



MUSTARD SEED DISCIPLESHIP VOCATIONAL PROGRAM
ACTION International Ministries, Philippines

Prayer Update: November 9 to 15, 2009

Last Week's Over View:

It was actually a very quiet week! I was thankful for that. The girls worked well in all their classes. In their math review class, all students received 100% on their timed multiplication quizzes. A cause to celebrate.

Monday:

Every two weeks all the MS staff meet for staff meeting. This week our main focus was the upcoming graduation: the décor, the invitations, the food, the program, the fashion show, etc. Though after three grads, it still takes some planning. The girls are putting together their invite list.

PRAY: that all preparations will come together for graduation.

Friday:

This batch we tried something new! An elder from one of our sending churches offered many months ago to do a seminar for our students about Starting A Business. This is his background. So we took him up on his offer. It was a good presentation and the students were appreciative of the information given. We even had 4 of our graduates join. It was a crowded dorm living room with 18 people for lunch but it was fun.

PRAY: that some of our students and grads will use the information presented.

Saturday:

When talking with our discipleship teacher, Leilani, I learned that another of our grads may be having trouble in her life. Leilani and I will be meeting with her this Wednesday to get the details of what is up in her life. Pray that it is not serious.

This Week: Wednesday:

It is our monthly birthday lunch this week on Wed. Grace is the last of our staff and students to celebrate her birthday while in Mustard Seed. It is always a fun time when we celebrate birthdays.

Prayer Update: November 16 to 30, 2009

Wow, where did the last week go? Getting ready for graduation has been our focus and other things seem to slip through the cracks. But even if you didn't hear from us, thank you for your prayers.

Nov 18th: We celebrated our last Birthday Lunch of the group. I do love these celebrations, being able to acknowledge the anniversary of a student's birth, thanking God for her life so far and praying for her future.

Nov 18th: Days are not only filled with celebration but tough things as well. Our discipleship teacher, Leilani, and I met with a former student to ask about some stories we heard of her involvement again with the father of her child. He has been a 'terrible jerk' and Lei and I were concerned. She was able to share what was really going on with her and we were able to share our concerns. She is not back with the 'TJ'. Our meeting finished with prayer.

Nov 20th: This Friday was our regular monthly ACTION Philippine Team meeting in Manila. It is always a good time to connect with other ACTION missionaries who work throughout the country. Our team leader shares a devotion, we have a time of worship, testimonies of those returning or leaving the field are shared, updates for the team given and then we spend the bulk of our meeting in prayer for each other. Amazing what we accomplish in two hours! We were home by 3 pm.

Nov 20th: The Recruitment package for Mustard Seed Batch 5 is ready and we began to distribute them to churches, fellow missionaries, organizations, etc. A number were given out at the team meeting.

PRAY: for many contacts, and many applicants. Recruitment begins in January 2010

Nov 23rd: Today was our regular staff meeting for MS staff. We meet twice a month to review concerns, share joys, pray for students and staff and share program updates. It is always a wonderful time for me because I get to meet all together with the women I work with. They are a fabulous group.

PRAY: as we work together to tweak our program for the next batch. Always for the glory of God!

Nov 25th: Our outing to the Taytay Fabric market. Well, what can I say; lots of fabric, lots of great deals, lots of fun, and SO hot!!! The stores line the sides of road and two alleyways in the town of Taytay. So no aircon as we walked the stalls. As we were leaving though, there was a rain shower which cooled off the air and the trip home!!

Nov 26th: Our last movie time together. We watched the 2nd half of Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe with the girls. We have been focusing on preparing for the future and I find this movie a good example for the work of the enemy and the restoring power of Jesus Christ. Lots of discussion followed the movie.

PRAY: that our students will keep focused on the word of God in the days, months and years following their grad.

Nov 29th: It is always a treat for me when I receive a text message from a student, but it is an absolute joy to reconnect with a student not heard from for a long while. Today I received a message from Malou, who left the program at the end of term 2. Apparently she is doing well. Now that I have her number, we will keep in contact!!

PRAY: that Malou is still walking closely with the Lord.

Nov 30th: Yesterday was a long one for me. It was the second time that I served as Judge for the Church of the Nazarene Youth Literary and Music day. I was a judge for the music part. Seven churches participated. We listened to Solo, Duet, Choir, Song Composition, Tambourine Group, Song Interpretation, and Battle of the Bands. It was held in a small church building so the sound was LOUD. Most of the time I had fingers in my ears and was still able to hear quite well. From 1 pm to 7:30 pm it was a time of music and youth, and though I'm sure that I lost a few nerve endings in my ears, I had a good time. All groups have really worked hard since the last Music Day last year. I was able to encourage them in this.

So, this week is Evaluation Week. The students are old hands at this but I'm sure there is still some nervousness. Next week is Grad Week, culminating in graduation on Saturday morning. We thank you for your continued prayers.

Our newsletter should be in mailboxes in the next couple of weeks. It contains an update of our goals and needs for the next batch of Mustard Seed.

This Christmas:

Just to let you know, we will be sending out a Mustard Seed Christmas card very soon. Included is a photo of all of us! We hope that you like it!!

Again I thank you from all of us for your prayers.

God bless you richly for your faithfulness to us.

Blessings,

Barbara Burchert
Program Director

If you would like to give you can make checks payable to Action International Ministries, P. O. Box 398 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398 or 3015 A 21st Street NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7T1, Canada. Note that your check is for support of Barbara Burchert.