

Yes, Lord!

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

Daniel 11:32b

Come Apart with Me

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

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All Scripture
references are
in the English
Standard
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unless
otherwise
stated.

Mary Ann and I returned home on August 17 after a fruitful 10-day trip in Oregon. We ministered at the Pacific Community Church in Bandon and the Community Bible Church in Lebanon. Both churches are longtime ministry partners. It was a joy to fellowship with them after several years. They hosted us graciously in *"a manner worthy of God"* and are truly *"fellow workers for the truth"* (3 John 6-8). At CBC after the service we had a long lunch with seven college-age people and a pastor and his wife. The young people recently served in a squatter community in Manila. It was good to debrief them, hear their stories and advise them how to share their testimony. Between these weekends we enjoyed a study break in Florence along the Pacific Ocean with just Jesus, our Bibles, books and each other. We enjoyed watching the sunsets and sundowns over God's beautiful creation as the waves roared outside our balcony. I even took a few midday naps! After several hectic months of life and ministry we did what Jesus said to His early disciples after one of their ministry trips. He said, *"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest"* (Mark 6:31 NIV). We know that before God increases our influence, He deepens our inner life. Vance Havner, an American Baptist pastor, said it well, "If you do not come apart and rest, you will come apart." We rested and are refreshed.

Come to me

Now we're home preparing ourselves and our funds for our full schedule in coming months. September 13 we leave for Singapore and to a restricted access country where we'll provide pastoral care for ACTION coworkers. We'll visit with three families residing across this vast nation. The first is Brazilian and the second and third are American. They are serving Christ faithfully in

difficult and dark places and desire personal fellowship and pastoral care. I am their overseer. We've talked and prayed about this trip several times. It is God's time to visit them. This trip will be very expensive with eight flights, three or four hotels, visas, travel and international health insurance and on-the-ground expenses like food and transportation. We also desire to bring gifts to each family. Additionally, there are always extra costs along the way. So far we have about half the funds that is budgeted. If needed we will use our savings for this crucial trip. Please pray God will supply all the funds needed and for our planning and strength. Lord willing on October 1 we'll return to Spokane.

We are trusting the Lord and obeying Him. That is the bottom-line. We desire to be faithful, Christ-followers. We know we're accountable to Him, our leaders and colleagues, and you, our friends and partners. While I'm sleeping, as my mind is sorting out the issues of the day, I realize that often I am interceding for others, problem-solving or praying for clarity on a pressing concern. Like this anticipated trip. I wrestle with myself as I call out to Jesus trusting Him for funds, strength and the wisdom needed for the huge time-zone adjustments, many hours in airplanes, different beds and food, my sensitive stomach, and our overall health and safety. To be honest Mary Ann and I are really "home-bodies" and introverts. We like our "alone time". While sleeping, the Spirit is using Matthew 11:28-30 to strengthen my weak faith and give me courage to obey Jesus and trust Him for what's needed. In short, the Spirit is using God's Word to keep us going with the Gospel to the nations (see Psalm 16:7-8). Jesus says in Matthew 11:28-30, *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart,*

and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." We will, by God's grace, with His love in our hearts for people (Romans 5:5), and with your partnership, keep the "go" in the Gospel.

From October 21-November 1 we'll be in Minnesota. We'll visit my brother Steve and his wife Laurie in Cloquet, my home town, the 30th-November 1. We also would like to visit our supporting churches there. From October 25-29 we will attend Grace Church Eden Prairie's annual missions conference. We also plan to visit Mary Ann's siblings. Again, pray for our needed funds, strength and planning.

Spokane area fires

You probably have seen or heard the reports about the devastating fires in and around Spokane in August. Sixty-five thousand people needed to evacuate and about 900 structures like homes, businesses and ranch and farm buildings were lost. After two weeks people were allowed to return to their places to sift through the damage and destruction. Their road to recovery will be hard and long, especially for school-age children as they start classes. It is heartwarming seeing individuals, businesses, schools, students, sports teams, churches and the National Guard and Red Cross helping fire victims, firefighters and their support staff. About 2,000 firefighters and support staff came from 20 states. They stayed in tents in Spokane County's fair-grounds while here. There were fires

in June closer to us but August's fires were 15-20 miles from us so we and the Scotts (our daughter's family) are safe. It has been very dry and hot with strong gusty winds at times since spring. We've had no measurable rain and little forecasted in coming months due to a Super El Niño. Pray for Spokane's fire victims and for rain please.

Walking together

We are grateful to God for His life-time and full-time calling upon us to serve Him and the Gospel. No matter how difficult this narrow, and at times lonely road of obedience is, Mary Ann and I are privileged people. In view of the Cross we gave up nothing to enter full-time ministry. We have gained everything. It is the highest honor that God Almighty puts upon a person; the call to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples among the nations. We are ordinary folks but we have a passion for God's glory where ever we are and in whatever we are doing. We are stewards of what the Lord of the harvest has invested in us by His people's prayer, giving, fellowship, friendship, counsel and admonition.

In July we hosted long time friends and fellow global workers in our home. From Grace Church Eden Prairie, Jonathan Stone spent a night with us on his way to Seattle.

A couple weeks later, former ACTION workers Carl and Lisa Loewen stopped to see us while on their way home to Manitoba. If you are traveling our way consider being



with us. We'll add more broth to the soup, put on the kettle for tea and coffee and offer a cot.

As I write I am thinking of 1 Corinthians 10:31. Paul wrote, "So, whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (see Colossians 3:17). We've been purchased by the saving and cleansing blood of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 1:18-19; and 1 John 1:7, 9), therefore, we belong to Him.

We rejoice because we don't walk our road alone. We walk with Jesus, with each other and with you.

I remind us of this promise "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor in not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

We love you. Let's follow Jesus!

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