



September 1, 2010

Dear family and friends,

In my last prayer update, in May, I wrote that I was planning a trip to the States for 2 and half weeks, to attend 2 weddings. I had a fabulous trip. Every day was special, and I now have many happy memories stored in my mind. It was truly a joy and a blessing to be with my sisters, my sister in law, my mom, brother in law, nieces, nephews, and of course my kids! I hadn't seen my daughters for a year and a half. What fun it was to visit, hug, and shop with them. Sometimes I get nostalgic about the happy times that we had as a family when they were growing up. Yet, now it's really nice to be adults together, and to not have the responsibility of their care. Every stage in life has some advantages. What a blessing to just enjoy each other's company!

It was also good to see friends, though in a much more limited capacity. My good friend, Betsy, picked me up from airport, and drove me to Annette and Bert's, so I got to have a quick catch up visit with her. Since my 2 sisters and I were all together for the first time in several years, we had lunch with some dear friends from our high school years. What fun to get caught up, and see how the Lord has been faithful to us over the years.

Amber and Joe's wedding was great. Fun to be with family, and to share their special day, and to help out with preparations. It is a joy to see two people who love the Lord starting their lives together.

Kyle and Corrina's wedding was a bit damp, as we were drizzled on during the ceremony, but we dried out during the reception, and had a great time with Action friends we had spent many years with, in the Philippines. Kyle Holden's parents, Forest and Carol, were fellow Action missionaries with us in the Philippines for 17 years. Our kids grew up with theirs, so it was fun to see the Holden and Germaine kids together. An added treat was to also see the Scholz's and their kids, who also grew up with our kids, and Stephen Reed, Linda and Nelson Reed's youngest, who also knows our kids. In total, there were 13 MK's at that wedding, ranging in age from 14 to 25, most of them born in the Philippines. It was heartwarming to see the kids

having so much fun together and laughing and joking. It was also a treat to visit with their parents.

Candice, Tyler, Hilary, and I drove over to Spokane, and Hilary showed us around the city that is now home to her. We met her friends, saw where she lives, works, and goes to school. A special treat was to spend an afternoon in Spokane with my niece, who attends Spokane Falls Community College with Hilary. We've rarely seen her, so it was great to get to know her a bit, and have her fit in with us other Germaines so well. We hope to get better acquainted on our next furlough.

I also got to visit with another niece that I hadn't seen in 5 years. She's an invalid, and is so sensitive to various chemicals that she lives in an isolated environment that she can tolerate. Two evenings for about 15 minutes each, she was able to come outside and visit with me. It was good to see her again, and to be freshly reminded to pray for her.

When I returned to the Philippines, I got back into my routine here right away. My sewing students needed to have some correction in their attitudes and in their projects that they had completed while I was gone. At first I was disappointed that my assistant, Doring hadn't led them better in my absence. My thinking changed, though, when she told me what she had been through in the short time I'd been gone.

Doring had a sister, Susan, who had had a stroke several years ago, but had recovered quite a bit. However, she took a turn for the worse while I was gone, and died suddenly. Then, a young woman, Delores, who used to come to girls club, visited with Doring, asked about seeing me, and explained to Doring that she had recently moved back to the barrio outside 2nd Mile. Years ago, Delores had come to girls club, and I noticed that her speech was garbled. I arranged for her to have an operation to fix her cleft palate. She was 14 years old, and had been praying for years to be able to speak clearly. She was a sweet girl, with a warm smile. After the operation, she went to a speech therapist for only a week, but was diligent in following the instructions, and her speech improved dramatically. From time to time I would see her, and it was always a joy to see her smile, and to easily understand what she was saying. Even so, her life wasn't easy, as she gave birth to a stillborn baby, and then her husband left her.

Delores took comfort in the Lord, and planned to attend girls club in July. She left Doring's house, and was standing by the side of the highway, with her back to traffic. She didn't see the speeding bus that was out of control, and she was hit and killed. It's very sad to have her life cut short in a senseless early death, but I'm confident that I'll see again in the Lord's presence. She was about 30 years old.

So, on top of Doring's grieving while I was gone, she also developed a bad cold. I ended being very grateful that she was able to function at all while I was gone.

One more tragedy that happened while I was in the States was the motorcycle accident that involved our pastor from our church in Manila. Pastor Steve left on a break to the States with his wife and 3 boys in June. On the 18th, he crashed his motorcycle while on a short trip. He broke his neck, and has spent the past 2 and a half months in the hospital. He and his wife, Michelle, thought that they would be in the States for 2 months, and then return to Union Church of Manila. Now, they are adjusting to life for Steve in a wheelchair. He's been at Harborview, and will continue to recover in their rented house in Edmonds. Our church has given him a medical leave for a year, and we are praying for his recovery. Though he is wheelchair bound, he does have some use of his arms and legs, and we are praying that he continues to gain strength and control of his limbs.

It seems ironic that while I was having such a blessed time, others were enduring tragedy and suffering. I realize that life is always like that. There never is a day or minute when someone somewhere is not dealing with severe trials, and yet others are having a great time. We take the joys and sorrows as they come, and need to praise the Lord for the hope that we have in him. I couldn't go through life without him. He is my rock.

This current week is the first quarter break for the Working Hands boys. Please pray that they will walk with the Lord during this time and return to continue their course.

The following week, my sewing students will be on their first semester break. We are rejoicing that so far none of them have dropped out. Please pray for them also, that all 10 girls will have a safe break and return to continue their studies in sewing and discipleship.

On September 3, Daryl and I are taking a weekend trip to Macau. It's an island off the coast of China that we've never been to. We found some very cheap airline tickets, so we're going to celebrate our 26th wedding anniversary there, though about 6 weeks late. I hadn't realized until after we booked our flight that Macau is like the Las Vegas of Asia! Honestly, we aren't going there to gamble! I've heard that there are some good restaurants there, and some interesting history. It was a Portuguese colony for many years.

Thank you for praying for us, and for our ministries here. We are blessed to be able to be here, and to be used by the Lord. There are more stories to tell, but I don't want to make this too long. The Lord is good.

Love, Sharon and Daryl

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.