



Hey hey,

Greetings. I trust all this well with all of you? I do want to extend a heartfelt 'thanks' to all of you who do indeed remember us both in your prayers and in your giving. I know that there are many distractions in life that squelch our focus on what is not presently before us day in and day out. This will certainly apply to missions and missionaries. I recently heard of a loss some friends of mine suffered and as I have been here in Asia for ten years now not only was the loss news to me but the precious gift that was lost was news as well. Hard as I may try to keep myself abreast of what is current back home my knowledge of what is truly ongoing is minuscule compared to what is actually taking place. Then if this be true for me how much more so for you all who receive a two page update every other month on what I am doing? So for those of you who actually do remember us I salute you.

Things are pressing on over here. Since I last wrote the evangelistic comic book that I have been talking about has been released and are being distributed by the missionaries of ACTION Philippines. I have received some feedback from the missionaries but none yet from the street kids. I am curious as to what they think. Lord willing within the next ninety days we will have the second comic book hitting the streets.

As for my efforts to incorporate an evangelist into a local church, this effort has slowed a bit mainly due to my approach. It is my desire to serve my local church and not to come in as an outsider who wants to impose his will. The church knows my proposal and we are taking small steps to move in the proper direction but I am making greater steps to demonstrate to the church that I am here to serve. I am doing this by building a website for the church. The problem is that the Internet is constantly evolving and though it has only been a few years since I last built a complete website I am outdated. This means that I am reading a bunch to catch up on the current standards so as to build a site that will be viewable for several years to come. This need to update my skills was not something I took into consideration when I offered to build the site but nevertheless the church is excited about the prospect of having their own site. I just need to keep pressing on; until He comes! The church's site is <http://www.gcfbatangas.org>

Later this month I start teaching an evangelism course and need to put the computer books aside to prepare for it. Currently I am co-teaching in a small group at my church and we are going through Genesis. I am having a blast doing this and Thursday nights are a highlight in my week.

After Genesis I am praying that I can take a small group through the content of the book that I dabble at and which I am writing to give both a theological foundation for evangelism as well as practical steps towards actualizing evangelism in a local church context. Recently I underwent training at the request of my pastor in small group ministries with other leaders from our church. Lord willing this will help me build credibility with my church in leading members in small group evangelism training.

My support levels are still very low but this is neither surprising nor alarming. We are toying with the idea of starting a private Christian school where I can draw a salary. It is something that I want to do but I don't want to pressure Gloria into it as we would need to use large portions of our savings to start it. She does like the idea but does not want to rush things. I have been tossing the idea around for several years now and just a few months ago Gloria came back at me wanting to proceed. We have even found land we can buy to build on but the location is not ideal and we are searching for more. I have mixed emotions on the whole notion of having a business where I can eventually draw local income. Not being dependent on my wife will be great. A Christian international school will be great (we will use curriculum from a Bible college in Pensacola, FL). Not having a dependence that ties me back to you all is a little frightening. Truly I do like the whole concept of rope holders stabilizing a missionary in ministry. But being married to a medical doctor and only spending less than six months back in the States in the last ten years does tend towards low support levels. I do long to spend more time back there but it is just not meant to be.

We praise God for being able to assist a Southern Baptist missionary in medical missions here in our town a few days back. He approached me and ask for help in recruiting doctors which I did, one of which being Gloria. The missionary (Dave Daggett) did a fabulous job at setting it up. The evangelism was bang on. The turnout was good with plenty of people, plenty of doctors, and plenty of opportunity for me to play with my new camera we picked up in Hong Kong last Christmas.

I will post some links at the bottom of this email of photo albums where I had an opportunity to take pictures of different ministries where I was not speaking or teaching. I truly dislike cameras clicking away when I am doing ministry because people tend to think that the ministry is a photo-opp for raising funds. This is why I have few ministry photos. But these two occasions were different. One was completely indigenous and I was a participant (the small group training at our local church) and the other was ministry spurred on by a missionary but not me and my wife was one of the doctors involved and people won't mind if this is the case (medical mission). Enjoy the photos. I also have a third link that will take you to a temporary site where I will build an evangelistic comic book site. I still need some learning before I can do this but for now you can see the first comic book that is currently on the streets.

May God bless each of you as abundantly as He has blessed me. Take care.

Jim
Until He Comes

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/59818897@N07/sets/72157626013510503/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/59818897@N07/sets/72157626179533514>

<http://www.comic-herald.net>

<http://www.jim.messenjah.ws>

<http://damessenjah.photoshop.com>

<http://www.gcfbatangas.org>

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your check is for support of the Craig's.**