



**September 30, 2009**

Hey Hey,

Usually I am thinking through what I want to write a week or two prior to the time that I sit down and peck out these newsletters. But this time I will start with an update on a recent calamity that has struck the Philippines.

Last weekend we were hit by Tropical Storm Ondoy (International name Tropical Storm Ketsana) which according to [Foxnews.com](http://Foxnews.com) killed 240 people, forced 380,000 into shelters, and flooded the homes of 1.9 million people. Several of our missionaries were affected and if you [click here](#) you can read a fascinating tale. And this may not be all as several more storms are lined up and heading this way.

ACTION Philippines (AP) does have a disaster relief aspect to our ministry. As the Philippines is often affected by disaster Jeff Anderson, the current AP team leader, and his ministry named "The Street Impact Team" have developed contingencies and a network of volunteers to react to the disasters as they unfold. Jeff and the gang are gearing up for action to help rebuild the lives of many poor families. If you would like to read more or make a donation towards disaster relief for the urban poor in Manila you may do so by visiting the [AP website](#). I fully endorse Jeff and the Street Impact Team.

As for us, we were hit with a lot of rain and wind, had some flooding in our home and in the community, Gloria was busy at the hospitals, and we had intermittent power for several days; but noting near what they had in Manila 60 miles north of us.

I will now share one of several thoughts that I have been thinking of. I mentioned a newsletter or two ago that we have started holding a chronological Bible study here at our home. It's great!!! More than anything I miss just sitting down and wallowing around in the Word. Topical studies, like what we were doing a year ago or so are good, evangelistic outreaches are good, and all the administrative work that I do and is categorized as "ministry" is good; but nothing compares to opening your Bible and digging in. We are starting in Genesis and will just keep pushing through on a weekly basis until we reach Revelation and then Lord willing start all over again. This approach was rekindled while I was working with street teams earlier this year and reinforced when reading a New Tribes book on Firm Foundations. Expository teaching is what I did in the Bible studies that I held in my home for the homeless back in Arkansas as well as in one of the two jails where I did ministry back then. But it is not something that I have done since I came here to the Philippines.

Something is coming to light now with the study. I am beginning to see that with those who are attending the study that what I would consider obvious is not always so obvious. In a homiletics class I had way

back when the professor told us that teaching God's word is more than just explaining the obvious. It is placing precept upon precept in order to build a theology. What is assumed is that people understand the obvious. This is not always the case. In our case to place the precept we simply just highlight the obvious and then as you go through the scriptures the precepts will naturally stack as you come upon them thus building the theology.

Anyhow, it is going well. We are opening it up to the international community but billing it as a home church service which has kept most away. Hopefully soon I will incorporate worship into the study. I will take songs that are contemporary in music style but are either scripture in song, classic hymns, or modern songs that have a little depth and add a picture and the words and make them into a short movie files – worship, karaoke style.

As for the family scene – these are challenging times. Some days I think that Timi Louise is perfectly normal but then other days it seems that she is slipping away into her own unknown world. Based on the statement that I just made I do accept the fact that she is likely autistic, but Lord willing it is only a mild case. The problem is most cases of autism the person does not slip from reality until they are 18-24 months old and it could take a year or so before they reach the fullness of their disorder therefore it is too early for us to tell. I do not think that Timi is slipping but then again maybe she is. Several months ago she would walk on her tip toes. This is not uncommon for many children but is an indicator that we need to monitor. Then she stopped. Great! Yet just this last week she started again – not good.

Gloria has been working extra hard lately. She is getting a little pressure from her family to give Timi the best possible treatment and not to skimp. This in turn is pushing her to work harder. Yet there is a lot of sickness going around and she is constantly being pulled down as a result.

Please do remember us in prayer. And a heartfelt “thanks” to all of you who pray and give. God bless.

Jim Craig  
Until He Comes

[www.jim.messenjah.ws](http://www.jim.messenjah.ws)

**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.**