



June 26, 2010

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings from Manila and a *big* thank you for your prayers, sacrificial giving and letters of encouragement as we continue to move forward in our ministries to street children, out-of-school youth, victims of Manila's great flood in September '09 and providing leadership for the ACTION Philippine's team. We are totally dependent on the Lord for strength and material provision which He supplies through His people both here and around the world. There is much to report so I'll get right to it.

1. New Field Director selected

Mike Gingerich, an 11-year veteran with ACTION Philippines, was approved by the ACTION Philippine Board on June 4 to be my successor as Field Director. My last day is July 31 so Mike will assume these responsibilities August 1. July 16 at our annual team picnic we will have a "turning over of the shepherd's staff" ceremony which I trust will be meaningful for the team. Pray for Mike, his wife Cindy, Mary Ann and I as we are going through this transition together. As a reminder, Mary Ann will also be stepping down from her Human Resource Coordinator position with July 31 as her last day. She and Carl Loewen, her successor, are also working through their transition. Our office recently hired Pastor Rey Velasquez, a certified CPA, to work in our business office three days a week so our administration team is going through many changes but we are confident in the Lord's leading as we work through them.

2. June 22-25 Evangelistic Street Children Camp

This week we had 57 street children and out of school youth at our evangelistic camp and many indicated turning from sin and trusting Christ as Savior. Fourteen of the campers are girls and all of them are in abusive situations or are vulnerable to being abused so they are in need of immediate attention by our social workers and counsellors who recruited them for camp. The theme for camp was "My Life is for Christ." We had 8 churches and one agency participate and I am extremely pleased with the messages given by the pastors who preached the Word with clarity, conviction and love. The counsellors from the churches were very caring, spent lots of time with the kids in Bible study, sharing and praying sessions and leading their campers in several fun learning activities. I am continually amazed, even after all the years I've worked with street kids, how they have a great time at camp playing, laughing and making new friends even though their daily lives are about survival. I estimate we consumed nearly 300 pounds of rice, lots of veggies, fruit, chicken, fish and snacks so I think the kids have hollow legs! Even though our budget is extremely tight, I will not skimp on providing good food to these kids who are accustomed to looking through dumpsters and dump sites for food. It is our goal to feed the kids well, whom the Lord puts into our care, with the Word of God and physical food.

* Just before camp a friend whose business produces snack foods gave us several boxes of delicious cookies which we ate at camp. Another organization gave us several bottles of water. Another friend gave us 100 Bibles and the medicines we used at our clinic were provided by a church. So we are amazed at the Lord's timely and generous provisions.

3. July 6-9 Evangelistic Street Children Camp

Monday our team, along with participating churches and agencies, will have our final orientation for our July camp which will have the theme "True Love Waits" and we'll use that organization's material. I'm pleased to say that the \$2500 needed for this camp are now in hand so we thank the Lord for His provision and you for your prayers.

Yesterday I received word that a supporting church in Minnesota raised \$2500 at their last week's Daily Vacation Bible School for our camping ministry so this will cover our August 10-13 street children camp. Praise God!

4. Honest Hands Boot Camps

This week Honest Hands, our life skills discipleship program for former street boys and school drop outs had 11 boys at their camp and they all dropped by our camp Wednesday to swim and join us for lunch so it was great meeting their campers, some of whom I know from our previous camps. Carl Loewen and his team will now choose 10 boys to enter their next 10 month class which opens in July so pray that the Lord will give them wisdom as they now select the students for their next batch.

5. Update on typhoon Ondoy relief and development projects

Even though Manila's great flood was last September, many communities are still feeling the severe affects of this catastrophic event. Today we launched a 6 month, 3 times a week nutritional feeding for 80 severely malnourished 2-5 year olds from a community that was literally washed out. We are working in cooperation with local community leaders as well as health officials and Blessed Hope Community Church will provide Bible studies for everyone involved. Today the community leadership genuinely expressed their appreciation to me and ACTION for our concern for their people. Pray that through providing nutritious food and health care to needy children that this will open up a way for the gospel and that many adults and kids will come to faith in Christ and a church will be started.

This week we also provided funds to Pastor Ismael Quiambao of Glorious Christian Mission Church who will oversee the building of a home for a young widow with 4 little kids and for an old feeble woman who lives alone with no support. Their area was also severely affected by the great flood and these two women were selected by us and Pastor Ismael for homes because they are very vulnerable and need immediate help as rainy season is now upon us.

Next week we will be buying an estimated \$13,000 worth of school supplies for over 200 children whose families were severely affected by the great flood. Last year schools made allowance for their students who lost everything so they could continue with the school year. But this year their required uniforms, shoes, various school supplies and back packs are needed but the families cannot afford to buy them for their kids so we will provide them. We are working

with a large network of churches in providing these items with the distribution being July 1-2 and the pastors are *extremely* grateful as this is a great help to their shepherding ministry in their communities.

** Even though I am phasing out of the field director position you can see that I remain very busy in ministry to street children and their families as well as disaster relief and development. There is no shortage of work and I need to give my full attention to it.

6. Provisional approval for 20' container of Feed My Starving Children food

Last week Mary Ann and I received word from the FMSC office in Minnesota that they have provisionally approved us to receive a 20' container of food for which we are extremely grateful, however, there is much to do before we can receive a container. We need to raise around \$5000, find a secure warehouse and the various levels of required paperwork need to be completed in order for it to be tax free. At this point we are no longer receiving food from FMSC because they will not allow it to be shipped by boxes like we were receiving them before. Pray, pray, pray that we can get this done because there are way too many malnourished children and hurting families to give up!! We continue to receive requests for help in providing nutritious food for needy kids from pastors. Even at this week's camp we struggled with our food budget because food prices are increasing. So we are in a dilemma.

7. Jacki & Lori Rouleau

The daughters of Mary Ann's sister Janna Rouleau are spending 7 weeks with us to learn more about missions and to learn ways in which the Lord can use them. They arrived June 10 and have been doing quite well with adjusting. They worked at camp last week and will be involved in several ministries in their remaining weeks. It was very encouraging to see how their church, family and friends got behind them and have fully supported their missions trip. Pray for them as they grow in the Lord and God continues to work in their lives. Pray also that they will be a blessing to those they are ministering among.

8. New Philippine president installed June 30

Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III will be installed as the Philippines next president June 30. He is the son of Benigno who was assassinated in August 1983 when he returned from self-exile in Boston and Corazon who later became president. Noynoy, as he is affectionately nicknamed, is facing many problems but primarily he needs to solve the widening and deepening poverty and deal with graft and corruption in the government. His work is cut out for him and now he has to make good on his promises. Pray for him and the Philippines.

Closing

After our June 4 Board meeting, a member pulled me aside and really pressed me as to why I am stepping down from the Field Director position. He said, "You're at the top, why are you stepping down? Most people want to move up to higher positions. Are you moving to an international level?" I responded by saying "I don't see this as moving down, I see it as moving over to give way to Mike as our next leader and for Mary Ann and I to follow our clear call to work with the poor. He still seemed befuddled but he accepted my reasoning which seemed very foreign to him because he comes from the corporate world. I'm studying the book of Galatians and chapter 1:3-4 have been a real blessing to me in which Paul says, "Grace to you and peace

from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father." NASB Jesus came down from Glory voluntarily to give Himself as the ransom payment for our sins but also in obedience to the will of God the Father. This truth has very encouraging and reaffirmed many times the direction the Lord is leading Mary Ann and me. Thank you for everything.

Sincerely in Christ, your servant,

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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