



March 15, 2010

Mike & Cindy Gingerich

I have worked with Village Handcrafters for the past nine years but it looks like that will be coming to an end. Though the ministry has been sustainable to a degree, "The Village" has struggled to repay some loans that were taken out to buy our land and buildings years ago. This past November our board made the decision to sell the buildings and land to another mission in order to pay back these loans. The new owner's plan is to develop our place into an orphanage. At one point it looked like Village Handcrafters would be able to continue alongside the orphanage but that still left some debts we could not realistically repay without selling our equipment. Without this equipment we can't make the products we sell to support pastors, churches, and our employees. Different things seem to be pointing to the idea that God raised this ministry up for a time but now that time is drawing to a close.

It has taken some time but God has brought me to the place where I'm really at peace with this. Probably the most difficult part is seeing some of those I have worked with struggle to find new jobs. Others are ok but please pray for those who desperately need steady employment to support their families.

One of those still needing work is Gilbert. Gilbert comes from a difficult childhood but developed into our best paper maker over the past ten plus years. Really he is probably one of the best in the world at dyeing pulp but he has very little formal education and does not know how to read or write. Gilbert married Rose, another one of our workers, a few years ago and is the father of twin boys. We have had very little papermaking work during the past year so Gilbert has not been able to work consistently. Gilbert's faith, a contagious smile, and consistent good attitude have carried him through these difficult days. He told me a story a while back of how his



family had completely run out of food so he took his toddler sons and went to a nearby quarry to fish for supper. He explained, with a smile, that he really did not know how to fish and only came home with two tiny three-inch-long fish. The twins were excited to show their mother what Daddy had caught but when she saw the piddly fish, she could not help but think of how desperate their situation really was. Gilbert cooked his catch himself and shared it with the boys while Rose just cried and prayed. Please pray that God would increase their finances, their faith, and their fish.

Pray too for me as I seek to sell our equipment to a couple other ministries. It would be great if these items could continue to be used for God's glory but we do need to get some money for them too.

Thanks you for praying for us,

Mike



If you would like to give toward our support 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 Gingeriches.