



MUSTARD SEED DISCIPLESHIP VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

ACTION International Ministries, Philippines

Prayer Update: December 23, 2010

Dear praying friend...

With only two days until Christmas, I wanted to send a few lines to you. First to wish you and yours a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Second, it has been a few weeks since my last update and I wanted to let you know what has been happening here with me and with the staff and students of Mustard Seed.

Third, I want to say thank you so much for your prayers and support of Mustard Seed and myself personally over the last year! Christmas letters are in the mail but I'm not sure if they will arrive before the 25th!

The following are items of PRAISE and for PRAYER! Thank you in advance.

CHRISTMAS BREAK FOR MUSTARD SEED:

Last week we finished studies before our yearly two week Christmas break. It was exceedingly busy for all of us!

On our last movie night held here at my place, we watched the movie, The Nativity Story. We finished watching The Gospel of John last November and this movie was a great follow up to the book of John. The girls were all involved in the story (some even following along in their Bibles). After the movie and even into the next day the girls were talking about the story and praising God for sending His Son.

Last week on Tuesday all of Mustard Seed gathered for a fabulous Christmas party, held at the MS dorm. There were 20 of us in attendance. I made 80 sticks of BBQ pork as my contribution to the menu of spaghetti, lumpiang Shanghai and buko (coconut) salad. Our Gigi arranged some great games, girls did presentations, and exchanged gifts. It was a night filled with laughter and fellowship. We ended in prayer and went home stuffed and happy!

Last Thursday all students and staff left for home and a two week break, even the girls from Mindoro made it home!!!

BARBARA ADDS TO HER AMBULANCE DRIVING SKILLS:

Yes I had the opportunity to be an ambulance driver two weeks ago. The story is:

One of our students has been suffering from migraines since coming to the program. We have not been able to get a definitive answer as to the cause. Two Wednesdays ago I received a text message from the dorm saying that our student Mona was suffering again with a very bad headache. I was really concerned with the level of pain that she said she was having – 10, really bad. So off we headed to the hospital. It was the night of Dec 8 and that night was the town fiesta where the hospital was. We arrived at the outskirts of the town only to find streets blocked and traffic at a standstill. What to do? What to do?

We passed by three traffic enforcers and I called them over to explain that I had an emergency and needed to get to the hospital ASAP. The man I talked to just said to me, 'Sori mam, it is the town fiesta.' And he turned and walked away. Not knowing what was really wrong with Mona, I decided to take things into my own hands. I put on my emergency blinker, hit the horn, flashed my high lights and headed into the on-coming lanes of traffic. At the next corner, I hollered at the traffic guys and they waved me on. Taking heart I continued our travel against traffic to the next intersection. Again I was waved through. At the final intersection, no traffic guys were in evidence and I needed to turn right. So I did. The hospital was just a block away.

What would have taken at least another hour took us 15 minutes to arrive at the hospital.

Unfortunately we didn't receive much help, just a pain reliever for the student and 4 ½ hours of waiting for Mervi and me. But I learned that you need to do what needs to be done.

SO, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE STUDENT:

Because I was concerned about what was happening to Mona, on Friday we took her to see a neurologist. A wonderful woman who examined her, read the history of her headaches that Mona wrote and said that the problem was probably food additives. Aha! So with a list of 'don't eat' and some different medications, we headed back to the dorm. I have texted Mona a couple of times since she went home. She has been keeping away from the trigger foods and hasn't had a headache for two weeks! Praises.

UPDATE OF STUDENT ATTACKED BY MOM:

This story has a happy update. As I shared last time, one of our students was hit by her mom with a large bolo knife. She stayed with us and then with her pastor and family for the weekend. The pastor and his wife visited with the family and explained how serious this situation is. The mother made a full confession and shed many tears. Even the father was involved in the process. Lori was able to go home again. But I told the pastor to tell the family that next time I will go to the police. The mom understands. I give praise that the family wants to return to a better relationship with God.

NOW IT IS CHRISTMAS BREAK!:

I have been looking forward to the next two weeks for a long time. Shopping is now behind me, and I did my last grocery shopping this morning (I am hosting the missionary Christmas dinner on Saturday). It has just been so busy. On Monday I handed out candy and tracts to all the traffic enforcers in our town, with two shifts that makes about 40 people. Tonight is our Caroling Night at our campus. Children and adults come singing Filipino Christmas songs for candy. I am ready for 60 kids, with candy and a Christmas tract. But even in the busyness of the days, I was able to work on a quilt yesterday and watch two movies. Ahhhhh. It was great! And I will do the same next week. Work on a quilt and watch movies!!! We start classes again January 3.

BREAKING NEWS: MISSIONARY DELIVERS BABY IN BACK SEAT OF CAR!!:

NO, it wasn't me! But another missionary here on campus, Melita. She received a text last night that someone from our area was ready to deliver but needed to go to hospital. The maternity clinic she was at wouldn't let them stay, saying that the mom's BP was too high. Melita and another staff person found the couple standing on the side of the road, waiting. So off to the local hospitals they headed. The first two refused them, as they didn't have an OB-GYN on duty. The third local hospital refused them as the mom didn't do her pre-natal there. So on they went to the big hospital about 30 minutes away. The time to deliver the baby came, and so there was Melita, in the moving car, helping the mom deliver the baby. They arrived a few minutes later at the hospital and all is OK. She delivered a baby boy and his name is Daniel.

Praise to the Lord for His assistance in all of this. The work of a missionary is always so varied and interesting!

Thank you for your continued prayers for me and for the ministry of Mustard Seed. Have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!! Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!!

Blessings,

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