

March 2009

Flood waters rising around Fargo, a huge new snowfall here in Manitoba – some people are not sure if they want spring to come, or winter to end! Pray for people affected by flooding around Fargo North Dakota, as well as near Winnipeg due to ice jams and the rising Red River. We do not anticipate any serious flooding where we are, but you never know when so much snow is coming down!

Over this past month we have had opportunities to share about Honest Hands in the EMC churches in Roseisle and St. Vital and I preached a message entitled “Painting a New Picture of Jesus”. It is always good to meet people who have been praying for us over the past years when our names come up in the Messenger prayer calendar, as well as other people who feel burdened for street youth.

Lisa and I attended a home school conference at Calvary Temple in Winnipeg, and it was a good weekend of thinking through some curriculum choices, as well as a good series of messages by Steve Demme on Christian parenting. Lisa has most of the material picked out, and that is a relief for her. It is a big job to figure out how she is going to teach three boys over the next couple of years. Pray for strength, wisdom and energy as Lisa preps for home schooling again.

This past Sunday we participated in a child dedication service for Malachi at our home church, and then celebrated his 2nd birthday with our families at our house. He was quite excited for his lion cake, and gifts of tools and a little fire truck.

I appreciate your prayers as I finish my last few weeks at seminary – it has been quite a busy 12 months with my goal of finishing 12 courses nearly done. I am looking forward to a few months of doing other things before we go back, although I have been blessed and challenged by my classes at Providence Seminary. It would also be great if you could keep praying for me as I teach the Gospel of Mark at Pleasant Valley to an adult Sunday School class.



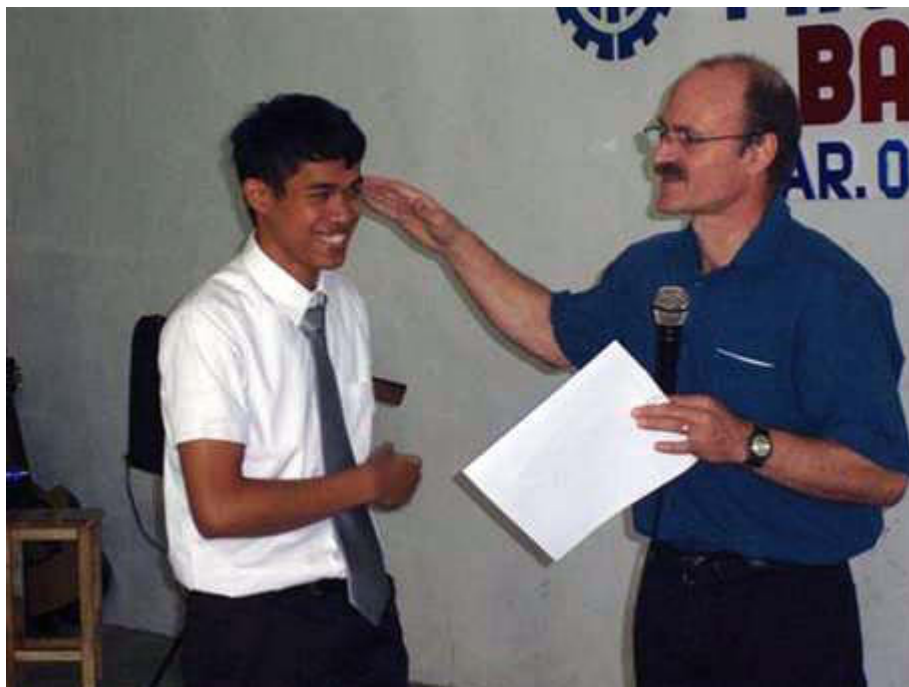
We praise God that nine young men graduated from the Working Hands Wood Tech and Discipleship class on March 7th at Second Mile. Eight of these guys were students at Honest Hands, and now they have a good set of skills that will help them find work. Pray that they stay strong in their faith, stay out of trouble, and find jobs.

Here is what our coworker Gary Root had to say about the graduation:

“March 7, 2009 is a day to remember as a day of celebration of what the Lord has done. God has done great things in the lives of each of the 9 graduates of Working Hands Wood Technology class and the glory goes to Him alone!”

“The graduation ceremony began with praise and worship led by the boys with songs in Tagalog and English. Opening remarks by Daryl were followed by a message and challenge by David Huang, the new Action Philippines board chairman. I, Gary showed some of the things the boys have made and explained the OJT (on the job training) program that will follow their graduation. Then we gave each of the boys their certificate along with their transcripts and letter of recommendation and special awards. The program closed with a special choreographed song by the boys and a challenge and prayer by Jeff Anderson” (Action Philippines Director)

“It was a special joy to hand Aquilino (Akie) his certificate and a special award for perseverance. Akie came to Second Mile campus in 2003 as an Honest Hands student and former street kid. Following graduation of HH he joined the Automotive program of Working Hands. He couldn't handle the math and had to drop out. Discouraged, he returned to his former buddies and ended up in trouble with the law and in jail. With the Lord's help and a lot of



perseverance on the part of Carl Loewen (HH director), and much prayer by many of you, he repented. He was cleared of charges and joined the Wood Technology program in 2006/07. He did well but two months before graduating, he got into a fight with another student and had to be dismissed. Again he repented and though we had to follow through with the consequences, we encouraged him to do right and told him that we would consider allowing him to finish if he kept to the right path. He has had time to learn from his mistakes and was allowed to join this batch of students to finish the course. He has done it!! Wow!! And we have seen tremendous growth in his life. Though this is just the beginning for

him, it is a huge thing for many of these guys to finish anything especially when you consider where they come from and what they go through.”

Akie receiving his certificate from Gary Root.

There was sadness in my heart to see that NOT ONE of these guys had a father there to celebrate with them ... to say "I'm proud of you son". Four of the nine had neither mother nor father to stand with them. I praise God for pastors and others who try to fill in the gaps but it sure isn't adequate. The Lord alone stands with them and needs to be their all in all.” (Gary Root)

NOTE from Carl: we used the name 'Andrew' in our prayer letters when we wrote about Akie.

Please continue to lift up Melchor as he spends some time with his family over the next while, and then starts to do follow-up and recruitment for the Honest Hands Discipleship Camps in May and June. We need to hire a houseparent for Honest Hands so that we have our staff complete in time for the opening of the long term program in August.

We are planning a fundraising lunch for Honest Hands at Pleasant Valley EMC Church on Sunday May 24th after the morning service. The Merienda Café will feature Filipino food and a short program. Everyone is welcome, but it would help us plan for the food if you let us know if you are going to be there.

Upcoming schedule

April 18 – Carl graduates from Providence Seminary

April 24 to May 1 – Carl & Lisa, trip to Pennsylvania

May 13 – Faith Academy high school chapel in Winnipeg (am)

May 17 – Carl preaches at Pleasant Valley

May 24 – Merienda Café fundraiser for Honest Hands at Pleasant Valley Church.

May / June – discipleship camps at Honest Hands

June – kids finish school

July 8 – leave for the Philippines

July 9 – arrive back in the Philippines

August – target start date for Honest Hands Batch #7

Thanks again for your prayers and support of our ministry,

Carl & Lisa

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 Loewens.