

# Table in the Wilderness

January 2009

**Greetings from chilly, snowy Manitoba.** Somehow the strong south winds these days are especially cold, but they usually bring warmer weather, and the hope that spring will be on the way in a few months time. Our kids enjoyed a few days at home two weeks ago as the temperatures dipped below -40 C with wind-chill!



## Family Updates

We had a good December, and were able to spend lots of time with both sides of our families. It was certainly a treat to be able to see everyone at Christmas, and enjoy lots of good food and good times together. However, approximately the last day of our big gatherings we came down with a wide variety of illnesses like the flu, ear infections and so on. So the Loewen household was not a very happy place for a few weeks. I guess our immune systems are not quite up to speed, and especially the younger kids struggled quite a bit. I think we are all basically back to good health, and we appreciate your prayers for continued strength and energy (and of course good nights).

Isaiah, Jacob and Samuel are back at school, and generally enjoying it. Isaiah is looking forward an upcoming science project fair, and to the Swim Gym program in a few months – swimming and other activities each week at the University of Manitoba. Jacob and Samuel will be starting weekly skating through school, so that should help them improve their skating skills a bit. They are also involved with AWANA and have lots of good friends. Malachi is our very active little boy – one of those kids who when they are silent make you just a tiny bit nervous (now where is he, what is he up to etc). Lisa is quite busy with keeping us all fed and clothed and our nice house clean!

I am back at Providence Seminary for my final semester. It looks like it will be a good mix of classes, but I will have tons of reading and papers to write! I am taking five classes: Christian Ethics, Reformation & Post Reformation Theology, Cross Cultural Discipleship, Administration & Leadership, and Romans. Most of my required courses are completed by this point, so I was able to choose these classes as my electives, and I am looking forward to some deeper study of the Word. I enjoy driving to school 3 days a week (about 30 minutes) and then have 2 days a week at home in my basement office surrounded by piles of books, papers, and my gently humming computer. Along with seminary, I am busy teaching a couple's Sunday school class at our home church and lots of presentations. Pray for energy, good health, and focus. I also enjoy spending time with my wife and kids, so I need to continually be balancing all the different projects and presentations I should be working on with just wrestling with my sons and hanging out with Lisa! So I appreciate your prayers.

We can praise God (and thank you) for a good year of financial support. Although there are constant media reports about the financial slowdown worldwide, we have a good solid group of monthly supporters backing us and our ministry. This is an amazing blessing, and it allows us to focus on ministry rather than continual fundraising campaigns. Thanks!

## Honest Hands Update

I recently received news that we have a good possibility for a social worker for Second Mile (he would work for Honest Hands and Working Hands). Pray that we would make a good decision as we go through his references and

resume. If we could hire a good solid social worker with a pastoral heart, our ministries would really benefit. The Philippine government has been urging us to find this person for the past three years so that we can maintain our Dept of Social Welfare certification, which is an important requirement for NGO's in the Philippines.

Melchor is in his final few months at PMI (Philippine Missionary Institute), so it would be good for you to pray for him as he studies and writes finals. He continues to reach out to a group of hard core street kids at Dasma, and had a good Christmas party up at Second Mile for the group. Honest Hands is funding this outreach and feeding program while we are in Canada. Melchor reports that there are already a good number of ministries and kids interested in our next discipleship camps and the long term program later this year.

Here is a picture of the Dasma street kids at the Second Mile party. They all received bags of food and supplies.



'Smile' is the young man on the left (below). He graduated from Honest Hands in March 08, and is now enrolled in the Wood Tech program at Working Hands. He helped Mel with the street kids party, and was able to share his story with the hard core kids pictured below.



Lino has decided not to come back to Honest Hands as the houseparent, so we will need to hire a new young man to take care of the in house duties. We would appreciate your prayers as we start looking around for this person. I find it rather difficult being away from the ministry at times like this – quite difficult to find someone without being there

to do the searching myself! Pray as well for Gary Root – the leader of the program – as he has recently injured his back and is finding it difficult to get things done.

Continue to pray for the Working Hands Wood Tech class. I believe they are scheduled to graduate on March 7<sup>th</sup>, and they would appreciate your prayers as they continue to work hard on final assignments. Pray as well that they will find good jobs after the program, as well as stay involved in their home churches so they will have a vibrant community of Christians to support them and help them avoid sliding back into their old ways of life.

### **Upcoming Schedule**

Jan. 28 – Carl shares about missions with the Pleasant Valley Junior Youth group

Feb. 3 – Carl shares in the missions chapel at Steinbach Bible College

Feb. 4-5 – Providence College & Seminary Missions Conference (Misseo Dei)

Feb. 6-8 - Missions Fest in Winnipeg

Feb. 13-16 – attending Family Camp at Red Rock Bible Camp – we are looking forward to a fun weekend as a family

Feb.22 - Rosenort Evangelical Mennonite Church

March 8 – Roseisle EMC Church

March 22 – St. Vital EMC Church

April 18 – Carl graduates from Providence Seminary

June – kids finish school

Early July – return to the Philippines

If you are interested in donating online towards our ministries, here is a link that you should be able to click on to go to our page on the ACTION website. There is also a ministry video that we made about Honest Hands. If you have not seen this 9 minute video, it is worth viewing to get a good sense of what we are up to in the Philippines.

The link is: [here](#).

Thanks again for your prayers and support of our ministry,

**Carl & Lisa**