



June 15, 2009

Hey Hey,

It is with a heavy heart that I start this writing. On June 1<sup>st</sup> Gloria and I were scheduled to fly to the States. It was just three weeks prior that I was informed that my mother has cancer and the doctors were giving her two weeks to two years to live. But about four hours before we left for the airport to travel to the States I received an email from a brother informing me that mother passed away.

It made for a long sad flight. We traveled to Northwest Arkansas and then after a day of securing a vehicle, phone, and overcoming jet lag we proceeded to Central Arkansas for my mother's memorial service. This was a time of mixed feelings as it was the first time that all the children were together in the same location and at the same time in over twenty years. Plus an added blessing was my mom's brother, Uncle Bill, and a cousin from my fathers side of the family, Missy, were there and this was the largest gathering of family that I had experienced since I was a child. Yet it was a time of tears and grief. Most family members who stepped up to the microphone to share memories during the memorial service were too choked up to speak. Feeling confident that my mother's sins were forgiven based upon her faith in the work of salvation of Jesus Christ I tried to bring hope and joy to the service but as it states in Ecclesiastes there is "a time to weep and a time to laugh," and for most at the memorial it was a time to weep.

Now two weeks after we have arrived Gloria has already returned home. She is safe and Timi Louise is happy that she is reunited with her mother. Timi Louise stayed behind with family there in the Philippines. We could have brought her (free as she is under two years of age for a few more weeks) but I decided not to subject Gloria having to hold a two year old on her lap during a 16 hour return flight. Now it is just me to do some necessary work for the next five months. The bright side of it all is with me being out of the family picture for the time that I am away it will give Gloria and Timi Louise time to bond more so.

I am looking foreword to the work before me, the work that is still six months down the road. Yet the work for now is enjoyable as well. I do enjoy the support raising aspect of being a missionary. Gloria is not fond of it and this is a primary reason why she is not here; but I enjoy talking about my work, meeting people, and even sharing meals with friends. But I sense that this time it may be a little tough as the economy is down and no more going to mom's house once or twice a month to enjoy time with her.

Lord willing I will get the blessing of seeing many of you these next few months. I will try to contact you but feel free to email me or call (479.856.4430). Let's get together.

I do have a need that one of you may be in a position to help out with. I need to travel to Seattle in August for some work at the ACTION office and as I am low on support I want to cash in some flier miles that I have with Northwest Airlines so as to travel there but I am 3,000 miles short of being able to fly for free. Do any of you have miles with Northwest and are willing to donate them to me?

Thank you all for your time, prayers, gifts, and friendship. May God bless you greatly.

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. Or you can give online by [clicking here](#).**