

# ACTION Newsletter

Action International Ministries

January 2012

## From the Desk of the USA Director

Dear Friends of ACTION,

Is it safe to say that we all peer into the New Year with a bit of trepidation? Whether we actually make New Year's resolutions or not, I think all of us do some reflecting on what has happened in the previous year and some speculation about what may come in the 12 months stretching out before us.

In October, I saved the newsletter of Gary Root, who along with his wife, Melita, serves at the Working Hands Vocational & Discipleship School in Cavite Province, Philippines. I think what Gary says could serve us as a guide for our New Year's planning:

My tendency is to pray "safe" prayers to undertake "safe" projects and to have a "safe" vision – in other words, to move cautiously with little risk of failure. I have been reading an excellent book by J. Oswald Sanders on Spiritual Leadership and have been challenged to believe God for who He is and trust in His unlimited power and unlimited resources for the work He has called us to.

In the book he quotes the following from Archbishop Mowll: "The frontiers of the Kingdom of God were never advanced by men and women of caution."

Lord help us to be willing to take calculated risks, carefully and with much prayer but always moving forward, pressing on "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14, KJV). With God nothing is impossible!

As we look to the Lord of the harvest for more missionaries, funding for projects, support for our existing workers, safety for our members, success in evangelism, discipleship and development, and wisdom for our leadership, may we count on your prayers and may we believe God for what He wants us to accomplish in His work worldwide.

Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37b-38, KJV).

Dear friends of the mission, please walk with us into this new year of opportunity and challenge, confident of God's help in everything we do.

Happy New Year!



Rex Lee Carlaw

USA Director & International Council Chairman



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# Worldwide News Briefs

by Andrea Johnson

## Africa

### Uganda

Jerry and Candis Bingham minister in Gulu. They work with war-torn and traumatized people, including children, refugees, former child soldiers, child mothers, and orphans.

Jerry writes, "Recently I went out to a nearby village to take part in a Bible study with our men's ministry team. The pastor, one of our Men of Courage (men living with HIV-AIDS), had invited 20 men from his village to join us. Joel, a young man in his twenties, led the singing as we gathered together to give praise to our Father. After singing a few songs, Joel shared his testimony. Joel had been put in prison for five years. While carrying out his sentence, he met our men's prison ministry team. This team has been going inside the prison for years; it was during one of these times that Joel asked Christ into his heart. In his deep repentance he found new life. He became a model prisoner and faithfully attended our Bible studies. Now he is the youth director at his local church!

"Great joy filled my heart as I witnessed the Lord's faithfulness in Joel's life. Please pray for our men's ministry team as it faithfully shares in the prisons each week. Also pray that Joel will continue to grow in God's Word and remain faithful to Christ."

### Zambia

On November 26, 2011, 15 pastors graduated from ACTION Pastors' College (APC) in Lusaka.

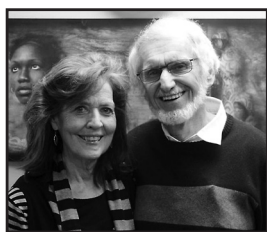
Tracy Singleton and others have taught and mentored these pastors for the past three years. Tracy writes, "These pastors graduated after 3 years of hard work. Baptist Theological Seminary (BTS) gave ACTION Pastors' College (APC) accreditation as our pastors had more than fulfilled the requirements for BTS's off-campus program. BTS invited our students to participate in their graduation ceremony with their graduates.



"Dressed in blue and gold robes, our 15 pastors proudly strode to the platform where they received congratulations, certificates, and encouraging letters from visiting pastors who have taught at APC over the past few years. Several church choirs as well as the seminary's choir ministered in song and dance to those present. Dr. Kim, a Korean missionary in Zambia, challenged the graduates from 1 Peter 2, calling them priests chosen by God, a peculiar people.

"Afterwards our graduates gathered in a reception hall behind BTS for a luncheon and APC's own special program. Our teammates worked together to get ready for the celebration and to serve the pastors and their guests.

"In addition to awarding diplomas to the pastors, APC gave the pastors' wives Putting Honey Through awards. Three men were recognized during the ceremony as well: Manuel



Candis and Jerry Bingham



Tracy Singleton presents a Certificate of Graduation from ACTION Pastors' College in Lusaka, Zambia, to a local pastor

Simuyemba for distinguishing himself as a faithful shepherd; Bonaventure Mulenga for being a humble servant; and Anderson Jere for being a discipling leader. Pastor Martin Phiri won the honor from his fellow students to be the class spokesman.

“Working at ACTION Pastors’ College and training pastors in Zambia is an investment in eternity for the advancement of the gospel.” Please pray for these pastors as they use what they have learned at APC and continue their ministries in their churches in Lusaka.

## Asia

### *Cambodia*

This fall, Cambodia’s worst floods in over a decade killed almost 200 people and displaced tens of thousands of families. Daren Beck, ACTION Cambodia Director, gives an update on the relief efforts:

“ACTION Cambodia has been working through the Shalom network of local churches to come alongside needy people. We handed out initial relief packets that included blankets, water, rice, mosquito nets, noodles, and cooking oil. There was a second round of distribution to the poorest families.

“Some additional funds were given that will help relocate the meeting place for the church in Koh Daek since it was destroyed. Church leaders have secured land for US\$100



per year and we will invest about US\$1500 in a simple structure for meeting and worship. I have been very excited to see about US\$3000 raised here in Cambodia which has also gone toward the relief efforts.

“The almost US\$2500 raised through ACTION is a huge blessing that has been invested toward the physical sustenance and gospel ministry in the communities of Koh Daek, Kandal Province, and Okambot in Preah Vihea. Because Shalom Church has an ongoing presence in both these villages, we will continue to track with them in the coming months. When the water recedes there will be more challenges in terms of food, security, housing, and education. Please pray with us as we determine how we might best serve these suffering people.”

### *Philippines*

Many poor Filipino pastors and Christian workers cannot afford to buy study Bibles and books. To meet this need, ACTION regularly sends used books and Bibles to the Philippines.

Doug Nichols, Founder & International Director Emeritus, writes, “Do you have extra Bibles or evangelical books that you can give to Filipino pastors? The books should help individuals grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ as they study and encourage them as they walk with God.

“Books can be mailed or delivered to our office:

Action International Ministries  
ACTION BookShare  
5502 232 Street SW  
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-4738

“Each week we pack Bibles and books in large boxes and send them to our brothers and sisters in the Philippines. Boxes are valued at US\$800-\$1000 each. Thank you for your teamwork in the gospel!”

*continued on page 4*



**Volunteer Victor Frost packing Bibles at the ACTION office in Greater Seattle**

# Latin America

## Colombia



Phil and Mariela Legal live and minister in Chia where Phil is the Director of ACTION Colombia and they both work with children at risk. Phil recently wrote about ministry growth over the past year, including a new ministry to children:

“It was exciting to discern God’s will last year. The Lord led us to start three new children’s ministries and a pastors’ encouragement and teaching group. We are particularly excited about the children’s ministry that is located in Chia in the neighborhood of Mercedes de Calahorra. We met a pastor, Fernando Gonzales, and his wife, Yolanda, and in our conversations discussed how to develop a children’s ministry in Chia. Through much consultation, planning, and prayer, a ministry was born.

“The Lord answered our prayers for a building in which to hold the activities. During our time of waiting, we contacted the president of the Mercedes de Calahorra Association about the possibility of using the community center and library. He gave us permission to use both facilities and stated, ‘Mercedes de Calahorra needs this activity so that our children will not fall into drugs, crime, prostitution, and other evil.’

“One of the needs we prayed about was finding workers to help with the ministry. God provided us 6 workers. The team canvassed the neighborhood to invite children to our first event. We asked the Lord for 20 children, but the Lord gave us 30!

“We now hold a Bible club every Saturday morning. We include songs, Bible lessons, crafts, games, healthy snacks, and a presentation of the gospel. Every month we conduct Bible verse memorization games.

## Prayer Corner

Please pray:

- For the men’s prison ministry team in Uganda, that it will continue to faithfully share in the prisons weekly.
- That Joel will grow in his relationship with Christ and represent Him well as he leads the youth at his church in Uganda.
- For each of the 15 pastors who graduated from ACTION Pastors’ College, that they will use what they have learned to impact the people in their congregations for Christ.
- For God’s guidance as Daren Beck and others discern how to meet the needs of people suffering from the flooding in Cambodia.
- That children who attend the ministry in Mercedes de Calahorra will come to know the Lord and serve Him.

— Andrea Johnson

We also visit the children in their homes. Fernando and Yolanda’s vision is to plant a church and establish a ministry center to reach out to the community. Please pray that the Lord will continue to lead this ministry.”

### Gifts

#### In Memory of

Mrs. Wanda Holt  
Jane Nash  
Bob Warner

#### In Honor of

Grandchildren & great-grandchildren of D. & S. Vaughan

#### From

David & Miriam Johnson  
Tom & Carol Polley  
Virginia & Milan Steffel

#### From

Virginia Vaughan

#### Designation

Maraj Support  
Feuerstein Support  
Birthing Clinic

#### Designation

Operation Children of México

# Happy New Year!

... forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14, ESV).

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