

Yes, Lord!

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

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"Yes, Lord,
walking in the
way of your
laws, we wait
for you; your
name and
renown are
the desire of
our hearts."
(Isaiah 26:8, NIV)

All Scripture
references are
in the English
Standard
Version (ESV)
unless
otherwise
stated.

Jet-lag is the pits, but it's worth it all!

Three countries. Twelve flights. Four time zones. Three hotels. Different foods and water. Canceled flights due to heavy smoke because of "slashing and burning". Rescheduling flights "on the fly" at the airport, with the great help of an airline staff, on the day we're to return to the US. Fifty long hours on our return flights. Criss-crossing a massive island country and visiting friends in Singapore was worth the expense, effort, energy and risk involved. Now we're home debriefing this adventure and recovering from lacking sleep. We deeply thank the Lord for those who gave financial help. *We had enough to cover this trip's expenses. Of course Mary Ann and I get tired but we don't tire of doing God's work.* We are "seniors" and perhaps a little wiser in our planning but *the passion in our hearts still burns hot to know God and make Him known where ever we are and in whatever we are doing.*

The Apostle Paul wrote his testimony in Galatians 2:20. He writes, which is also rings true in our hearts, *"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* When I was ordained in July 1993, 1 Corinthians 15:10 was my ordination paper's overall theme verse. Again Paul writes, *"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that was with me."* Yes, sleepless

nights due to travel and jet-lag is the pits, and serving Christ is risky, but serving Him, His people, the Gospel and the nations are totally worth it all!

Briefing of our trip

We prayed a lot and planned diligently for this trip. We budgeted carefully and watched our expenses. We bought inexpensive airline tickets with a comfortable amount of time between connecting flights. We stayed in sort-of okay hotels and ate and drank carefully, especially me trying to avoid issues with my sensitive stomach. We were prepared for unexpected changes in our schedule and anticipated costs. We leaned hard on Proverbs 3:5-6 both before and during our trip. This timeless wisdom is, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your ways."* We trusted Him and He established our steps (Proverbs 16:9).



On a ferry ride from Singapore September 2026



**We visited
Jaffray
School of
Theology.**

We visited Brazilian ACTION coworkers on our first stop. The guy is a highly certified soccer coach and teaches the sport's skills and godly character for both on and off the pitch. His wife is a psychologist and counsels Brazilian women scattered around the world. We listened to the family's stories, went to the beach with them and worshipped at their church. They and their two children have had a difficult first term. They have a needed home-assignment from early November to early March. They were super happy for our visit and sad to see us leave.

**Jeff giving a
pep talk to
the soccer
players.**



Our next stop was with American coworkers. This was our first time to meet them personally. The guy teaches full-time at a theological school. We were blessed to sit-in on his well-attended missions class. His wife is busy caring for their four young children. They each lead a weekly get-together and Bible study (with Afghan refugees) for men and women. We attended both meetings. These activities led them, along with a few nationals, to start a church this year for refugees from several Middle Eastern countries. Regretfully we didn't have time to worship with their church. We hope to see them again next Summer when they're on home-assignment.

Our final stop was on the far eastern side of the country (we moved west to east then back again). This was with Americans who have lived and served in this city for twenty years. They gladly hosted us in their comfortable home. We had several relaxed conversations about life and ministry. He is an oral surgeon with an extensive public health outreach, often in very remote areas. His wife ably assists him along with a national dental assistant and a South African medical doctor. They are "empty-nesters" with their four children and grandkids living in the US. They are doing well and are highly esteemed by health officials across the country.

This country is not open to Gospel workers so each family needs to be wise in how they go

about their ministry. They are clearly Gospel-centered and making disciples. Each couple would love to have expat workers serve with them. The Brazilians need help in teaching soccer as their outreach expands to surrounding small islands. These islands have no Gospel witness other than their soccer ministry. The public health workers are open to having medical professionals join them in their outreaches. The school where our colleague teaches needs professors with a minimum of a master's degree. Everyone serving there longterm needs to speak the area's language so language study is required.

If the Lord is speaking to you about these opportunities contact Mary Ann or me so we can pray and discuss this with you. One takeaway from this trip, which was confirmed by each family, is to have an in-country retreat in the Spring because they don't know each other. The retreat would be for worship, God's Word, prayer and fun. The couple who has lived there the longest will set up the logistics. Pray about this please.



Ladies' study group (above).



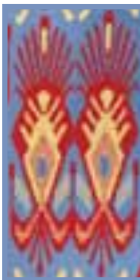
Saying good bye at the airport (left).



ACTION Team Conference '27

We are in the early stages of planning a mission-wide conference for ACTION members who are able to join us. It will be August 15-19, 2027 at the Ross Point Conference Center in Post Falls, Idaho—about thirty minutes from where we live. Pray for our preparations as we begin to put together the theme, speakers, topics, workshops, activities for children and youth and recreation. At this time we have sixty people who expressed a desire to attend. This will be the fifth conference we have coordinated in the US in the past nine years.

During our recent Asian trip we saw a sign (picture to the left) at an elementary school which says, "Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching." This describes why we are passionate for life-long learning and growth. Not only does life continue to teach us, but the Lord has much He desires His disciples to learn.



We praise the Lord for you!

Thank you for partnering with us in 2026. We look forward to your continued involvement in 2027.

Thankful

We trust you will have a thankful Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for as we live for Christ in our desperate world. Regardless of what God has ordained for us, we know He is with us. *Obedience to Christ is risky, but our Heavenly Father is faithful to His Word.* According to the classic hymn there is "no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey" (composed in 1887 by John H. Sammis and Daniel B. Tower). *Mary Ann and I believe that the presence of God proves His power, which accomplishes His plans, because of His promises in His Word.*

We are enjoying a new sermon series at our fellowship in Spokane Valley, Valley Bible Church. Over the next year we will study the book of Joshua. Each week, when we are not traveling, we meet with some church-mates to discuss what we are learning from that week's message, and pray together. We also serve with VBC's "Go-Team" (missions committee). When Moses was encouraging his successor Joshua and the people of Israel to enter the Promised Land he said, *"Be strong and courageous, for you shall go*

with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed" (Deuteronomy 31:7-8).

That's in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, Matthew's letter begins and ends with the promise of Christ's presence with His followers. Matthew 1:23 says, *"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)."* Matthew 28:18, 19 and 20 says, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me (Jesus). Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, ... behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Strength and courage are the right and left hands of our faith in Christ. This is the disciples' Commission till Jesus returns. It determines the purpose and course of our lives.

John R. W. Stott (British pastor and theologian 1927-2011) said "His (Jesus') authority on earth allows us to dare to go to all the nations. His authority in heaven gives

us our only hope of success. And His presence with us leaves us no other choice." Amen!

Please prayerfully consider sending a year-end gift to help us enter 2027 financially strong. ACTION's annual International Council meeting is March 9-12 in Nepal and sometime in the Spring will be our retreat mentioned previously. We also have ongoing ministry in the US. Thank-you for being faithful "senders" by your prayer and giving as unto the Lord.

We're not too old or too young. We're not done!

Thank-you very much for sending Mary Ann and me to the nations. We were married December 21, 1979 at Edina Baptist Church, now Grace Church Eden Prairie, in Minnesota. The Great Commission was and still is our foundation and Jesus our Center. We continue to say to the Lord, and to you, "Here we are. Continue sending us!" We're not done till He says we are. Until then we'll keep going with the Gospel to the peoples of the world. Have a merry Christmas and a blessed 2027 as we together follow Jesus.

Action International Ministries

Online giving: www.actioninternational.org/anderson

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