



March 30, 2009

Dear family and friends,

Thank you for praying for us, and for reading our prayer requests! God is good.

I'm very thankful that I'm healthy once again. It's wonderful to have the energy that I need to do the things that need to be done. Daryl is also well, and is keeping himself very busy. Daryl isn't teaching yet, but recruitment will start soon for another batch of Working Hands students. While we were in the States, Gary Root taught 10 students in the Wood Technology course. They graduated a couple weeks ago, so now they are gearing up for classes in Automotive, Wood, and a new course in Computers.

Please pray for the new students that will be recruited, that they will be eager and ready to learn, that the right boys will be selected. We desire to train young men who will continue to walk with the Lord after they graduate so that they will make a difference in their sphere of influence.

I've been teaching sewing for 2 months now. We started out with 10 students, but after a few weeks, we discovered that one student's stomach ache turned out to be a pregnancy, and she was let go. She is from a Christian family, and it has been a big disappointment to them that their 18 year old daughter will become a mother soon. Pray for J and her family as they face this challenge.

Of my nine students left, six of them are eager sewers who follow directions well and work quickly. I'm thrilled with these young women who want to learn, and catch on quickly. My other 3 students consist of one young woman who has a learning disability, and two who don't use their time wisely. They can all 3 be willful and have difficulty following direction and taking correction. Pray for Doring and I as we work with these young women. May we be an example of Christ, and use wisdom from above in training them.

I've started up once again my monthly visits to the Correctional Institute for Women in Manila. I have been teaching a few women there some new sewing techniques, and also sharing the Lord with them. On a tour there 2 years ago, with a fellow Action missionary, I noticed several women sewing with scraps at some old treadle machines. Their products weren't very nicely sewn. I felt that I may be able to help them to improve their sewing techniques. It's been a joy to visit these prisoners, and get to know them, learn a bit more about their lives, and broaden their horizons. Ten days ago, I was able to share the Gospel with 2 inmates, C and N. C has had very little schooling, and when I asked her if she had a Bible, she reminded me that she can't read. She has been the friendliest with me, and the most eager to learn. It would be wonderful to see her come to know the Lord.

A couple weeks ago I was in a car accident. I was passing a very slow jeepney, and he decided that he wanted to drive in my lane, but failed to check if the lane was open before he began to turn. He hit me right in my driver's door, and pushed me to the side of my lane. My vehicle then sideswiped a tree on the passenger's side. When I came to a stop, I was happily surprised that I was unharmed, and that I could open my door and get out. The other driver was angry that I had been in his way. Daryl was not far away, and was able to come quickly and help to call the police and be a moral support to me.

Even though I wasn't at fault, the cards were stacked against me. I am a white woman, who is perceived to be rich, so even though the evidence was clear that I wasn't at fault, the jeepney driver lied and said that I had turned into his lane. The police investigator was lacking in understanding basic logic and physics, or else just blinded by the fact that I'm a white woman. The accident was declared to be my fault. I had to pay the jeepney driver about \$20, and also pay a roadside seller of plants because I ran over some bags of dirt. I don't know how my vehicle ruined dirt by running over it, but we bought the damaged dirt, and he left us alone.

My sense of justice was clearly upset by the unfairness of the aftermath of my accident. Yet, as I was waiting for the paperwork to be completed at the police headquarters, I pulled out my New Testament and Psalms from my purse, and read from Psalm 100 and 101. I verse that struck me was Ps 101:7. "No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence." I was comforted to catch a glimpse of the big picture, and just focus on the injustice done to me. I realized that I was the blessed one in the accident. I wasn't practicing deceit. I know I will one day stand before God and be declared righteous because of Christ's sacrifice for my sins. The poor jeepney driver, though he won a minor victory concerning the accident, faces a Christless eternity, unless he repents. I was able to feel very sad for him and the police investigator, and to then pray for their salvation. The Lord also gave me a beautiful sunset as I sat waiting outside the police building.

Later, after I'd emailed the kids about my accident, Candice told me that she had recently prayed for our safety as we drive in the crazy traffic here. Praise the Lord for His goodness.

Lastly, Daryl and I are involved with our church here. Daryl is a member of the leadership council, and is working on a document concerning the governance of our church. This is long overdue, and it isn't an easy job. Pray for Daryl to have wisdom from the Lord in this matter. Our church is a large, rich, influential church here in the Philippines. Pray also for us as we are in the leadership of our annual church kids' camp. This camp will take place for 3 days toward the end of April. Pray for the right kids to come, and for staff who will model the Lord to the campers.

Thank you again for your part in our lives here in the Philippines. We are in the midst of a battle, and at times we are very aware of that. We are nothing without the Lord.

Love, Sharon and Daryl Germaine

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 Germaines.