



Dear praying friends,

Mary Ann and I returned to Minnesota Tuesday evening after a fruitful 3 week trip to Washington and Oregon. It is good to be "home" (sometimes that's confusing to missionaries as to where that is) and unpack our bags for awhile. Here is our monthly update for your informed prayer and involvement. Thank you again for your love, prayers, giving and fellowship in Christ.

1. Summary of road trip

- * It was great to see Danny and Micah in Spokane and drive with them to Whidbey Island. They joined us at an ACTION banquet and for the first day of ACTION's International Council meetings. They attended because Danny gave a presentation on Olive Tree Bible Software (Bible software for mobile devices). So ACTION is looking with Olive Tree as to how we can partner in providing Bible software to pastors. They enjoyed being with the ACTION missionaries again.
- * The IC meetings were productive and much was accomplished to the glory of God which will help ACTION's fields around the world.
- * Mary Ann and I ministered in 4 churches and spoke 14 times to very gracious and hungry people. I slept in 9 beds (Mary Ann in 10 because she spent one night at a ladies' retreat), had a delightful week with our son Amos, as we marveled at the spectacular scenery along the Oregon coast and had time to read, pray, think, plan and for me many early morning runs. Everywhere we went God's people personified Gaius when the Apostle John commended him for his generosity to missionaries in 3 John 5:8 (NKJV) as truly we were sent "forward on their (our) journey in a manner worthy of God." Along the way we met many "fellow workers for the truth" which was very encouraging to Mary Ann and me. We're praying for further development of our partnership with the dear brethren we've met.
- * Mary Ann and I are very pleased with Amos, Micah and Danny with their walk with the Lord, their service in their respective churches and we're thrilled that they actually like to hang out with us. What more can I say?
- * Two times during our trip we were able to spend a night with Mary Ann's niece and her husband, Alison and Gabe Franklin. What a joy and delight to spend time with them.

* Monday we had delightful fellowship with Jerry and Candis Bingham, ACTION missionaries who pioneered ministry in Gulu, Uganda among child soldiers and prostituted children. Both Jerry and Candis emphatically invited us to help them train pastors from the Congo, Sudan and Uganda in ministering to children in crisis sometime in 2012. We are now looking into this and praying for the Lord's guidance. Mary Ann has also been invited to help with member care as their ministry team is growing.

2. Update on health

Mary Ann and I had a follow up appointment with Dr. Tony Smith in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho who has been helping us get our batteries recharged. He said we're doing better than when we first met him and we do feel better. We continue to take recommended vitamins and minerals targeting our bodies' needs. My left eye is not doing so well, however. I noticed prior to our trip my vision was becoming very distorted with floating "cobwebs" and it was like looking through a brown filter. This was alarming so I saw my retina specialist the day before we were scheduled to go on the road trip and she said the treatments on the torn retina are good but the gel inside the eyeball has pulled away and is causing the vision problem. She was not alarmed but said this settling process will take many weeks which is causing much difficulty. I'm not able to drive, reading is difficult and I'm basically operating with one eye. I have another appointment May 27. Pray for the return of my normal vision and patience during this time because discouragement is always dogging me. While speaking it is a challenge because often the lighting is dim and colors are earth tones. But by God's grace I carry on. Mary Ann has been tremendously helpful and adaptable to our situation. Pray for her too. It is obvious to Mary Ann and me that our bodies are fearfully and wonderfully made by the Lord and they are to be used sacrificially for His glory in spreading the Gospel around the world. They are to be cared for but not worshiped and we thank God for the caring medical professionals we've met. Pray for finances as some of these expenses and supplements are not covered by insurance.

3. Quezon City fire relief

March 18 our disaster relief team in Manila gave relief items to 75 families who were burned out in a huge fire of which we've written about previously. These families along with others are living in a nearby park, sleeping on the bare ground with very little. We gave them basic necessities like sleeping mats, mosquito nets, cooking utensils and food. Sixty people indicated they trusted Christ as Savior and are now being followed up by our partner church. Many of the families have been given opportunities for low-cost housing in a relocation site and others are hoping to rebuild shanties in their original area of Quezon City. Thank you for praying and giving as we have written much about fire in Manila's many huge squatter communities.

4. Easter feeding

We are scheduling Easter feedings in Manila for street children and their families which will celebrate the resurrection of our blessed Savior Jesus Christ. The feedings will be in partnership

with churches in our network and are being sponsored by our long-time faithful partner, Mission-to-Children. When the body of Christ works together in unity, she is a marvelous display of God's sacrificial love. Pray that many kids and their parents will truly comprehend the significance of Christ's death and resurrection and trust Him as their personal Lord and Savior, then be joined to a local church. What a marvelous Easter celebration this is! I can't think of anything more glorious!

5. ACTION staff retreat

Last week our beloved Filipino staff enjoyed their annual retreat. Dave Majam, my dear brother and co-worker in the Lord, wrote the other day and said "Hi Kuya (big brother) Jeff, We want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to have this retreat, a time for all the staff to learn and study the Word of God together, fellowship with one another and also to be away from the traffic and smog of Metro Manila. Maraming salamat kuya (many thanks big brother)." It is our great joy to serve the Lord with our dear Filipino brothers and sisters. We have become dear friends as we serve together. I think and pray for them every day and miss them dearly. Furlough is necessary ministry and it is good to be here but at the same time, we long to be back on the front line with our fellow soldiers. This is the life of a soldier, needing r&r while at the same time wanting to be back with our "battle-buddies".

* Speaking of battle buddies, Micah Ann's 8 year contract with the Minnesota Army National Guard ended last Sunday. Staff Sergeant Anderson served well during that period with 2 deployments to Iraq and we thank her and all soldiers for their service. A huge thanks to you who have prayed for her during her service to our country and we praise the Lord for His hand of protection upon her. As you can well imagine, she has learned and experienced a lot.

6. Update on personal support and car project

As best as Mary Ann and I can determine, we're at about 80 to 90 % in our monthly pledged support and we would like to be at 100% when we return to Manila June 14. Donations are also trickling in for our \$20,000 car project (a portion of this amount goes into administration and taxes). Also because we will be doing extra travel with our new responsibilities, we will need funds for that purpose. We thank the Lord for a new church which has picked us up for monthly support and pray that when we return to Manila we will be fully supplied. Gifts can be made online, auto deduction (we can send information on how to set this up) or mailed in to the ACTION office nearest you. Gifts can be designated for the "Jeff Anderson" account as follows: General Support: 40012A; Travel Funds 40012F; or Vehicle Fund 40012G.

7. Recommended books and Mary Ann's learning's

Currently, I am reading Eric Metaxas' book "Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy" which is a great read and fresh look at the life and times of this German pastor and theologian. I highly recommend it. I am also preparing for a series of messages on Galatians which I will give June

3-5 at the All Nation's Fellowship retreat, which is a ministry of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis. For several weeks I have been working through Philip Graham Ryken's commentary on Galatians and am learning a lot about what it means to be "saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone."

Several books on our recommended reading list are:

"Loving the Church, Blessing the Nations: Pursuing the Role of Local Churches in Global Mission" by George Milley

"When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself" by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

Two books that are highly recommended for short term missionaries to read before going out are:

"Cross-Cultural Servanthood: Serving the World in Christlike Humility" by Duane Elmer (he was one of our instructors when we went through Missionary Internship Training in 1984)

"Serving with Eyes Wide Open: Doing Short-term Missions with Cultural Intelligence" by David Livermore

It has really become a major part of our conversations in recent days about the vital role of local churches in caring for their missionaries as a significant partnership in local and global missions. Mary Ann has been learning a lot about member care for missionaries since this is something that continually weighs on her heart and mind. Last month she attended a couple conferences on missionary care and she was given the book "Tender Care" written by a group of 7 authors who are currently involved in missionary care and some have been missionaries themselves. She highly recommends this book for churches who desire to provide pastoral care for their missionaries. The book is published and sold by Barnabas. <https://www.barnabas.org/book.php>

Another book we have found to be very interesting and helpful is called "Strengths Finder 2.0" by Tom Rath. This simple book along with an online assessment tool (code is given at the back of the book for the online questionnaire) has given us new perspective on our individual strengths. We met with ReachGlobal missionaries Paul and Judy Snuffer (with the Evangelical Free Church) who walked through the assessment with us and helped us evaluate how we can develop our strengths and work together more effectively. We wish everyone could get this strength assessment. My strengths were determined to be: Arranger, Achiever, Responsibility, Belief and Discipline (and we believe Activator could be included). Mary Ann's strengths are Empathy, Strategic, Adaptability, Connectedness and Belief. If you have this book, you can look up the meaning of these words. You can view some of the book on Amazon.com. If you have questions, let Mary Ann know and she can send you more information.

8. Poem we'd like to share:

Last week in Bandon, Oregon we met Susanna Scofield, a delightful young woman who wrote this poem when she was 13 and we'd like to share it with you with her permission. As you read it, pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will thrust out workers to minister to street children, release funds through His people and raise up prayer warriors. Ask the Lord what He would have you do among the world's 160 million street kids.

Street Children

by Susanna Scofield, age 13

When there is food you don't like to eat,
Think of the children who live on the street.
Food they do lack because they are poor.
Guess what they do; they hang around the store!

At just the right moment they dash to the spot,
Hoping that they might gain a whole lot.
Then off with the money that they did steal,
And off to the store to buy their next meal.

Some have no father or mother; no one seems to care.
Some are kicked out of home, because there's no food to spare.
Hungry, tired, cold, and neglected, these children are in need.
Scared, beaten, killed - no rules; it breaks my heart indeed!

Do you have time to pray for them, or do you care?
Have you the money to help them, or do you not dare?
Do you not dare to give up a dollar or two
so that they can have food like you?

9. Remaining furlough schedule:

(Note: if you are in the Cloquet area, we are in need of a place to stay for the night of April 9)

APRIL

3 Maple Plain Community Church, 10 minute update in 10:15am service

9 Cloquet Gospel Tabernacle, preaching in 6pm service, Cloquet, MN

10 Cloquet Gospel Tabernacle, preaching 8:30 and 10:30am services

15 Jeff speaking at Audubon Chapel Men's fellowship, 7pm, Audubon, MN

17 Lake Eunice Evangelical Free Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

24 Open for church meetings (Easter)

MAY

1 Grace Church Eden Prairie Missions Moment, 8, 9:30 and 11am services

2 Mary Ann, Heart to Heart meeting with a women's prayer group

8 Open for church meetings (Mother's Day)

11 Joint Meeting at Apostolic Lutheran Church, Esko, MN with St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 5:45 pm pot-luck, 6:30 service

15 Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 8:30 and 10:45am services, Cloquet, MN

22 Grace Baptist Church, 9:30am, Cloquet, MN

26 International Bible Giver's, 6:30pm, Anoka, MN

29 Open for church meetings in Twin Cities (Memorial weekend)

JUNE

3-5 All Nations Fellowship/Bethlehem Baptist Church retreat at Sandy Lake camp

12 Open for meeting in Twin Cities

14 Return to Manila

Closing

In reading through the Bible I have been struck over and over again of God's sovereignty over the nations along with His heart for unreached peoples. My friends, missions is God's idea, not ours and Jesus Christ is the Head of the church and the Lord of the harvest. We have three options when it comes to the Great Commission which He gave us before His ascension and they are: 1. to obey His calling if we are chosen to go out as missionaries; 2. to mobilize and send those who are called to go out; 3. disobedience to the Lord and out of touch with His plan for the nations because we're caught up in our own little world and selfishness. Where are we? Prayerfully consider this.

Your friend and colleague in reaching the nations with God's Gospel of grace,

Jeff

*"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." ~
Micah 6:8 NIV*

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