



## **MUSTARD SEED DISCIPLESHIP VOCATIONAL PROGRAM**

ACTION International Ministries, Philippines

February 2010

*Prayer Update: February 15, 2010*

The weather is definitely changing. The temperature continues to climb degree by degree as we approach our summer months. I was outside this morning watering my small garden. The heat and wind keep it dried out most of the time. The avocado tree just outside my front door is loaded with tiny avocados which should be, I hope, ready in June or July. Last year there weren't any, this year we are hoping to have a guacamole party!

**Mustard Seed Recruitment Continues:** We begin today our last week of scheduled recruitment. Over the weekend, a young woman who is still in high school came to the house for her testing. Next week the two dorm moms and I travel to the island of Mindoro to do recruiting there. It is a two and a half hour boat ride there and it is the first time going there for all of us. Because of the distance and expense of the trip, we have arranged with a local church to host any students over the weekends when they are in Mustard Seed.

PRAISE: we have had a few more ladies come, and we have a few more to do.

PRAY: for a safe journey there and back from Mindoro.

PRAY: that God will show us who, if any, should come from Mindoro.

**Our New Social Worker:** Jane is settling in quite well. She has gone through our files, been involved with the recruitment of students, and has made suggestions to help us be more compliant with the DSWD regulations.

PRAISE: thank you God, for this blessing to our program

**Tests for Me:** I am back to the dr today to have the stitches removed from my arms. Both areas have healed well. I am hoping that the results are back now so we can make plans how to continue or have a time of celebration if all goes well.

PRAY: that the results will be negative, and wisdom for the doctor how to proceed if the results are not.

**Olympic Opening:** Last Saturday we saw the entire opening ceremonies for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. I was amazed and overwhelmed throughout the entire show. I was truly proud to be a

Canadian. We were hoping for a bit more coverage over the next two weeks but for a local channel, we are getting a lot!

**Mission X team:** Carl and Lisa Loewen, missionaries here, hosted a team of 12 students and 1 leader for three weeks from Steinbach Bible College in Manitoba. In their time here, they each stayed with a Filipino family, worked either on campus or at a local Christian school and learned to travel public, eat Filipino food and use a few phrases in Tagalog. It was really great to have on campus these energetic young people who love the Lord and are seeking His will for the future. Most will be graduating this year.

**PRAY:** for God's leading in each of their lives as they head into His future plans for them.

**Mustard Seed Recruitment:** Most of our recruiting time has been waiting. In our first three weeks, 5 young women have come to apply for our next batch. We were hoping that by this time we would have a few more wanting to come.

We have learned in our years with MS that families are more willing to let the guys come to school than the ladies. We have heard this story many times. This could be part of the reason we **haven't** seen too many come.

Another reason could be that everyone waits until the last minute to apply. We have two weeks left in our application process so we could be overwhelmed with applicants this week and next!

**PRAISE:** for those who have applied

**PRAY:** that we will have more applicants come

**Answered Prayer!!!:** Just 1 ½ weeks ago, I received an email from a young woman who was applying for the position of Social Worker with Mustard Seed. I was excited and called her in for an interview. She told me that she saw the posting for the position at a place that I did not post. There **wasn't a contact number for me nor details of the job listed with the posting. The listing did say that it was with ACTION.** So, she found our web site, looked me up, found my email address and contacted me. I gave her 10 points before I even talked with her.

I interviewed her and she had an interview with our Social Worker at the ACTION office. As I write this to you I am waiting for her to come on her first day of work with us. I thank God for bringing her to us. Her name is Jane.

**PRAISE:** for answered prayer

**PRAY:** for Jane as she settles into her work with us

**Tests for Me:** Last week I was in the operating room at the De La Salle University Hospital for biopsies on two areas of my skin. I now have a row of stitches on my lower left arm and my upper right arm. Both are concerns for skin cancer.

**The dermatologist informed me that it would be about two weeks for the results to come back. I'm a little nervous but glad that I had it done. I will let you know what the results are when I hear.**

PRAY: that both are benign, and for wisdom for the dr if they are not.

PRAY: that I will just relax!!!

**OJT Continues:** We have four students in On The Job training placements in two shops in Silang. All are still doing well. It is a joy for us as this is the first time that so many have chosen to do an OJT experience. Both shop owners are pleased with the preparation that our students have received. We are pleased with the training that our students are receiving!!

PRAY: for Jane, Grace, Ailyn and Shirley

**The days go quickly:** We are approaching the middle of February. Amazing. Our start date for Batch 5 is April 5, 2010. We are ready for the arrival of our next group of students. Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and encouragement that you give to us here. We cannot do what we are doing without your partnership with us.

Thank you for your prayers for us. A speaker at my church said just recently that the Principle of Prayer is, One more is always better.

God bless you!

Barbara Burchert

Program Director, Mustard Seed

**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.**