



27 April, 2009

Hey hey,

Recently I started working as a liaison for ACTION Philippines with a group called Integrity Sunday School. This is a group comprised of eight guys, a female administration assistant, and the visionary behind the ministry. The eight guys break down into 3 two-man teams, one guy floats as a supervisor, and the last guy is the coordinator who oversees the work and is meeting with parents conducting Bible studies. As for me I accompany the supervisor when the teams go out and will eventually visit all of the sites.

What the two-man teams do is gather a bunch of street kids together and present a bible story to the kids using the New Tribes Mission's Chronological Bible Teaching lessons. The sites that I visited in the last few weeks ranged from 60 to 100 kids in attendance per site and the teams conduct three to four story teaching sessions a day four days a week (I join the teams in the office one day a week where we receive assignments and training and then in the field only three of the four days that the teams are out due to other responsibilities with ACTION). Two of the teams' average around 600 kids a week and the third team is a little behind with about 500 kids a week. The goal that we are working towards is 800 kids a week per team. These are mostly non-Christian kids ages 6-16 whom by-and-large may have a home to go to but it will be small so they therefore hang out on the streets all day.

On my second day with the teams I was with a team that was presenting a lesson on the Ten Commandments. It was one of the hottest days of the year (we are in the middle of summer now) and the lesson is a long one. The kids started getting a little antsy after an hour so to keep them quiet the supervisor has a bag of candy and if a child starts to act up he will politely ask the child to calm down and then praise the child sitting next to the noisy one afterwards rewarding the good child with a piece of candy. The noisy kids tend to hush up and act straight from that point forward; well, at least for a while. The irony of it all is that the tenth commandment that we are teaching is not to covet yet we are invoking the child's desire for candy to help them regain discipline. Would this be coveting? I guess it beats getting hit with a stick by the mothers who are present and this I have seen. Nothing serious but many from Western countries may think it to be a little harsh.

I recently finished writing an evangelistic comic book and have sent it off to my Field Director who asked me to write it. He will get it illustrated and then the mission will print it and we the missionaries will distribute it around the city. While it is being illustrated Gloria is working on translating the text within

the comic book. The comic that I have written is targeting teenagers and I have come to realize in the past two weeks that I will need to do something for children. So I have therefore started writing a second comic that is geared for kids aged 6-12. I have developed the concept and a basic idea of the characters and even outlined the first book. Now I need to write out the story. What is exciting about this endeavor is that one of the young men on the story teaching teams can draw and I am interacting with him passing onto him the concept. I can see that the problem will be me finding the time to actually write the stories. Lord willing it will all come about and I am excited about what is taking place.

Several items excite me with what is taking place. One is I have increased my involvement with evangelism many fold. The church planting that I was doing where I would engage in personal evangelism was low-speed and drab. Now I am at high-speed and moving. A second thing that excites me is Gloria is excited about doing the translation work for me and this gives me more of a family-ministry feel regarding ministry. A third area of excitement is I do not need to increase my budget four or five fold but only get it back up to levels where it was two years ago.

All in all things are going well. Praise God. I am spending a lot more time with the urban poor.

God bless,

Jim Craig
Until He Comes

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If you would like to give you can make checks payable to Action International Ministries, P. O. Box 398 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398 or 3015 A 21st Street NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7T1, Canada. Note that your check is for support of the Craig's.