



Dear Praying Friends,

I want to send this prayer letter to you before Mary Ann and I leave on the 6am Northwest flight for Minnesota on Tuesday. We ask your prayer as we prepare to go in the next few hours, wrap up projects and for safe travel. The purpose of this trip is primarily Micah Ann and Danny Scott's wedding January 9 on Whidbey Island in Washington. However we look forward to seeing our son Amos who will fly to Minnesota from LA for Christmas and Mary Ann's and my family who are all in Minnesota. The 31st we will then go to Seattle to help with wedding preparations. I really want to give Mary Ann a double thumbs up for the way she has assisted Micah and Danny with wedding details from here via the internet, our vonage phone and email. It has been difficult for her to not be there personally but she understands this is part of the life of a missionary and she has served everybody well. Say a prayer for her as we move closer to the wedding. I am honored to have been asked by Danny and Micah to be the Officiating Minister and we are pleased that Nelson Reed will give the message during the ceremony. Many from the ACTION USA office, including Doug Nichols, have stepped up and offered assistance in many ways so we are thankful for the family spirit that exists within ACTION which is why we joined the mission in '84.

Below you will find ministry updates for your informed prayer and rejoicing that our great God answers prayer so we request more.

1. UK Trip

I was in England for a 3-day meeting with the 180° Global Alliance steering committee and a few guests. We think we accomplished much in a short time and by God's grace worked through a few sticking points as we evaluated what has taken place since '05 and determined God's will as we move forward together in serving the street children of the world. There is **much** work to do but by God's grace we are determined to forge ahead in ministering to street kids both near and far.

2. Evangelistic Christmas Parties

Parties for street children and their families, prisoners and the rural poor have been going full speed since December 5 and will continue through the month. We haven't been able to sit down yet and evaluate but we will when we get back to the office in January. But what I can tell you is the Gospel is being preached, people are coming to Christ as Savior, church and agency workers are working hard and everybody is having a good time. Keep praying please and thank you for giving.

3. Flood Relief

As we have been doing Evangelistic Christmas parties, we have also been coordinating and doing a lot of relief work for flood victims. Last Tuesday in a temporary tent city we had a large medical clinic, relief goods distribution, personal counseling and evangelistic film showing in the evening. The conditions were crowded, the sun beat down on us and it was very dusty. People are sick with colds, coughs, skin problems, malnourishment, diarrhea, and various other ailments but we were able to treat everybody who was on a master list given to us. It was a long, hot, tiring day but people were helped in the name of Christ.

Thursday we went back to the same area and had a Christmas party for the **many** children as well as another relief giving. The condition again was very hot, over-crowded, unsanitary and we

were actually mobbed because the people became very aggressive and unruly. So we needed to gather all our stuff and take a strategic retreat into town for a few hours in order to rest, redevelop our plan and allow the tent-city dwellers to settle down. We were concerned that little children would be hurt in the press of the crowd which was a very real possibility and thankfully none were. When we returned we set up a perimeter around the relief goods, stationed security people and the relief operation was accomplished. The day simply revealed the desperation these dear people feel as they have lost loved ones, homes, livelihoods and possibly hope for the future because very little is being explained to them about what their future holds by officials. We were able to establish ourselves for future Bible studies, which some have requested, to be held by a partnering nearby church and we'll look into the possibility of having a 6 month feeding program for select kids.

Throughout the day I was thinking it is extremely difficult sometimes to do good but we do it anyway because we want to help needy people in the name of Christ. It was clear to everyone that He is why we were there and will go back.

4. Updated website

Mary Ann has spent several hours updating our website and uploading photos of the previous two items so if you would like to read reports and see photos log onto <http://www.jeffmaryann.com>.

5. Mary Ann's Moody Bible Institute Studies

As you may recall Mary Ann is studying at MBI working on her Bible Certificate so she continues faithfully plugging away with her reading and writing assignments. Her current classes are Christian Life and Ethics and Personal Discipleship so while we're in Minnesota she'll carve out time for reading her textbooks. I might also add that today she finished reading her entire Bible this year which she has been doing for the past several years. It is such a joy to me to see her in her corner at 4am diligently reading God's Word and I can testify as to how the Word is causing her to be more like Christ.

6. On the road again in February/March

The other day we bought tickets for another trip to Minnesota February 19 to March 4. The reason for this trip is an open-house wedding reception that we will be hosting for Danny and Micah on February 27, 1-4pm at First Baptist Church in Anoka. Those of you in the area you are welcome to attend so just let us know if you can come. You can read the details and RSVP at this website: <http://www.jeffmaryann.com/dannyandmicah/>

February 21 and 28 we are available to minister in a church so contact us if you are interested in us speaking in a Sunday school class or preaching. We are glad to serve as called upon. March 4 Mary Ann and I leave for Sao Paulo, Brazil for the '10 ACTION International Council meetings which are the 8th-12th. I will represent the Philippines and also serve as Secretary along with being the Associate International Director. Mary Ann will take the minutes and present a working paper on ACTION's over-all strategic plan in mobilizing short termers for global missions. Even though we have purchased these tickets which cost \$2000+ each, we would very much appreciate if you would prayerfully consider helping us with this expense. We're also trusting the Lord for our on the ground expenses of roughly \$600 each. If the Lord would lead you to give a gift toward this, send it to the ACTION office nearest you and designated for the Anderson's IC Expenses.

Since Danny serves as the assistant to Nelson Reed, ACTION's International Director, he and Micah will also be attending these meetings so pray for them as well as they trust the Lord for their financial needs. They are both career ACTION missionaries and for perhaps the next year after they are married they will remain working in the ACTION International Office and seeking the Lord for His assignment somewhere on an ACTION field.

7. Our Wedding Anniversary

Tomorrow, December 21, is our 30th wedding anniversary and all of those years we have served together in full-time ministry--8 years with Midwest Challenge in Minneapolis and 24 in Manila. Looking back over all the ups and downs in life and ministry together, we can absolutely, without doubt testify to God's provision and grace as we have served Him together. Because we can say this, we can trust Him for future grace as we carry on with our life together serving the Lord. Below is a covenant we wrote in 1985 just before we launched out to Manila. We included it on our very first prayer card and it is still alive and binding today so we share it with you.

Our Covenant to our beloved friends, family, teammates and supporters, We, Jeffrey Scott and Mary Ann Anderson, covenant before God, in the presence of His people, that we, together as a couple, will:

- ◆ be faithful to our Lord, love Him and obey His will for us;
- ◆ be committed to the inerrancy and authority of God's Word which is relevant to every culture;
- ◆ work toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission;
- ◆ love people and uphold justice, without being partial to the poor or deferring to the great;
- ◆ be faithful to and love each other and be loyal to our marriage covenant;
- ◆ be faithful to love and nurture our children in the admonition and character of the Lord;
- ◆ be trustworthy stewards of our finances and resources;
- ◆ be harmonious and not cause dissension among ourselves or others;
- ◆ be faithful to our supporters and sending team and maintain integrity and accuracy in our reporting of the Lord's work on the field and in our lives;
- ◆ be loyal, submissive and accountable to our mission (ACTION) and sending church (Grace Church) for as long as we mutually agree this is God's calling for us;
- ◆ seek counsel, forgiveness and restoration with our mission leaders, church leaders and/or supporters if we fail, or are seriously tempted to fail any part of this covenant.

It is by God's grace and with His power that we will fulfill our covenant, knowing that this will please Him and bring glory to His name. (Psalm 116:14)

Jeffrey Scott Anderson and Mary Ann Anderson
September 1985

Closing

Over the past several days I have been reading over and over Paul's heart-felt expression to the young believers in Thessalonica in 1 Thess. 1:2-4 as he recalls his mission work among them. It reads in the NIV, "We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers

[sisters implied] loved by God, that he has chosen you," We see Paul's common triad of faith, love and hope so as I remember this year and think about you as well as those we work with, Paul's words definitely express how I feel today.

Sincerely in Christ and Merry Christmas and a Prosperous God-centered New Year to each of you,

Jeff

"Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts."
--Is 26:8 NIV

Jeff and Mary Ann Anderson, Action International Ministries
Email addresses: jeff@actionintl.org or maryann@actionintl.org
Our web blog: <http://www.jeffmaryann.com>
ACTION Philippine website: <http://www.actionphilippines.org>

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ACTION USA • PO Box 398, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398 • Tel. 425.775.4800 • info@actionusa.org

ACTION Canada • 3015A 21 Street NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7T1 • Tel. 403.204.1421 • info@actioncanada.net

ACTION New Zealand • PO Box 8928, Riccarton, Christchurch • Tel. 011.643.341.0933 •

rob@brighthopeworld.com

ACTION Philippines • PO Box 110, Greenhills Post Office, 1502 Metro Manila • Tel: 632.531.3709 •

take.action@actionintl.org

ACTION United Kingdom • PO Box 144, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 5WE • Tel. 011.151.630.2451 •

actionuk@btinternet.com • Registered Charity 1058661