



Micah Ann with Mary Ann publishing



Our family in 1988



Jeff talking to kids in a disaster area

Our Supreme Desire

For the Jubilee ACTION workers were requested to share stories and photos of ministries we participated in over the past 50 years. They will be included in a “history walkthrough.” We call our stories “Our Supreme Desire.” I wrote about the development of the Philippines’ Street Impact Team which worked among street children and their families and our Disaster Response ministry for victims of natural calamities which then birthed All4Christ and the Palawan Christian Resource Center. Mary Ann’s story is about her caring for our family, teaching publishing at Faith Academy and serving on their Board, publishing biblical materials, prayer letters, case studies, logos and brochures for ACTION, The Bible League, churches and individuals and developing and giving orientation to new workers in and from several countries. Our stories are God’s gracious story of Him using ordinary people for His worldwide glory and purpose.

We also produced a flyer which you can download from our web-page. It can be put in your Bible, posted on your church missions board or included with your church’s worship folder.

If you have questions feel free to contact us. Mary Ann can send you the link to download the flyer and history documents. Either email her or send her a note at the address below.

Your fellowship and partnership

You are a vital part in all this. Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support in 2024, and through the years.

We entered 2025 refreshed and ready to go. We are grateful for your fellowship in Christ and partnership in the Gospel. By God’s grace we are enjoying life and ministry. We are not done till the Lord decides we are done and until then we will keep going with the Gospel. We are living in these truths: Acts 13:36a “*For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep...*”, Psalm 31:15a “*My times are in your hand...*” and Psalm 90.

Our supreme desire is to walk in-step with the Spirit, share the Gospel and be salt and light as we serve people in the name of Christ. Please pray that “*we should live... looking for*

the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ... zealous for good works” (Titus 2:12-13 NKJV).

Here are our prayer requests for 2025. Pray as the Spirit guides you:

1. Stamina, wisdom, discernment and finances for the many training opportunities that come our way locally and globally.
2. Personal spiritual growth so we will thrive in our relationship with the Lord, each other and our family.
3. Effectiveness as we disciple the next generation of Gospel workers who will go worldwide to make disciples in the Lord’s ripe harvest.

We love you in Christ! Our prayer for you, dear friends, is:

**“The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.”**

Numbers 6:24-26

Yes, Lord!

The people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.

Daniel 11:32b

News from
Jeff and
Mary Ann
Anderson,
serving
globally with
Action
International
Ministries

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How is sorrow better than laughter?

Recently Mary Ann and I attended three Celebration of Life services. One was for a long-time friend of Mary Ann’s family and the mother of her good childhood friend. She was a faithful wife, loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and devoted follower of Jesus. Her family and friends celebrated her long and fruitful life. Many wonderful stories were told about her during and after the service. While at the service I thought of Ecclesiastes 7:1-4. I will cite verses two and four and the first part of three. Solomon wrote, “*It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart. The heart of the wise is in the house of the mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.*” In verse three he wrote, “*Sorrow is better than laughter.*”

How is that? Most of us want to go to a party rather than a funeral. Solomon is teaching about godly wisdom. When we go to a funeral or a celebration of life service we are faced with our own death which may cause us to reflect on our life. Sorrow can have a transforming spiritual impact on our heart and soul. We may consider the seriousness of life, evaluate our situation and make good changes. The “house of mourning” can cause us to consider our ways. Some people may repent of their sin and trust Christ as their personal Savior at a funeral or celebration of life. The actual sorrow is not pleasurable but it can be a means to get a new perspective on life, gain wisdom, turn from sin to Christ, and make God-pleasing changes. Laughter is a wonderful gift God gave to help us express delight and joy. Those, however, who endure sorrow and make needed changes because of it understand that

sorrow is better than laughter. At the service I took stock of my life. I am sure others did too.

Gaining wisdom

The deaths of these precious people led me to study Psalm 90. This psalm, written by Moses, may be the oldest of the psalms. In the context of Moses’ prayer verses 12 and 17 caught my attention. He prays, “*So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.*” And, “*Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!*” These verses refer to having the ability to make the most of our days because we know they are numbered. Having a heart of wisdom enables us to live by God’s priorities. Serving Jesus Christ gives our work eternal significance. The storybook of our lives has two bookends. One is our day of birth and the other is our day of death. Between them we are writing our story by who we are, by what we are doing and by what we are not doing.



Action International Ministries

Online giving: www.actioninternational.org/anderson

All donations are tax-deductible and are accepted with the understanding that Action International Ministries has complete control and administration of their use. Gifts may be sent to one of the addresses below designated for Anderson Support (40012A). Gifts can also be given online by direct deposit, credit card or PayPal at the above website. Email: jeff.anderson@actionintl.org.
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All Scripture references are in the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise stated.



The photo above was taken at the Bangkok airport. Whenever we saw a group of Buddhist monks, there was a group of devout women around them. *Thailand is 85% Buddhist and 0.5% Evangelical Christian. (*Operation World)

The photo on the right shows a map of the Golden Triangle at the confluence of the Ruak and Mekong Rivers. It shows Thailand to the west (where we were), Myanmar to the north and Laos to the east. This area was known for opium trading but much of the opium fields in northern Thailand have been converted to tea and coffee plantations. Pray for the Gospel to spread throughout these countries.

All of us have an innate bent, learned skills, life experiences, material resources, opportunities, influence and time. Christ-followers also have spiritual gifts. Here are some reflections I am prayerfully thinking about. I now have more days behind me than I have in front of me. These reflections apply to each of us regardless of our season in life. They are:

- Life on earth is uncertain and short. We have a beginning and an end. Eternal life is forever. Each of us will decide where we will be when our day of death arrives.
- Am I living in light of my final day on earth? Am I ready for that day?
- Am I ready for Christ's return? He is coming back. We just do not know when.



- Am I saved from God's wrath because of my sin? If I am saved, by God's grace, through faith, in Christ alone, am I right with Jesus and with others?
- Am I serving Christ and growing in my relationship with Him?
- Does my story fit with God's story described in Revelation 7:9-12?
- Disciples of Jesus want to hear Him, our Master, say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21b). Will we hear this?

Administrating missions

At the end of each year ACTION workers evaluate, with our supervisor, that year's ministry accomplishments based on our approved job description, proposal and budget. Documents can be reviewed through the year, and adjustments can be made if they are needed. We minister by faith in the Lord's promises and by His provision, and we fully intend to accomplish our objectives as He leads us and provides what is needed.

Recently Mary Ann and I worked through this process for 2024-'25. We are both administrative so we appreciate this aspect of ministry. The back story is years ago we worked with other ACTION leaders to develop these forms and this process. We teach this now during orientation and to those I coach and supervise. Proverbs 16:9 is a key verse for us. It says, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." We are occupying while we have time on earth or until Jesus returns (Luke 19:13 KJV). We are helping our coworkers do the same.

Trip to Chiang Rai, Spokane and New Haven

In November we had a wonderful time with Filipino ACTION workers in Chiang Rai, Thailand. We visited several places in their area including the Chiang Rai International Christian School where they teach. CRICS is like Faith Academy where our kids Amos and Micah Ann went to school in Manila. Like Faith CRICS is looking for interns and teachers so if you are interested in serving at a school for missionary children look at CRICS' website. We spoke at a Filipino and Thai church and had great fellowship with the pastor and his wife. The next day he brought us to visit some local ministries. One was with the Akha people. We also walked our coworkers through some of ACTION's policies, procedures, best practices and core values including the documents mentioned earlier. They are looking at serving in a nearby restricted access country so we are praying with them and helping them discern the Lord's leading.

Our trip to Spokane on the way back to the US was an exhausting 52 hours due to three long flight delays and a "once in a 100 year" snowstorm in Seoul. We arrived at Micah Ann and Danny's home in the wee morning hours of Thanksgiving Day. It was a blessing to be with them and their kids Constance and Felicity, Danny's parents Chris and Janet, worship at their church and meet many of their friends.

From Spokane we returned to Minneapolis for a few days. We then visited Amos and Laura and their kids Ethan and Lydia in New Haven. Again it was a blessing to visit them, worship at their church and meet several of their friends. On the 21st they treated us on our 45th marriage anniversary at one of New Haven's famous pizzerias.



Making gingerbread houses with Ethan and Lydia.

We returned home December 23. Our days between Christmas Day and New Year's Day were quiet. Just what we wanted.

Faith is the Victory

On March 5 we return to Manila where we lived and served for 33 years. We will visit friends, minister at a church and with ACTION and All4Christ colleagues, participate in ACTION's annual International Council meeting and enjoy ACTION's 50th Year Jubilee Celebration. The theme and key verse of our Jubilee is "Faith is the Victory" from 1 John 5:4. John wrote, "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith." ACTION started in Manila in 1975 and today has 340 workers, from 34 countries, serving in 43 nations. We joined ACTION 41 years ago in March. Many ACTION people today are working in very unusual, dark and difficult places. We are a diverse team committed to helping fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). We attribute our growth to praying as Christ instructed His followers in Matthew 9:37-38. This growth behooves ACTION's leaders to onboard, mentor, coach and care well for our coworkers so they will enjoy fruitful ministries for God's glory.

We are currently lining up a trip to another restricted access country in Southeast Asia to do what we did in Thailand. This time for a Brazilian family. We are also talking with our co-worker in a South Asian country about assisting him further develop his nationwide network of workers from 10 denominations serving among unreached people groups in his country and beyond their borders. This Spirit-led grassroots movement was kicked-off in September 2021 when we assisted him with his country's first interdenominational Great Commission conference. The conference was followed by a contextualized training, sending and mentoring process. The Gospel is now spreading and indigenous churches are being planted by some of our young disciples.



Before we left Thailand we enjoyed the CRIC's Thanksgiving chapel service and dinner. The Chiang Rai International Christian School provides excellent education for students K-12.

The vision of CRICS is to help others know God and understand Him more fully by serving the body of Christ through providing quality Christian education.

They always need qualified teachers. Contact ACTION or email us if you or someone you know would be interested in serving there in this strategic location.