

# Table <sup>in the</sup> Wilderness

*Carl and Lisa Loewen's Prayer Letter*

*Sept. 2010 Vol.14 No.2*



## Spider Hunting

So what do our kids do for fun in the Philippines? You might be surprised to discover that spider hunting is a major thrill for them. Here is what needs to happen. First of all, collect some empty matchboxes from Mom's kitchen to hold the spiders. Next, find a dependable flashlight, and sneak around at night when the spiders are spinning webs in the mango trees. When you discover a nice big web glistening in the light, test its strength. If it seems strong, you are very close to a good spider. Capture the spider in your matchbox and try to avoid being

bitten (too much), and triumphantly carry your prize home. Be careful your champion spider doesn't have babies, or your house may suddenly be full of spiders and your parents might not be too happy. Now comes the fun part! After your spider recovers from the shock of being captured, begin to train it for its first fight. Pull a stick from your stick broom, and observe the spider running back and forth. Blow on it to get it worked up if it slows down too much. Then find a friend or brother with a worthy spider, and get them both on the same stick. Set them loose, and make sure they don't escape. The spiders will eventually run towards each other, and one will quickly bite, subdue and envelop their opponent in a sticky web. Oh well, I guess it is time to go look for another spider!

Sometimes life is like spider hunting. We get obsessed with the small details and work so hard at getting all of our 'spiders' into their matchboxes that we miss the big picture. God wants us to keep Jesus central in our lives as we serve Him each day.

---

Carl just finished calculating the budget for Honest Hands for 2011. In order to keep the ministry running for the next year we need to trust God for \$34,000 US. That seems like a lot of money, but we have seen God prove His faithfulness over the past nine years of ministry at Honest Hands. If you are interested in helping us as we continue discipling young men see the enclosed donation slip.

Take a look at the pictures and prayer requests on the next few pages. It is a chance for you to get to know our students and staff so you can pray for them. The names of the students have been changed.



**Reynald (19)** grew up in a broken family because his dad abandoned them. He works on weekends so his siblings can go to school. Reynald wants to share the Word with others instead of just listening to it all the time. He enjoys the positive atmosphere at Honest Hands and basketball.



**Mac (15)** helps with cleaning and setting up at his church on weekends, and is learning how to play guitar. His family dreams of owning their own house and lot one day, and maybe a truck. He loves basketball, food and joking around at Honest Hands. Pray he would arrive on time each Monday morning.



**Albert (18)** lives with his mother since his dad died years ago. He asks for prayer for his mom's health. Devotions and sports are his favourite activities at Honest Hands. Pray for Albert's back as he is quite hunched over due to the collapse of some vertebrae when he was a kid.



**Jeff (16)** sometimes helps at his church in a rural area, and asks for prayer that his dad would stop drinking so much. He enjoys the sports and Bible sessions at Honest Hands, and dreams of finishing his studies and graduating someday. Pray that Jeff would connect well with youth from his church.



**Vic (22)** comes from a broken family and lives with his pastor on weekends. He works hard to get the church ready on weekends by cleaning and practicing. He would like to become a pastor one day. His prayer request is that his mom's family would come to know Jesus, and for church growth.



**First Born (20)** says he only knows where his younger brother is, as his parents died and is not sure what happened to the rest of the family. He helps at the Papa John center on weekends, taking care of younger street kids. He prays for good health, and that he could see his sister again.



**Louie (19)** is busy with his church on weekends: feeding programs, worship team, evangelism. He dreams of completing college one day, and asks for prayer that his family would follow Jesus. He enjoys the Bible sessions, devotions and sharing time at Honest Hands.



**STAFF: Jhottam (20)** graduated from Honest Hands in 2008. He is now working with us as the new houseparent & dreams of becoming a pastor one day. He asks for prayer for his broken family, personal spiritual growth & that his blood pressure would drop.



**STAFF: Melchor (41)** serves as the discipleship & tutorial teacher at Honest Hands. He works as a pastor on weekends. His wife Tess helps with cooking, and he has one daughter Harmony, as well as a foster daughter Centralyn. Pray for good health, and for his family.



**Lonskie (21)** lives with his aunt in Manila and is busy with his church in the areas of worship, cleaning and guarding the building. He would like to become a soldier one day as he dreams of serving his country and family. He says "God has a plan for me and I want to follow it".



**JR (16)** dreams of becoming an architect one day and helping his family. He is getting involved in his church that is led by his uncle who referred him to Honest Hands. He enjoys the good food, sports, tutorial and Bible sessions at Honest Hands.



**STAFF: Mark (26)** works with Honest Hands part time as our social worker. He asks for prayer that his sister would find a job. Mark is busy with lots of case studies and paperwork and needs strength to keep going. He also helps with the Honest Hands tutorial program.



### **Prayer requests:**

- Home schooling our older three boys occupies much of Lisa's time and energy. Pray for good attitudes in the classroom and good strategies to deal with all the boyish energy.
- Spiritual growth: for mom, dad and kids! Pray that we don't just settle into a routine but truly grow deeper in Jesus.
- Good relationships within our family, and also with Filipino coworkers and missionaries.
- Pray for Lino dela Pena as he has left Honest Hands and is looking for other employment. Pray for the students as they adjust to Jhottam as their new houseparent.
- ACTION Christmas parties in the Philippines - budget is \$16,000 US this year. See the donation slip for more details.
- Carl continues to work part time as Human Resources coordinator, so pray for good time management and clear communication with new missionaries who are preparing to come join our team. They need support and encouragement! If you would like to support a new missionary family preparing to head to the Philippines to join our team, let me know.

### **Praise God:**

- We have completed our first semester at Honest Hands and Carl's sessions on God the Father and the book of Ephesians went well. Melchor taught sessions on the Life of Christ, and Lino focused on the Holy Spirit. Our hope and prayer is that the students would rebuild their lives on a good foundation as they are now following Jesus. This is a point in our program where some students are really growing, and others are still struggling to leave their old way of life (addictions, dishonesty etc).
- Honest Hands staff, students, and our family had a fun outing at Ocean Park in Manila to celebrate the end of the semester. Lots of tropical fish, sharks and sting rays. Our boys were especially impressed with the divers who were feeding the sting rays by hand!
- We have celebrated a lot of birthdays recently which is always a highlight for our boys. Carl and the boys have had fun building a fort near our house, along with trying to keep Jacob's pet rabbits happy!
- Good health & safety for our family.

### **Upcoming Schedule**

**Oct. 17:** National high school equivalency test. 6 young men will take the test.

**Oct. 20,22, 27:** 2011 ACTION Philippines Budget & Proposal meetings. Carl chairs these meetings for the first time.

**Oct 28-29:** reunion of former students and staff at Honest Hands.

**Oct, Nov & Dec:** Men of God sessions at Honest Hands: Life of David, Joseph, 12 Disciples.

### **Philippine Contact info:**

#### ***Mailing address:***

Carl & Lisa Loewen  
c/o ACTION Philippines  
PO Box 110  
Greenhills Post Office  
1502 Metro Manila  
Philippines

**Email:** [carl.loewen@actionintl.org](mailto:carl.loewen@actionintl.org)

\*\*\*

We continue to send out monthly prayer email updates (PDF format). Would you prefer to only receive emails rather than paper letters? If so, send us an email.

All gifts will be receipted for tax purposes when made payable to ACTION and sent to one of the following addresses.

**ACTION Canada** 3015 A 21<sup>st</sup> Street NE Calgary AB T2E 7T1 Canada Tel. (403) 204-1421 [info@actioncanada.org](mailto:info@actioncanada.org)  
**ACTION USA** P.O. Box 398 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398 Tel. 425-775-4800 [info@actionusa.org](mailto:info@actionusa.org)  
**ACTION United Kingdom** PO Box 144, Wallasey, Wirral CH445WE Tel. 0151-630-2451 [info@actionuk.org](mailto:info@actionuk.org)

