

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 1984)



What moved Jesus with compassion?

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

“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, 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 9:35-38 (KJV)

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

The word *compassion* is from a Greek word, which means *bowels* describing a person who is moved in the deepest depth of his being. It is a drawing and agitation of one's innermost part at the sight of any distress or misery. Compassion compels us to bring deliverance from such unlawful and inhumane misery and suffering. A Christ-follower laboring in ripe harvest fields needs the compassion of Christ, which causes him to move from an emotional response to an action response. Having pity is not enough because it runs dry quickly. Art Beals said in his book *Beyond Hunger*, “Pity weeps and walks away. Compassion comes to help and stay.” Compassion is an action word.

What moved Jesus into action as he went about the cities and villages of His day? For example, He was moved by:

1. People's pain. Matthew 14:14 and 20:34, Mark 9:17-27
2. People's sorrow. Luke 7:13

3. People's hunger. Matthew 15:32

4. People's divisive confusion about His identity. John 7:25-52

Why do I go through this? We continue to beseech the Lord of the harvest to thrust out laborers. We know they are few and desperately needed as the fields are waiting to be harvested. What kind of laborer are we praying for? We want called, Gospel-centered, passionate, compassionate, well-equipped, long-term laborers who are sent by equally committed like-minded churches. We praise God because He is sending us just such people! It is our passion to help equip and send the next generation of laborers to their fields of service. ACTION's motto is “Know God, take action.” We are praying for people who exemplify this.

A New Generation

The Lord is leading us to seek those who will actively make reproducing disciples among the nations. This seems to be the main theme of this season of our ministry. We have the privilege of coming alongside to encourage, coach and help equip those who will carry on as we “pass the baton” to them of ministry development and leadership. This is the long view. Here are examples of how the Lord is enabling us to do that.

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

~Nelson Henderson



Our amazing group celebrating at the end of orientation.

ACTION USA orientation

From June 21-24 the ACTION USA office held an orientation for six applicants. The days were full and fruitful. All the applicants were approved by the USA Board and are now appointed to their fields of service. They are raising their financial and prayer support and being coached by experienced ACTION missionaries. Together they work through our “Pre-Flight Check-List” of requirements before the USA office and their field leaders approve them to commence their field ministry. Mary Ann and I are overseeing this process. We are also coaching a Filipino couple residing in the Minneapolis-area. They are planning to minister in Cebu City among neglected elderly men and women. They hope to leave by the end of this year. The office is tentatively planning their next orientation in October.

Virtual training

We are assisting the USA office develop a series of training videos for short-term missionaries. Adam Hussey, a long-time friend and colleague who served with us in the Philippines, leads this project. He is a talented videographer and has a strong passion for disciple-making. The project’s purpose is to nurture those sensing the Spirit’s stirring them up for cross-cultural missions and for those who know they are called to go to the nations with the Gospel but want coaching and equipping. The office is funding this project, which we hope to rollout within a year. Pray that all the topics and people involved come together

under Adam’s capable leadership. Adam and his wife Alei left the Philippines last year due to COVID and are residing in Massachusetts for now. We had the joy of being at their wedding and have walked with them in life and ministry for years.

All4Christ

During the COVID pandemic our A4C ministry in the Philippines had to create new ways to minister due to extended lockdowns and community quarantines. The country continues to experience difficult restrictions. In July we had our tenth e-conference with Dr. Gene Getz as our speaker. The theme was, “Hope and the Faithful Ministry of the Word.” Dr. Getz taught on the trilogy of faith, hope and love from I Corinthians, Ephesians and 1 and 2 Thessalonians as the measure of maturity in Christ of local churches. He also explained how he and his team at the Center for Church Renewal developed the *Life Essentials Interactive Study Bible*. It was an excellent conference with approximately 100 Filipinos in attendance from around the Philippines and abroad and me in Minneapolis. A4C will receive 500 free copies of the LEISB. Two hundred have arrived at our office in Manila and are being distributed to pastors who have proven to be diligent in studying God’s Word using the books they have received from us. Batches of 100 Bibles are shipped from Plano, Texas. Each box contains 50 copies and costs \$136 to ship, which includes a heavy-duty box and tape. We ship them as we have funds. Let us know if you would like to help ship the remaining Bibles.

Arise and Go!

In September Mary Ann and I will minister, Lord willing, at a first of its kind missions conference for youth in a restricted south Asian country. Seventy young people will be handpicked by 30 national pastors to attend the conference. Its theme is “Arise and Go” and is all about the Great Commission. We sent our messages in July so they are now being translated into the native language.

Following the conference young people will sign-up to be coached and equipped in missions by a seasoned national pastor and be assigned to hands-on ministry among unreached people groups in the country. We will coach and disciple the pastors and their young disciples virtually. The potential of equipping and sending young Gospel-workers to plant churches is huge! By faith Mary Ann and I bought airline tickets and are now in the process of getting our visas. COVID is a threat because it is rampant in south and Southeast Asia and protocols are strict. For a year and a half I have coached ACTION's leader of this country after he and his wife went through orientation and became ACTION workers. We talk almost weekly and have prayerfully planned this conference for months.

Following the conference we will take a few days to debrief, pray, and plan our next steps. We will also visit ministry sites. Prayerfully consider sending a gift to help us with our expenses. Pray also for our safety as we travel and minister and for lasting fruit from this strategic trip.

Tanzanians

In July I started weekly one-hour equipping sessions with 25 like-minded Tanzanians ministering to street kids in Dar es Salaam. Their leader is a Nigerian missionary and their work is very ACTION-like. I am walking them through my manual *Restoring Children of the Streets: A Guide for Mobilizing and Equipping God's People Around the World*, which they downloaded from our ACTION webpage. After I teach a topic we have a lively discussion followed by robust prayer. Our hour flies by! They are now doing an "urban plunge" on the streets after which we will debrief, learn, and pray together. This is the purpose of the manual. Pray for us please.

Barbecue ministry

In June Cityview Church's weekly barbecue ministry started for the summer. Each Wednesday we serve freshly grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and ice-cold water on CVC's

parking lot to anyone who needs a meal. People arrive hungry, weary, angry, anxious or suspicious but after a good meal, often with seconds, they leave with a full stomach and seeds of kindness, friendship and the Gospel planted in their heart. Some enjoy conversing, some are guarded and others do not want to talk but everyone knows they have friends and are welcome as they are at CVC. Those who join us are from many walks of life; some are very different and difficult. A few are believers in Christ so we pray they are encouraged in their walk with Him, while others are far from Jesus so we pray they will turn from their sin and trust Him only for salvation. We do not force the Gospel into conversations but when there is opportunity we sensitively share our testimony and the Gospel. CVC is located in a diverse and troubled area of Minneapolis so pray for our safety and this community-building ministry. Pray for Dean and Jamie. Dean has joined us for weeks, going back to last summer, and has shown no interest in the Gospel until recently. Now he helps us set up and clean up and is attending a worship service. I recently met Jaime who providentially stopped in for a meal. I had a long conversation with him as he devoured his food. He recently got out of prison and he is interested in Christ and wants to start a new life.

Jeff with pastors Fidel, Brandon and Walt. What dear brothers in Christ!





Mary Ann giving a lesson on Acts 17:24-28 to Vacation Bible School kids.

Schedule

We are grateful for the opportunities we have to minister God's Word to His people of various denominations and affiliations. The burden of my preaching and our teaching is local and global missions. Pray for new workers, senders and Gospel outreaches. If you would like us to minister to your church or class let us know. We would be happy to do so. If you would like to stay up-to-date on our schedule, send us an email and we will add you to our monthly email prayer letter list.

God's Faithfulness through the years

I write this right away; we are not slowing down in life and ministry.

In the fall of 1973, as a freshman at St. Cloud State University, I turned from my sin and trusted Christ as my personal Savior and Lord through the ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ (today Cru). Instead of becoming a police officer I started full-time Gospel ministry in the fall of 1977 at

Midwest Challenge in Minneapolis. I met Mary Ann then while she also served at MWC. At MWC I worked on the streets and in the back alleys, parks and jails while also serving as a counselor to men coming off of drugs, out of jail and off the streets. Mary Ann and I were married in December 1979 and continued serving at MWC in Willmar, Minnesota and Minneapolis until early 1985. In December 1985, with our two young children, Amos and Micah Ann, after raising prayer and financial support, we went to Manila sight unseen with ACTION to work among street kids. On July 18, 1993 I was ordained at Normandale Baptist Church in

Bloomington, Minnesota. We wrapped up our Philippine residency and full-time ministry in May 2018 after turning over leadership of our work to others who served and were equipped in our ministries. I go through this to say we are still going with the Gospel. We do not tire of serving others, sharing our testimony of knowing Christ and explaining how others can also know Him as their Savior and Lord. After a busy day of ministry we are tired but, by God's grace, we do not tire of ministry! The Gospel, and serving people, is still fresh and energizes us.

Thank-you!

Thank-you for your faithful prayer and financial support! We truly thank the Lord for you. We have trusted Him for our financial provision since 1985 and we continue to do so. He has always been good for His Word and He has never short-changed us. If the Lord leads you to join our prayer and financial support team, or increase your giving, we would be very grateful. We do not plan to retire soon and are asking the Lord for His guidance for our next steps in global missions. Pray with us please.

Action International Ministries

Online giving: www.actioninternational.org/anderson

NOTE: If you would like to receive our monthly email prayer letters or stop receiving our quarterly hard-copy letters in the mail, please contact Mary Ann at the email address below and she will make the change.

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 or maryann.anderson@actionintl.org.

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