

A Publication Informing Family and Friends of the Ministries of Jim & Gloria Craig

Ministry Vision

Mobilizing Christians unto evangelism by incorporating the evangelist into the local church.

Ministry Outlets

KingdomLife Ministries: KL-Min is a church-planting effort in Batangas, Philippines. The organizational foundation of the church is built upon two ministry offices, that of the pastor and that of the evangelist. Currently we are working with the Grace of Almighty God Community embedding an English service into their local church following a dual congregation church model.

ACTION Philippines: A second ministry task of Jim is to serve ACTION Philippines by working as the short-term coordinator.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray first and foremost for the church-planting effort. Pray that we do incorporate an evangelist, that we form evangelistic cell groups, and that we find the right evangelist.
- Pray that Gloria and I conceive a second child soon. It is our desire that we have at least two so that Timi Louise will have a sibling.
- Pray that I will not be overburdened with teaching a weekly English service and working with the local-church leadership, being the ACTION Philippine short-term coordinator, and my part-time studies at the Asian Theological Seminary.
- Pray that our cell group truly engages in evangelistic ministries.

Isaiah 58:6-8

"Is this not the fast which I choose, to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free and break every yoke? Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, to cover him; and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you..." (Isaiah 58:6-8a, NASB).

In the past (prior to my leaving the West to labor in the East) I would enter into the local jails to teach the Word of God. I often thought that the guys inside saw the prison doors as revolving and I would wonder, "What good is all of this? Many of these guys will get out only to get back on drugs and soon after be right back in." Also, when I would help

a homeless guy by offering him a room free of charge, except for maybe a little work around the house, only to have him move back onto the streets, once he realized that I was serious about trying to help him learn responsibility, I would think to myself, "How can I keep pressing on if I do not see good in what I am doing?"

Isaiah 58 may provide, in part, my answers to these questions. Here I discovered in verses six and seven both the moral responsibility of the Gospel as well as the paternal. The moral responsibility is for me to assist others in activating repentance. As I see justification being derived from two elements, believing that Jesus died in our stead for the penalty of

(Continued on page 2)

Taking ACTION

The people who know their God will display strength and take action. Daniel 11:32b

The reflection on Isaiah 58:6-8 above leaves me with the conclusion that as I press on in ministry the Lord will provide the strength required to endure. Did you notice the two focal points of ministering the Gospel? Moral and paternal. The paternal facet of ministry is key for me towards the success of ministry with Action International Ministries (ACTION). First, ACTION began out of a desire to help street children. This desire is motivated out of the paternal love of God towards humanity. Therefore in order for me to align myself with the philosophy of the ministry with ACTION, I desire to incorporate *both* the moral and paternal facets into ministry.

As the end goal of my ministry focus is to "mobilize Christians unto evangelism by incorporating the evangelist into the local church," I am striving to define this philosophy of ministry. One task

(Continued on page 2)

Pictured to the right is Gloria assisting in a medical mission (by a Rotary Club). It was here that I saw how a small group as a whole can take on ministry as such. Of the two ladies wearing yellow the one on the right is a church member. Standing beyond the guy wearing blue is a new convert of our ministry. They have no medical experience yet were crucial to the success of the mission.



Left is a photo I took several years ago when I joined a medical mission. It was here that I gained an understanding of how an evangelist can be incorporated into small group ministry. The evangelist proclaimed the gospel to several hundred in the course of three days.

Isaiah 58:6-8

(Continued from page 1)

our sin, and also repenting from our actual sins, I know that the Holy Spirit will be the one to empower us to resist sin. An element of my ministry is to assist others in discovering the empowerment of the Holy Spirit that will enable them to overcome their sin. I realize that it is not my responsibility to convict a person of their sins but rather to help them engage Scriptures, and once the Holy Spirit convicts, to encourage the person to resist the sin exposed by the Holy Spirit. This is ministry focused at fulfilling our moral responsibility. This element is present in verse six as we discover that it pleases the Lord for us to not only loosen our bonds of wickedness, but to undo and bring freedom to the oppressed. Then in verse seven we glean what I call the social aspect, or the paternal facet of the Gospel. Since the central motivating factor as to why God desires that we engage in ministry towards others is His love, rather than, let's say, a desire for social order—God knows that social order will never fully be realized in the “here and now” but that His love draws men unto Himself—it makes sense that the means by which we describe this element reflects His fatherly love, hence “paternal.” In verse seven we read that it pleases God if we strive to fulfill our responsibility by helping the homeless, feeding the hungry, and so on and so forth, motivated by the fatherly love of God.

These truths are present not only here in Isaiah, but also in the convictions of my mind. Where I need help is, “How do I keep my heart beating to the drums of moral and paternal responsibilities of ministry?” That is, how can I motivate myself unto longevity of ministry? My key may be found in verse eight. Here we come across what may be a responsive quality to a conditional statement. When the scriptures indicate that “*Then* your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you,” is this telling me that “if” I do the former “then” the later will come about? If so, then what I see is that “if” I engage in both

the moral and paternal responsibilities of ministering the gospel “then” I will reap the benefits of righteousness and recovery. But what did righteousness and recovery mean to the original recipients of this writing? Possibly it meant alleviation from the consequences of their corporate unfaithfulness which would become their exile soon after the time of this writing. If so, then the righteousness and recovery would have meant being back in favor with God (righteousness) and back in their own land (recovery). This principle of restoration holds true not only for Israel but for us, the Church, as well. So righteousness for me within the context of ministry (not in my legal standing before God) would be ministering with the mindset of hope for the favor of God in ministry such as overcoming the bonds that bind me and the ability to help others loosen theirs. Recovery would be, from my perspective, the freedom to offer those who are oppressed by the social consequences of sin that God will assist them in overcoming any sufferings erected by society's corporate sins.

The conditional aspect of this passage gives hope. If I work both at overcoming my bonds and freeing others from theirs, and if I press on in ministering to those in need, then the Lord will indeed provide His favor (His strength, endurance, and fruit for my labors here during this life of working the “thorn-infested ministry fields of this world”). Coupled with the doctrine that teaches if I work now, I will at the same time be storing up treasures to be utilized during our “gardening in the gardens of eternity,” these two truths should provide the endurance required for me to keep my hands on the plow and not turn back.

Taking ACTION

(Continued from page 1)

that will be assigned to the local church-based evangelists is to have them evangelize the whole of the church's sphere of ministry influence. This task necessitates that the evangelist has a ministry strategy that can accomplish the task of evangelizing the whole. An aid we can utilize in evangelizing successful people is to engage them in assisting us in alleviating the needs of those who are controlled by fears and sins spurred on by their felt needs. Thus we evangelize the segments of society whose needs are more of social despair by assisting them out of despair. We evangelize those who are not in social despair by engaging them alongside us as we minister to those in despair. An example is that we evangelize the poor with primary health (diarrhea, malaria, cholera, dengue, etc.) awareness seminars coupled with the Gospel and we evangelize non-Christian medical professionals by having them assist us and then explaining to them why we do what we do.

The means by which we will do this is to expand the role of the small group to include both pillars of discipleship—bringing people to a point of spiritual baptism (evangelize) and then teaching those who believe—and to incorporate both the moral and paternal facets of ministry. Now the question is, can I truly pull this off? I do feel inadequate for the task, but I also know that is a good thing. I have faced set backs in my pursuits—resistant churches, numerous rejections at invitations to join an elder board, and suffering a Bible study “split” due to internal jealousy and gossip. Yet my conclusion of the reflection of Isaiah 58:6-8 beams light.

Currently I am studying part time at a local seminary. The program is “Transformational Urban Leadership.” The courses include Primary Health Care; Advocacy and the Urban Environment; Educational Centre Development; Entrepreneurial and Organizational Leadership; Small Business Development; and others (yes, also your basics like Theology, Hermeneutics, etc.). My hopes are to be equipped to guide the small groups in implementing these elements as they minister as a small group. One small group will help with health care, another may help the poor start micro-businesses whereas another group will help micro-businesses grow into small businesses. Over the years I shared dreams of helping the poor have small coffee stands, assisting street children with education, etc. All of this will be done by engaging the small groups in these different ministry opportunities. Lord willing, by the time you read this my battered and bruised small group will have conducted our first diabetes-awareness seminar. This will be the first effort concentrated on transforming this vision into reality (outside of our Bible studies that have started). The small groups are the work force for ministry. The evangelist aids by equipping all in evangelism, mentoring junior evangelists that rise up within the small groups, and role-model evangelism by means of an ongoing proclamation ministry out of the local church. Please pray that this vision becomes reality. To God be the glory!

By the time you read this it will be around the time of our third wedding anniversary. They have been three golden years and we pray that the years will only get better. We even beat the odds this year and have had a child for which we are extremely thankful.

In case you have not heard our daughter, Timi Louise Malaluan Craig, was born via a cesarean on July 7 of this year. We scheduled the procedure to be at 6:45 in the morning. On 07-07-07@07:07 Timi Louise was delivered. At the time of this writing Timi Louise is three and a half months old and growing by the day. She is still not yet at the age where she can hold her head. I know through experience now where the inventor of the doll whose head is on a spring and flops all over the place got his idea. Recently I had a lot of computer work to do and was at the same time watching Timi Louise. I, in a goofy kind of a way, wanted to show her what I was doing and placed her on my knee. Well, her head was flopping and I tried to stabilize by placing my chin on her head and type away. Needless to say she got bored rather quick. She is a doll.

Gloria is back to work but not at the same pace as prior to her pregnancy. She is struggling a little with this, but when she comes home early and sees Timi's smile she soon forgets her struggle. Plus, her not being back to full speed is a good thing since we do want to have a second child. She realizes that if she were to get back to speed and then need to pull out of the hospital again due to another tough pregnancy, it may hurt the long-term stability of the hospital with her being gone, back again, then gone again. It is our desire to have a sibling for Timi Louise so that she may have a close family member after we are gone. Otherwise, both Gloria and

I are doing well. Thankfully we do not have any major health issues at this time. We are both communicating well with each other. Things are going smooth right now, praise God.

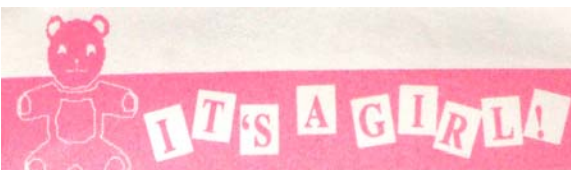
Here is a cultural snapshot for you. Do you think it is right, wrong, or just different? Here in the Philippines, it is very common for the "baby" to have an older female by their side, 24/7. If it is not the mother then it will be an older sister, aunt, cousin, or whom-ever. If the family can afford it they have a nanny. The child is never left alone and anytime the child moves towards doing something that they should not do, the elder female intervenes. Occasionally a man will hold and play with the baby, and even be responsible for watching, but by and large 24/7 the ladies are there. (In the West we will leave a child alone. For example, if the baby is sleeping or content, the mother will go to the kitchen and wash dishes, etc.) Anthropologists suggest this is a primary factor in both the Philippines being a maternal society and why family ties are as strong as they are. It is very common for a Filipina to quit a job and care for aging parents. Also, when a parent dies, no matter where they are in the world, the family will return home for the funeral, even at the risk of losing a job. The downside is that a selfishness and dependency is produced that is ingrained in the culture. A common expression you will hear Filipinos say is "they (we) lack discipline." This expression is used when cutting in line, just dropping trash on the ground, and other similar situations all resulting from a root of selfishness.

Right? Wrong? Or just different? The positive is strong ties within the family, ties not experienced in the West. The negative is a lack of discipline. Here is my true question. How do I instill in Timi Louise the positive Filipino values of family and community while at the same time teach Western discipline?

Aint she a peach?

Praise Report:

- My biggest praise this time around is pictured below.
- I praise God for my wife and her understanding and accepting me with all of my flaws.
- I Praise God for the salvation of Martin Bottle. A year and a half ago he was an atheist but now, four months after his conversion, he has already read over half of the old Testament.
- I Praise God for my teaching opportunities at a local church where we help out.
- I praise God for the enjoyment I received the last four months studying part time at a seminary in Manila. I truly do see the potential of how these studies will benefit my ministry vision.



MOUNT CARMEL DIOCESAN GENERAL HOSPITAL
Allarey Extension, Lucena City

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

CRIB NAME TAG

Room No.: 202 Case No.: _____
 Baby's Name: GIRL CRAIG
 Date of Birth: 07-07-07 Time: 7:07 AM
 Type of Delivery: ICCS
 Weight: Kls. (3,317 gms) Lbs. (7lbs-5oz)
 Length: 50 cm.
 Head Circumference: 35 cm.
 Chest Circumference: 34 cm.
 Abdominal Circumference: 31.5 cm.
 Mother's Name: GLORIA
 Obstetrician: DNA BALAGA
 Pediatrician: DNA CRUZ



Timi Louise Malaluan Craig; born 07-07-07@07:07



As 2007 comes to an end and we commence a new year, I will ask for a few moments of your time to humbly seek your help. I am in need of increasing my monthly "gifts received" average. Allow me to break it down for you.

I agreed with the leadership of ACTION to strive and raise a monthly budget based on ACTION's guidelines, tweaked a little taking into account our dual income situation. The budget was about double of what I had with The Good News Evangelistic Association (GEA) yet only 3/4 of a standard couple's budget according to ACTION's guidelines. The justification for the increase was ACTION requires expenses that GEA did not such as insurance and administration. I have a unique budget in that my salary is based on ACTION's single person's guideline but with certain increases, such as utilities and food, that are stretched to that of a couple's. This was to allow me to take care of our day-to-day expenses and have funds for ministry while Gloria takes care of our big ticket items such as the home we own and vehicles.

Gloria and I had been married for two years before I joined ACTION, and we had already adjusted to life under the budget of GEA. As of yet we have not increased the average received income beyond the old GEA budget. Now that I am out from under the security of having a consistent salary that was provided by my home church, we do experience more flux in my monthly salary. It has not been a problem since some months my salary was larger than before and other months it was smaller. The decreased average we experience is a result of changing organizations and pinches a little but we are able to roll with the tide. We do save during the prosperous months for the lean. But now an unforeseen factor is starting to pinch as well. The Philippine peso is getting stronger. When I came here almost seven years ago the exchange rate that I used to compute the budget was 50 pesos to a dollar (50:1) and the peso fell to it's lowest ever three years ago to 55:1. The 2008 ministry budget that I submitted to ACTION recently was computed at 46:1 as per ACTION Philippines' guidelines and the actual exchange rate is 44.5:1 currently. The bottom line is that I am running at two-thirds budget and the dollar does not go as far.

I do need your help. Please consider becoming a monthly supporter if you are not currently one. If you are currently a supporter then just hang in there where you are at, you're doing a great job. To those of you who currently support us—thank you. To those of you who will join us—thank you. And for those of you who will not join us, I still say—thank you (for your time in reading this since I suspect that most who will not join us never made it this far).

Jim Craig

Mobilizing Christians unto evangelism by incorporating the evangelist into the local church.

You may send your gifts to:

Action International Ministries
PO Box 398
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398
USA

Email: jim.craig@actionintl.org
 gloria@palma-malaluan.com

Physical Address:

Namunga, Rosario
 Batangas 4225
 Philippines



ACTION Philippines * PO Box 110, Greenhills Post Office, 1502 Metro Manila * take.action@actionintl.org
ACTION USA * PO Box 398, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398 * Tel. 425.775.4800 * info@actionusa.org
ACTION Canada * 3015A 21 Street NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7T1 * Tel. 403.204.1421 * info@actioncanada.net
ACTION New Zealand * PO Box 8928, Riccarton, Christchurch * Tel. 011.643.341.0933 * rob@irn.org.nz
ACTION United Kingdom * PO Box 144, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 5WE * Tel. 011.151.630.2451 * actionuk@btinternet.com
 * Registered Charity 1058661



Growing in Grace

I have in the last several years truly reformed a lot of my theological beliefs. I would love to take the time and share them with you but as a lot of this newsletter has already been rather "heady" I will refrain.

On a different front I have truly been increasing my time of prayer and have been seeing results that are just fascinating. As a new Christian back in 1988 the Lord took me through a micro-journey of me praying and Him answering the prayers in profound ways. But soon after I started on a spiritual voyage that built my theological foundation. This included a solid conservative theology, a heart for missions and outreach, and a conviction to the centrality of God's word.

In the past year or so the longings to return to the journey of prayer came alive. I know that the key to prayer is faith and you build faith by reflecting on how God has already answered prayer. A simple strategy is to start small and work your way up. Taken from my prayer journal that is posted on our website are a few answered prayers:

- A new Missions agency that will allow me to pursue my vision was found in ACTION International,
- A child was given to Gloria and I while we were in a 5% category of people who can have children.
- Wisdom in knowing how to help the poor learn how to create jobs is being obtained in my Transformational Urban Leadership studies.
- Spiritual growth within our international evangelistic small group has lead to solid commitments and baptism.