

ACTION Newsletter

Action International Ministries

December 2011

From the Desk of the USA Director

Dear Friends of ACTION,

Chet and LeAnne Burns of Port Angeles, Washington, serve on the Malawi field where Chet is Field Director. After their recent furlough, they returned to Africa just in time to receive a startling honor from one of their colleagues. LeAnne writes,

One of our pastors who is also our ACTION Malawi Board Vice Chairman, welcomed a brand new son into his family just before we returned. You may remember that Pastor Richard Chatepa had a two-year-old girl that died two years ago from a heart deformity. The pastor and his wife paid us one of the highest honors a Malawian can give by asking us to name their new son. (Can you imagine asking a friend to name your child? In America, we might name a child after a beloved friend, but we most certainly do not give away the right to name our baby.) We have named him Gabriel, with the prayer that he will also be a messenger of the Lord. He joins brother Emmanuel and sister Gloria.

The Holy Family was in a similar situation to the Chatepas because they also gave up the right to name their firstborn son. Let's let Matthew remind us of the details: "...the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS" (Matthew 1:20-25, KJV).

The angel Gabriel told Matthew to call the boy's name Jesus, and the prophet Isaiah had written that his name would be Emmanuel, as a description of his person.

How can we honor the Lord this Christmastide? What do we give up to do so?

In our mission context:

- The missionaries give up career, hometown, extended family and friends, house, conveniences, services, and security.
- The donors give up treasure, and time they invest in prayer.

Together we honor the Lord, proclaiming that Jesus saves and that God is with us. Herein is the Spirit of Christmas. May God be honored by our service at Christmas and all year through.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas,



Rex Lee Carlaw
USA Director

The pastor
and his wife
paid us one
of the highest
honors a
Malawian can
give by
asking us to
name their new
son.

-LeAnne Burns





Worldwide News Briefs

by Andrea Johnson

Africa

Zambia

Tyler Dingman is an ACTION Zambia appointee who is raising support and preparing to join the team as a career missionary. He recently was in Zambia for a week for the dedication of Ciyanjano, a camp and retreat center outside Lusaka.

Tyler writes, "Since I left Zambia two years ago after my internship, I have been counting down the days to my return. Although I was only in Zambia for a week in August, it was a very special time for me filled with many meaningful experiences.

"The first event I attended was a pastors' conference hosted at a local church in one of the compounds. I noticed that as we drove through the crowded, dirty streets that I did not feel the uneasiness I experienced on my first trip into a compound. When we arrived at the church, the first person I saw was a pastor I worked with two years ago. I cannot describe the joy I felt walking through the church reuniting with pastors as they each extended a cheerful greeting. There is no greeting like an African greeting; it is intimate, generous, and heartfelt.

"Later in the week I went to Ciyanjano to help with preparations for the dedication ceremony. I was amazed at how much progress has been made! In 2009 there was nothing but dirt fields and a vision to serve Zambians. Seeing two years of development for the first time was amazing. Walking the grounds with ACTION Zambia's director, Tim Hilty, reaffirmed the belief I had two years prior that I

want to be a part of Ciyanjano.

"Over the next two days we celebrated the dedication of Ciyanjano. It was simply wonderful. I felt as though I had never left Zambia and like it was natural to be out at Ciyanjano casually preparing to roast a 150-pound pig! It felt like I belonged there.

"One of my favorite moments came as I joined the Zambian pastors on a tour of Ciyanjano. As Tim cast the vision, I saw Zambians beginning to understand how they and their churches could benefit from Ciyanjano. I was thrilled to see their eyes grow wide as we talked about future plans to start income-generating enterprises, add a second campsite, and build other facilities that will empower Zambians.

"It was a powerful week in Zambia. I left knowing that God has amazing plans for ACTION Zambia, Ciyanjano, and me. I cannot wait to get back!"

Asia

Cambodia

Nathan and Christiana Wells have returned to Cambodia after spending time in the United States for the birth of their son, Paton Eric.

Nathan writes, "We have arrived in Cambodia safe and sound! We have been blessed to have Christiana's mom here to help us during our transition back. Our first week flew by as we unpacked, reorganized, made some needed repairs in and around the house, and dealt with our car breaking down a few times. Thankfully our house did not flood, even though much of Cambodia is still suffering



Tyler Dingman



Nathan and Christiana Wells

from the heavy rains this season. Over 100,000 people in this region have been displaced from their homes because of flooding.

“We are excited to be back ministering to the people here and we look forward to what God has in store! Four of our current translation projects are almost complete: the second edition of *Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die*, *True Discipleship*, *Design for Discipleship*, and a children’s book called *Learning About Jesus*. Lord willing, these will all be going to print in the next few months and reaching the hands of many Cambodians.

“Please continue to pray for a smooth transition for our family and for ministry planning meetings coming up with Shalom Church. We want to use the gifts God has given us to serve the local body and spread the Word of Christ to the best of our ability. We need your prayers that God will give us wisdom and insight as we make ministry decisions.”

India

Devendra and Rokono Rai and their team plant churches in remote regions, train rural leaders, help poor children attend school, teach employment skills, and help needy people with income-generating projects. In a recent newsletter Devendra shared about their ministry with Community Bible Study throughout India.

Devendra writes, “Proper planning is the key to our future with Community Bible Study. I recently met with Pastor Stephen and Dr. Mano in Delhi to strategize the future of this training endeavor. We talked about the best way to move forward and plant new groups so that we can effectively reach people in India.

“The progress we have seen so far is excellent! Dr. Mano has started 25 groups in four states. Pastor Stephen handles 32 groups in three states. I began several groups in north-east India. Rokono trains children and youth

leaders in India and beyond. We have two schoolteachers, Singson and Robert, who translate study materials in their free time.”

Please pray that God will lead the Rais and their team as they plan the future of Community Bible Study ministry. Ask for the Lord’s guidance as they begin new groups and train leaders to serve the Lord.

Philippines

Honest Hands Discipleship Home recently celebrated ten years of God’s faithfulness at its anniversary celebration. Honest Hands disciples, encourages and challenges young men from rough backgrounds to grow strong and deepen their faith in Jesus Christ as they serve Him. Up to ten young men spend nine months at Honest Hands in the discipleship program and are involved in a tutorial program and Bible classes that help them learn to live the Christian life and follow Jesus each day.

Carl Loewen, administrator and Bible teacher at Honest Hands, shares, “Filipinos

love celebrations! We had a great time commemorating the tenth anniversary of Honest Hands on

October 15. Staff, 19 former students, current students, pastors, and other guests arrived to celebrate with us at the Second Mile chapel. We enjoyed praise and worship led by our current students, testimonies, and a message from ACTION missionary Jeff Anderson.

“It is amazing to look back over the past ten years and see how God has provided staff, students, funding, vision, strength, and the privilege of discipling young men from street backgrounds and squatter communities. God

continued on page 4



Honest Hands Tenth Anniversary

has changed these young men’s lives as they have given their hearts to Him. He is still working in incredible ways to mold their hearts and lives.

“The night before the anniversary celebration the staff and students had a good time sharing and praising God together around a fire. We always enjoy these times of reunion. It was good to see some of the alumni attend with their wives and little children. Please pray that these young men will be solid and honorable fathers who stay away from addictions and provide for the needs of their families.”

Latin America

México

Scott and Shona Henderson are currently working in a poor community on the outskirts of Puebla. They are involved in holistic community development, focusing on ministry to children. Scott and his children teach English in a local elementary school to 300 students and run a weekly sports and Biblical values club as ways to build relationships, trust, and credibility in the community. Shona has her hands full homeschooling their children and teaching an art class at a local school for the deaf.



The Hendersons recently returned to México after some time away. Shona writes, “Since our return to Puebla, we had an important meeting with our Mexican teammates to reconnect and see if they sensed God’s leading to continue working alongside us in the community this year. Each person wholeheartedly said yes. Since then we have been gathering weekly to pray, study God’s word, and learn how to work together as a team.

“Scott was again invited to teach English classes in the school and the community. The kids’ club is also running well as we teach children about the love of Jesus, how to get along with others, and how to take

Prayer Corner

Please pray:

- That the Lord will use Ciyanjano to bless many Zambians and local churches.
- For the Lord to prepare Tyler Dingman for career ministry in Zambia and that his full support will come in.
- That God will orchestrate the completion and distribution of the translated materials in Cambodia in His time.
- For the Lord’s guidance as the Rais begin new Community Bible Study groups and train leaders to serve the Lord in India.
- That current Honest Hands students and alumni will seek the Lord wholeheartedly and demonstrate His love in their families and ministries.
- For unity in the Henderson family and among the members of their team as they seek to serve the Lord in México.

— Andrea Johnson

care of their health and their communities. Our goal is the multiplication of what we teach to the children’s families, friends, and neighbors.

“Last week Scott had the opportunity to share the message of salvation with an elderly man named Moses and his son, Mario. After almost a year of building friendship and God preparing their hearts, they each made decisions to give their lives to the Lord. We praise God for this! Starting this week, Scott will meet with them to discuss foundations of the faith. They will also begin helping out during game time at the kids’ club.

“Please pray for our family as we move forward in the battle of faith to accomplish what God has called us to do each day.”

In Memory of Gift

| In Memory of | From | Designation |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Richard Barber Sr. | Beverly Morrill | Uganda PLD |

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