But one of our students. Because of family financial concerns, the coming evaluation week, and that her grades aren't that great, the dorm staff took her to the hospital just a block away from the dorm. It was diagnosed as a panic attack due to stress. All of her tests came back normal, for which we gave thanks to the LORD. I am also grateful that we now have a social worker on staff. She has been talking with Jenn this week to help her sort through her concerns and praying with her. Please pray for her.

### **A SAD TIME...**

Not many days after my last letter, our dorm mom, Iree, received a call that her younger brother had been taken to hospital that morning. She left immediately for Manila to be with her family. He suffered a stroke due to complications from high blood pressure and a high fever. He passed away two days after

collapsing at home. He was 27 years old and leaves a wife and just year old baby. We were able to visit the family at their home the day of the funeral. It was a great shock to the family.

**WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS...**

We so appreciate all your prayers for the staff and students of Mustard Seed. We are praying that all of our students will pass their exams and begin Term 3 on September 13. If this happens it will be the first time that we will have all of the students who began the program continue into term 3. We will definitely do a dance of joy!

We continue to covet your prayers as our budget for this year has not been met yet. Thank you for standing with this in this need. If you feel led to send a gift to Mustard Seed, please send it to one of the addresses listed below.

**SO UNTIL NEXT TIME....**

Thank you again for your prayers. God bless you richly!

Blessings,

**Barbara Burchert**  
Program Director

**PRAISE:**

1. The tests for our student who suffered from the panic attack were normal.
2. We have had two different sets of visitors to Mustard Seed in the last month, all from the US.
3. Mid Program break will be coming in one week!!

**PRAYERS:**

1. Students will do well on their exams next week.
2. That with the start of Christmas so early here, we won't get caught up in the materialism of the season, that we will be ready to share the true meaning of Christmas.
3. For our student who is dealing with a lot of stress.
4. Safety as our students head home for mid program break.

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