



"Yes, LORD!"

MobilePacking in Fargo, North Dakota

*News from
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missionaries
in Manila,
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unless other-
wise stated.*

You (not someone else) give them something to eat

Five years ago in Manila our longtime friend Pastor Danny Ottoson from Pelican Rapids, Minnesota and Lake Eunice Evangelical Free Church (LEEF) visited us and our Street Impact Team (SITeam). Before he arrived he asked me if he could bring his friend Ron Stensgard from Fargo, North Dakota. I said something like "Pastor Danny any friend of yours is a friend of mine so bring Ron." Danny also asked if he could bring Joe Rabideaux, a young ministry leader he was discipling from LEEF, and I also said "bring him." We arranged a full schedule for Danny, Ron and Joe but as it turned out I was not able to join them because I had my painful left hip unexpectedly replaced just before they arrived. After an orientation meeting at our apartment (I was still using a walker), Dave and Becky Majam former staff members of SITeam and now full-time ACTION missionaries and Luv Zacal, also a former staff member of SITeam and now the pastor of Blessed Harvest Christian Church, carried on with the schedule. Included was visiting a few of our feeding sites using food from Feed My Starving Children (FMSC).

Danny, Ron and Joe helped our partner churches and SITeam feed malnourished children, saw them learn about Jesus and their families participate in cooking, serving, cleanup, Bible studies and other classes. This experience was Ron's introduction to FMSC and the Holy Spirit moved him with the compassion of Christ to spearhead having a weekend FMSC MobilePack the following February in

the Fargo-Moorhead area. With the enthusiastic involvement of the area's Christian community, many friends and business associates, Ron rolled up his sleeves and worked to raise money, mobilize people, secure needed equipment and a venue and coordinate with FMSC leaders in Minneapolis. Each February since 2015 they have packed 2,000,000 meals at Atonement Lutheran Church. Volunteers came from throughout the area.

This January 31 to February 2 their packing event was held at Scheel's Arena in Fargo. There were 14,000 volunteers from 48 churches (including 30 from LEEF), 28 schools (one high school sent all their students for a shift) and colleges, 35 businesses, civic organizations and sports teams who braved wind chill temperatures of minus 58° F to pack 2,529,360 meals, or twelve semi-trailers full of meals. This food will feed 6,929 starving kids for a year. Reaching their goal of 2,500,000 meals was in jeopardy after two two-hour shifts were canceled due to the extremely dangerous weather. However, late Saturday afternoon they overshot their goal! They are now finishing raising the needed \$550,000 for the event's expenses. This MobilePack is the fourth largest in the US this year and they're signed up to do it again next year. It wouldn't surprise me if they overshoot their goal again.

What's a key lesson from Ron, Danny and Joe scooping FMSC on the plates of hungry little Filipino kids? Zechariah 4:10 says "Do not despise

these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin...." (NLT). When the Spirit is moving get involved in making a difference in someone's life for today and eternity. We are now praying that the Lord of the harvest will send full-time workers from the Fargo-Moorhead area to help us feed kids' malnourished bodies with life-sustaining FMSC food and their hungry hearts with the soul-satisfying Bread of Life (John 6:35). The Lord may want to send *you* out to serve with us among the world's hungry. Jesus says in Matthew 14:16, "They need not go away, you give them something to eat." What's in our hands that we can offer Jesus and those seeking Him in order to satisfy their physical and spiritual hunger?

Recently the Majams sent their final 2018 stats for our FMSC ministry in the Philippines. They are:

- 4,355 kids, 35 nursing moms and 20 pregnant women involved.
- 36 six-month feeding sites in Metro Manila, the provinces of Albay, Catanduanes (typhoon victims), Cebu, Rizal, Quezon and Bohol and the cities of Cebu (displaced due to fire), Cagayan De Oro and Iligan (displaced due to the armed conflict in Marawi City) and hard to get to areas in the Bicol region.
- 84 200 plus pound boxes of food were shipped by friends from Grace Church Eden Prairie and Maple Plain Community Church.
- The boxes contained 18,144 Manna Packs. Each pack contains six meals which is 108,864 meals.

Each site is led by a trained church which usually partners with people trained in health care by the Department of Health, a school and community leaders. Classes involved are health, hygiene, nutrition and Bible studies for all ages. Sometimes there are literacy, livelihood skills, family planning and child protection and safety classes. Each child and family is loved by Jesus Christ. Many have

turned from their sin and trusted Christ and some churches have been planted. Pray for our feeding ministry because it is a way into some communities that are tightly closed to the Gospel.

Orientation-Training in Brazil

We were in São Paulo January 5-16 to help give orientation and train new and longtime ACTION Brazil missionaries. Our days were packed morning till night. Their team is composed of servants from Brazil, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Bolivia, Canada, the US, Scotland, Austria and Switzerland. All have ministry in the slums of São Paulo or other cities, at an orphanage, a home for refugees or training pastors and church leaders in Gospel-based community development. John and Georgie Reed joined us. They are the international coordinators of ACTION's member care ministry residing in California. Each of us taught often (me thirteen times) and had rich conversations over meals, during breaks and free time. We don't speak Portuguese but we had excellent translators and in casual conversations we used Goggle Translator. The investment of our time, energy and money was well worth it. Several times people expressed their appreciation for our ministry among them and were amazed to meet people who have served with ACTION on the field as long as we have. Their eagerness to learn made our teaching very enjoyable.

Here's a testimony from Marli, who attended the orientation. She also was one of our translators and hosted us in her home in São Paulo: "I would like to thank Mary and Jeff Anderson, and Georgie and John Reed for their time in Brazil during the orientation. It was a blessed and meaningful time with them. I had the privilege to host Mary and Jeff and that was a plus for me, because we could spend time together and share much more, bringing our friendship even closer. Their teaching was important and I learned a lot especially about ACTION's values and principles. It felt as though we, ACTION Brazil, were really part of Action International. Their presence made all the difference for me. The four of them have the gift of encouraging and they encouraged us. Thank God for their lives and for them being with us."

The reason Mary Ann and I are passionate about training missionaries is because we are stewards of what the Lord Jesus has walked us through over the years. We are not experts but we have learned, and are still learning, some hard-earned lessons we think need to be passed on to others. We also have a sense of obligation to those who

Mary Ann and some of the women at the Brazil orientation



pray for us and give to our ministry. We really want to multiply ourselves in others who will in turn do the same.

Becoming an effective street child worker

These are the opening paragraphs of chapter three of the third edition, written in 1996, of a manual I edited called *Crisis on the Streets: A Ministry Guide for Taking the Street out of Street Children*. The first edition written in 1994 was called *Street Children Ministry Manual* and the current and fourth edition is called *Restoring Children of the Streets: A Guide for Mobilizing and Equipping God's People Around the World*. If you would like a PDF version, contact us. It has been translated into French and Spanish and is being used worldwide. Here's what the paragraphs say in the 1996 edition:

“What does it take to be a worker among street children? See Matthew 9:35-38 and James 1:27. Primarily a street worker needs a calling, motivation and burden from the Lord Jesus Christ because the need of the ministry and children is for longterm committed workers. The worker needs to love both the people of the city and the city itself. We need to see children not just as souls to be saved, but as people who need human care and response. One must be spiritually, mentally, and physically durable in order to engage the city and its poor.

“Having a sense of pity for children is not enough because pity will run dry very quickly. A worker needs the compassion of Christ which will cause one to move from an emotional response to an action response. One must be a “team-player” in ministry and not a “lone-ranger.” There are times for someone to pioneer a work in an area alone (I do not recommend this now) if there is no one to join the ministry. But as in any ministry, it is best to have a team. This is because then there is a variety of spiritual gifts and skills involved, there is protection physically and spiritually, fellowship, evaluation is possible and more work will be accomplished. See Mark 12:30-31.”

Do you have what it takes to work with street kids? If you do, follow the Spirit's passion today.

A young man who has what it takes

Last year Chris Shepherd did an internship with ACTION Philippines' Brand New Day (BND),

which ministers to street boys and girls. Chris read my manual before we met and while he served with BND. We had several good conversations about what it takes to work with street kids. After completing his internship he was given the go-ahead by his supervisor at BND to apply to ACTION as a longterm missionary to work with street kids. Because Chris is Singaporean, he came under my supervision as he filled out the application because Singapore does not have an ACTION office and I am ACTION's East Asia Coordinator. While in the US I walked Chris through the application and contacted each of his Singaporean referrals, including his former and current pastor and his supervisor while he took intercultural studies at Bethany International University. While in Brazil I approved Chris and turned him over to the Philippines' Director and Council for their possible approval. Chris has been approved by them and is now raising support while getting ready for studying Tagalog. He is passionate about following Jesus' call to work with street children.

Unfortunately, a Tagalog slang term for Filipino street children is *yagit*. *Yagit* pictures the trash, sewage, sludge and industrial waste that builds up and fouls rivers, streams and canals. Chris knows that no child is trash or foul because each one is made in God's image, is loved by Him and worth all our effort to reach with the Gospel and compassionate care. Pray for Chris' support development and Tagalog studies.

All4Christ conferences

I left Minneapolis February 20 during a snowstorm, just before the airport closed due to heavy snow, and arrived in Manila late evening the 21st. I then met four friends from Fargo, including Ron, later that evening at the airport. The following morning we and our Filipino All4Christ team mates flew to Iloilo City, Iloilo province for a strategic planning retreat the 23rd and 24th followed by a two-day pastors conference. The planning retreat was productive and clarified A4C's way forward for the next few years. The conference was attended by 125 pastors, missionaries, church leaders, Bible school students and wives. The 27th we traveled several hours by land to New

“Pity weeps and walks away, compassion comes to help and stay.”
Art Beals, Beyond Hunger

“Passion is logic on fire.”
Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones

Washington, Aklan province for another two-day conference in which 112 attended. The theme of both conferences was *The Beautiful Gospel Story: God's Mission. The Church. The Messy World*. I spoke twice at each conference from Matthew 9:35-38; 28:18-20; John 4:4, 35 and 39-42 emphasizing active cross-cultural outreach and intentional discipleship among the last, the least, the lonely, the left-out and the lost, especially among street kids and their families. Each participant received an ESV Global Study Bible, an ESV Bible Atlas and five books published by First Love. Over and over, as each speaker gave their message, the truth of 2 Peter 1:12-13 come out in one way or another. The verses say:

"Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder."

Several participants at both conferences traveled many hours to attend because in their hard to reach areas meetings like this are rare so they came hungry for worship, teaching, prayer, fellowship and Bible study tools. They told us our biblical reminders were well worth their effort to attend. A4C's motto is *the life of the minister is the life of the ministry* so according to their testimonies our effort to come alongside our precious co-laborers was also well worth our effort.

Mary Ann's Workshop in Idaho

[by Mary Ann] The first week of March I attended Part 2 of Leadership Pathways conference. It was wonderful to renew several friendships from the previous year and make new friends. Last year's conference made a huge impact in my life and this year continued the journey. My sister Dawn Sheppard attended with me again this year. As a follow up, I joined a mentoring group with five other women. We will discuss what we're learning and how to apply it in our ministries.

I spent four and a half hours teaching Clifton StrengthsFinder with a focus on ministry application. Jeff and I learned years ago that StrengthsFinder is a very helpful tool in learning how to more effectively minister using our strengths. I shared how God has uniquely designed each of us for the specific task He has called us to do according to Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

I received encouraging feedback from several women. One said, "Thank you for sharing your talents so we are able to benefit and serve best for the sake of the kingdom."

Soon I will start a mentoring program in StrengthsFinder for people involved in ministry. Let me know if you want to learn more.

Upcoming schedule

- April 9-10, ACTION office, Mountlake Terrace, WA to give an update and meet candidates
- April 12-May 9, Philippines
- May 1-4, possibly Korea for a missions conference
- May 22-25, training for new missionaries, Dallas, TX
- June 2, Calvary Gospel Assembly, Estherville, IA
- June 3-5, Gallup CliftonStrengths Summit, Omaha, NE

Looking for a parking space

For our friends in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area, we want to ask if you know of a secure place where we can park our vehicle when we are traveling. This could be as short as a week or as long as two months. Our apartment in Robbinsdale has a parking garage but it has a long waiting list to get a space so we are looking for a solution in the meantime. Let us know if you have a suggestion. We would be grateful. Join us in praying that the Lord will help us with this need.

Response form included

We updated our response form for prayer and financial support. Please prayerfully consider how you can be involved in our ministry. *"To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen"* (2 Peter 3:18b). God bless you!

Action International Ministries

<https://actioninternational.org/missionary/Jeff-and-Mary-Ann-Anderson>

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