



**June 15, 2009**

**Mustard Seed Discipleship Vocational Program  
ACTION International Ministries  
Philippines**

Dear praying friend...

Well, it's ANOTHER rainy wet day here in the Philippines. As usual, with the start of another school year comes the wet days of rainy season. School began on June 1 for public elementary and high school students, June 8 for private elementary and high school students, and yesterday for all college students.

The stores have been busy with moms and kids purchasing school supplies and uniforms for the new year. I love the smell of paper products, note books, pencils and the like!

Mustard Seed is represented at the college level with 4 students enrolled now in a college program. Krista from Batch 1 began her year 4 social work yesterday. She has also been sitting in on Review Classes for the BIG social work certification exam that comes after year 4.

Pam has begun year 3 Christian Education at our local Bible school, PMI. Pam was a member of Batch 2.

Maris is back at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary also in year 3 Christian Education. She was a member of batch 3.

This year Glecya, a graduate last April 2008 from Mustard Seed, began her first year at PMI.

All of these students are sponsored in their studies.

So what else has been going on with us here? It has been a busy time.

**Communication:**

The DSL connection is working well. Email are sent and received quickly which I am grateful for!!!

### **Status of Mustard Seed:**

We are now in the middle of term 2, which is so very hard to believe. The girls continue to forge ahead in their studies even with hurdles in their way.

This batch brought with them many issues that have not yet been worked through. Discipleship is like that; working through the past, letting the grace and love of Christ open and clean out locked places in our hearts and minds. It is a rough process at times, but we go into it knowing that God has already won by what He did through His Son for us on the cross. We pray that our students will hang in there and let God complete the process in their lives.

Three of our students were found out to be lying to us and their families, not following the rules, forging signatures on forms and hiding cell phones to text after lights out to boyfriends and others. It took three days of talking with students, families and others to piece it all together. It times it got worse and worse until it all came out and confession made. It made for some very long hours.

But we are seeing some changes in each life. Each knows that trust was broken and trust needs to be rebuilt. Please pray for Shirley, Jane and Princess.

### **God's Amazing Provision in an Awful Accident!**

Last month, I arrived late at the dorm on a Monday morning. Not usual for me. Gigi, one of our former students, arrived with her daughter. Gigi's sister, Gail, was in an tricycle accident. Gigi, me and our dorm mom, Mervi, headed out to the town where the accident occurred. In the course of the day, we saw God work amazing things in this situation, including providing an ambulance where one was not available.

Three days later, and after a second CT scan showed that her brain was clear, Gail went home. A week later, she had a follow up check up with the neurosurgeon and was given the OK. No further treatment needed or medicine needed! Thank you for all your prayers in this situation!!!

### **36 Hours Awake-Another Medical Story:**

Two weekends ago our short term missionary, Erin, was away from campus when severe pain hit in her stomach/intestines. I was able to fetch her from where she was and about an hour later we were on the way to the hospital. The suspicion was appendicitis but the test results were not conclusive. We more ACTION staff in Manila, we made the decision to transfer her to a hospital in Manila. The transfer was made at midnight with our arrival at Makati Med around 1:30 AM. Later in the morning we met with a surgeon, she had a CT scan and the diagnosis of Diverticulitus was made. I left the hospital around 3 pm Sunday afternoon. Erin spent three more days at the hospital and returned here last Wednesday. She is doing much better. Pray for her complete recovery!

### **My Vehicle: The Continuing Story:**

Along with everything else, my vehicle spent much time in the shop in the last month, having the front wheel bearing fixed, all the belts replaced, the window up/down mechanism replaced, and other minor problems addressed. Today, it's the starter. The car won't go. I think I have spent more time at the Toyota dealership than at my house. Replacing the vehicle will be expensive as I need a vehicle that will transport Mustard Seed but to keep putting money into to repair it is not good either. Please pray for wisdom for me as to what to do.

### **Mid Program Break:**

In four weeks we will have had our next Evaluation Week and will be taking a one week break in the program. I know that I am looking forward to the time off. Pray for the students as they prepare for the exams. Pray that both the staff and students will have a good break!

We again thank you for your prayers for all of us. We are able to do what we are doing because of your faithful partnership with us! Thank you again. God bless you richly in all that you do.

Sincerely,

**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.