

## MAKING PATHS STRAIGHT

**GEORGE, A YOUNG** boy in the Philippines, experienced many trials, but Jesus provided him with stability and community. He made his paths straight. Here is George's story:

I was born in a home filled with bickering between my parents. Eventually, my mother left home to live with another man. My father was barely able to make a living as a carpenter and recycler. It was a constant struggle.

At the age of nine, my brothers and I were put into a home for indigent children. Although it was a sad time, I excelled in school and won many awards. Sadly, however, after a few years, the program was closed, and I returned home. Everything appeared hopeless, until ACTION's Honest Hands' Home allowed me to enter.

At the Honest Hands, I went through a nine-month program that teaches Bible, Christian values, and personality development. It was a good challenge for me. I experienced growth, I excelled in my studies in computer technology, and ultimately, I graduated from high



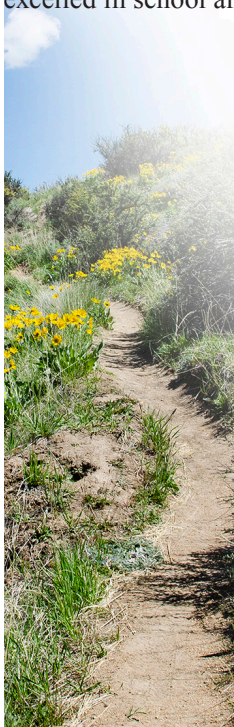
Honest Hands Discipleship Home Disciples

school. My next step was to enter ACTION's Working Hands vocational training program. When I was 18, I completed my studies and wondered what my next step would be.

I prayed, and God did not let me down. Yet another ACTION program enabled me to increase my expertise in computer system servicing. The year 2018 was a wonderful year of learning, graduating, and finding a job. This past year, however, due to the pandemic, I lost my job. But I have hope that the Lord will continue to guide me, as He promised in Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV): "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." I am trusting God.

For further information about ACTION's Philippine ministry, please contact to [office@actionphilippines.org](mailto:office@actionphilippines.org).

*Name was changed.*



# The Sunday School Movement

**WHEN YOU THINK** of Sunday school, you probably think about the hour before church when the tenets of the Christian faith are taught. But this hasn't always been the case.

Robert Raikes, a newspaper publisher in England who lived between 1736 and 1811, felt sorry for the poor children who lived in the slums. The Lord gave him a vision to develop a faith-based educational program that would teach not only Biblical values, but also literacy, writing, and simple mathematics. Because of its positive impact, his program was endorsed by the economist Adam Smith (1723-1790), the philosopher Thomas Malthus (1766-1836), and the founder of Methodism, John Wesley (1703-1791). Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers who had a passion to instill Christian values, his program resulted in societal transformation. Indeed, as Raikes noted, the Sunday school movement lowered the crime rate.

Raikes repeatedly reminded his newspaper readers that "the world marches forth on the feet of small children." Soon, the Sunday school movement crossed the Atlantic and made great impact in America, as well—so much so that the prominent clergyman Henry Clay Trumbull (1830-1903) stated that "America has been practically saved to Christianity and the religion of the Bible by the Sunday-school."

After more than 200 years, the Sunday school movement continues to march on in ACTION's world. ACTION missionaries and workers have developed similar schools and programs in the Philippines, the goal of which is to instill in young lives the importance of Christian morals and of a solid education.

This past pandemic year has been challenging for schools worldwide, but ACTION missionaries have stepped out in faith to continue teaching children, in the hope that young lives will be changed and the community enhanced.

If you'd like more information about ACTION's educational programs, please send an email to [info@actionintl.org](mailto:info@actionintl.org).

*After ministering for many years in Colombia, Phil and Mariela Legal now minister to needy people on the U.S./ Mexico border*



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