



August 1, 2009

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings from Minnesota. Mary Ann and I arrived here July 15 and have been taking care of several personal appointments as well as enjoying our time with family, friends, Amos and Micah. Thank you to many of you who helped provide funds to make this trip possible and for your prayers. The following are several ministry and family updates for your continued, informed prayer.

1. Amos' job search:

Amos has been in Minnesota since July 10 and returns to LA August 4. It has been great being with him and we are learning a lot from him. He is definitely an "out-of-the-box" thinker by nature and training. We're learning to make fewer assumptions and search out the facts. Good stuff!!! Amos continues seeking the Lord and His direction for his next step and he very much appreciates everyone's prayer. We continue to thank God for Trinity Baptist Church in Pasadena for their ministry to him and his friends over the years.

2. Micah's return from Iraq:

After many delays, Micah's unit C Company 2-211th Medevac arrived at Holman Field in St. Paul Monday afternoon and was enthusiastically and patriotically greeted by families, friends, dignitaries and rear-detachment soldiers. The Minnesota State Patrol and the St. Paul Police Department escorted their buses to the Field with many flags flying high. After a short ceremony we got Micah, loaded her bags in the car and brought her home for a great meal together. During the drive home we thanked God for His protection over her and all the men and women of their unit. Micah has been catching up on sleep, sorting out her gear and we've been talking much about her deployment and future with ACTION. In mid-August Micah and Mary Ann will drive to the ACTION USA office in Micah's Chevrolet Aveo and they would appreciate prayer for their drive. They will participate in a 2 day planning session regarding ACTION's short-term missions program. Mary Ann returns to Manila the 21st and Micah will stay on to volunteer at the office and go through orientation in September. Danny Scott from ACTION's International Office came to Minnesota to help us welcome her home. You can see photos at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/ACTIONPhil/MicahReturns#>

3. June 5 Musical Drama on YouTube:

Adam Hussey, our team's videographer, has now uploaded his video of our street children musical drama on YouTube which you can see at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QHctnTeODE&feature=related>. It

is in 5 segments. Adam has done a great job so check it out and continue praying for these young people as they grow in the Lord and the workers serving them. As I said before, the Lord is literally transforming lives before our eyes and we watch amazed at His power and glory.

4. Feed My Starving Children Update:

I received word that the 10 boxes (mentioned previously) of FMSC food arrived in good shape at the Manila office this week so the team is now developing the distribution list. Over the last few days Mary Ann and I have had several discussions with different people about how to ramp up the packing and sending of more food to us in Manila so we are very pleased as to how this is developing. If for no other reason other than seeing Amos and Micah again, these developments have made the trip well worthwhile. We continue to thank God for Pastor Ernie Gafkjen and the seniors at Rochester Assembly of God Church and the seniors at Grace Church Eden Prairie who are also looking into ways to help.

5. Camping Update:

The July 21-24 camp had 55 rough and tumble older street boys and girls who are now being followed up by the eight churches and two agencies that recruited them. This is where the tough work begins so pray that churches will open their front door and arms to their campers and kids who have special needs and want to get off the streets can get into residential centers that are available to help them.

The August 4-7 Bicol Camp has been postponed due to bad weather and the nearby Mayon Volcano which is showing signs of erupting. Lord willing this camp will be rescheduled for later in the year.

The August 18-21 camp is now being organized which will be held at Camp Jabez like the July camp. Pray as we organize workers, raise funds and recruit campers from the streets and slums of Metro Manila.

* I received word this week that a camper from our May camp in Marinduque will be entering one of our partner agency's program in Manila soon. During the camp it was learned that this young girl was being physically abused by family members and we were able to get the local Department of Social Welfare and Development involved so they are working out the transfer of this child to the center with Manila-based social workers from our network. This is why we network and how it is supposed to work.

6. First Baptist Church, Anoka, MN:

August 2nd will be a busy day at First Baptist Church of Anoka. I will be giving a greeting in both the 8:30 and 11:00 services and will be teaching in a combined Sunday School class between services along with showing our new Children In Crisis Video. In the evening at the 6:00 service, Mary Ann and I will be speaking along with Amos and Micah giving a greeting followed by a reception. If you are in the area it would be great to see you there. We thank God as to how the Lord of the Harvest is mobilizing this church in worldwide missions.

7. Return to Manila:

I return to Manila August 7, arriving late in the evening on the 8th. I have much to do when I get back so I am glad for this break and change of routine. Mary Ann returns August 21 from Seattle, arriving the 22nd. So pray for us as we will be apart for two weeks carrying out our respective responsibilities. Micah leaves for Manila October 7 from Seattle and will be serving as a missionary with us for several weeks as she is seeking the Lord on His assignment somewhere with ACTION.

Closing:

I thank God for good books and my Bible. I thank God for the ability to read and by His grace, somewhat comprehend what I'm reading. It is so important to not become stagnant or stuck in mental ruts. The other day I finished a rich study of the hope-filled book of 2 Peter and started studying the life-giving book of 1 John. I am saving a new book called "Tears in the Darkness the Story of the Bataan Death March and its Aftermath" by Michael and Elizabeth Norman for my ride back to Manila. This is a fresh look at this historic event and how it has shaped the lives and nations of many Americans, Filipinos and Japanese over the years. Yesterday I read 1 John 2:17 which says "the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever" NASB. Friends, we live out our Christian lives and share the Gospel in the real world even though we are not of it. That is why it is so important to keep our minds and hearts fresh but not corrupted by reading good books and especially our Bible.

Sincerely in Christ your walking partner with the Lord,

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

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