



**December 16, 2009**

Well, it has been a while. I will try to keep this short for you all.

Ministry wise; the ACTION Philippines website is maintained and our Bible studies are churning along. The expository style study is truly helping me maintain sanity with all that is going on (the greatest thing about Bible studies is preparing for them).

Timi's autism has been my primary focus since I had to abruptly abandon my furlough last June. That was a move that has had dire consequences regarding support and long-term stability, but a decision that we do not regret and was made for Timi's sake. The treatment style is one where we have created a structured and dogmatic environment. Timi undergoes occupational therapy, speech therapy, and schooling which is an early intervention Program for Children with Special needs. In all of this Timi is drilled to conform to certain behavioral practices. It is almost robotic at times but is a means to train the mind to snap out of its seclusion and help control the body in a normal manner. This form of treatment has a 47% full recovery rate and a 95% partial recovery rate that allows the child to grow in a manner where they are mostly functional as adults. 47% may not seem great but 25 years ago the recovery rate was less than 5% and Timi Louise has only a mild case so we are hopeful.

So how is Timi Louise progressing you may wonder? This past month she finally started to communicate that she does desire certain things such as a particular food or the desire to watch TV. Before this point in time she was oblivious to the notion of communicating that she had a particular desire. This is the first steps she has made in communication since we noticed her language loss beginning about six months ago. Her first few weeks of communication was pointing and pulling on people. You may be thinking to yourself that this is normal and it is for a child who is a year and a half old but it is considered abnormal (possibly just "late") for a two and a half year old. Then the last two weeks she has been starting to say words, nouns that we have been drilling her with using flash cards for the past four months. It has been some very exciting times. Her pediatrician still believes that she is behind the norm but we are feeling confident that she will be ready and able to start a normal school schedule.

Yet the autism has not been the only crisis that we have been facing. Starting several months ago Gloria has had a relapse of her tuberculoses. To make matters worse Timi also caught it. Then both Timi and Gloria caught pneumonia (TB related) and we had to hospitalize Timi for three days. Then to ice the cake Gloria and I caught typhoid. I was glad that is all that I had as the treatment is simple. The pneumonia is a fairly simple treatment as well, well, at least for Gloria who did not need to be

hospitalized. But the TB on the other hand is a six month treatment and it is a battle to get Timi to take her meds. The TB Gloria gets from her practice as everyday she is interacting with TB patients. The pneumonia came as a result of the TB (we think Gloria got it first and then passed it on to Timi). As for the typhoid we are not sure but more than likely we drank bad water one time we went out together for dinner. It does not matter how nice a place may look if it does not have filtered water watch out!!!

Support is now at the lowest levels ever, which is to be expected as people always want more bang for their buck and who wants to support a missionary who is spending more time tending to his family then reaching the lost. We are starting to think that we may need to make major changes sometime next year. But we will wait until next year to decide. For now let's just get through the holidays.

Speaking of the holidays, this year I have had my second Thanksgiving meal since 2000. The whole time that I have been over here I have been living with either Filipinos or Englishmen and neither of those cultures celebrate Thanksgiving. The past nine years I kept placing hope in the thought of making it back to my mom's for a Thanksgiving but with her sudden death this year I was forced to realize that if I want Thanksgiving I would need to cook one up myself. So we bought a turkey, found a place to buy pumpkin pie mix, did a bit of reading in the cookbooks, and went to town. It was nice and the turkey was not dry. Hey hey.

You all have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and may God be with you in the year to come.

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.**