



**MUSTARD SEED DISCIPLESHIP VOCATIONAL PROGRAM**  
**ACTION International Ministries, Philippines**

**June 2010**

*Prayer Update: June 1, 2010*

If there is one word to describe the month of May that has just come to an end it is HOT!!!! It has been unusually hot weather here in the Philippines for many weeks, with little or no relief of rain. The thermometer on my screened porch has read between 95 and 104F each day. We have been told by the Weather People that rainy season will begin in late June or sometime in July. So I'm not sure just what the rumbling in the heavens is all about today!! We did get some rain early this morning. With the sun out now, it will be like a sauna by noon. Ugg.

**But we trudge on!!** – Our ten students and eight staff continue to move forward in term 1. We are enjoying the group of new students, getting to know them better each day. **Marjorie**, has a wonderful sense of humour. Unfortunately, her teasing has caused a few hurt feelings. She is learning to use her gifting but not at the expense of others. **Mona** comes from up north each Monday morning, traveling almost 5 hours to come to MS. She is focused on her studies and is one of our top seamstresses. **Judilyn** comes from Mindinao. She moved up north, was staying with family locally and is attending the church that I now call home. Three weeks ago her aunt and uncle moved the family to Manila to be closer to his work. That left Judi without a place to call home. Her church rallied behind her and she is now staying with a family close to the church. But last Sunday she arrived at my door, very homesick. She cried, I fed her lunch and she was better. She will visit with her family this weekend.

Our girls come with talents and needs. Discipleship is a daily thing, ministering to the needs of the students and loving them closer to our wonderful Lord.

**Health Concerns At the Present:** **Amelia** who was diagnosed with TB during our first week, is doing well. She will have her first followup check next week to see how the meds are doing. TB is a tough old illness. We are so glad that her case is a mild one. Please continue to pray for her.

**Amelia and Amelene**, who come from the island of Mindoro, have also been struggling with homesickness. Last week their two pastors from Mindoro were here for a church assembly and were able to visit with them for a few days. We hosted the pastors at the dorm for lunch.

We have been thankful to God that our other students have been healthy so far.

**BUT we do need prayer!:** It was discovered last week that one of our students has been cheating on her exams, using cheat sheets, peeking at note cards. The SW, our discipleship teacher and I talked with her

yesterday. She denied it most strongly, to the point of saying that the four girls who reported it said that she was cheating because they were angry with her.

Please pray for this young women, L, and pray for God's wisdom in this situation; pray that her heart will soften.

Last weekend, three former students came for a visit with me and then with Sharon our sewing teacher. They had been visiting with one of their former classmates who recently had a baby and is not married to her unbelieving boyfriend. Both Sharon and I are very concerned that these girls will follow in the footsteps of their classmate, so we both shared that we hoped that they would not choose the same path as K. Well, one of the girls returned to K's house and told her and the boyfriend what we had said, but with a twist to it. We received a very angry text message from the guy saying that their life was just fine, thank you. Please pray for Michael, Khat and their baby girl.

**Second Biopsy Results:** My test results came back negative for melanoma. Woo hoo! It took longer to find out the results as the day before my appointment with the dermatologist, she went into labor, delivering a healthy baby boy.

Please continue to pray for the healing of my arm. I hope to see the derma sometime in June.

**Additional Prayer Needed:** This is a personal request. The woman who has been taking care of me during my recovery from burnout, Doctora Ardith Tan, a wonderful cardiologist/internist, was diagnosed with stage five cancer three weeks ago. A large mass was found between her heart and lungs and had begun to grow fingers into her lungs. She underwent an 8 hour surgery last week but the drs were only able to remove ½ of the mass. They hope to deal with the rest of the mass with chemo. She is a strong Christian, and loves the Lord deeply. She and her husband have a 4 year old daughter and I know that they would appreciate your prayers for them.

Life is never dull is it? It certainly isn't here in Mustard Seed. Our first evaluation week will be here in two weeks and I know that the girls would appreciate prayer as they prepare. Thank you for your faithful prayers for the staff and students of Mustard Seed and for me personally!

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.**