

Table in the Wilderness

Loewen's Prayer Email Update

January 2011



Working Hands Graduation

We are blessed to be working as part of a team here at Second Mile. This past Saturday our sister ministry, Working Hands, celebrated their 19th graduating class. Two former Honest Hands students were able to complete their courses and graduate, so it

was a day of celebration. Rod (top left) completed the automotive mechanics course and graduated near the top of his class which is quite good for a guy who dropped out of grade six! Manuel (on the right) finished the Woodtech course. He was very excited to have his dad show up for his grad, as they really have not had much contact for many years. Pray that Manuel's dad would decide to follow Jesus. Pray that these two young men would work hard and follow Jesus with their whole heart. Pray as well for the 32 other young men who graduated.

Pastor Darren Plett (from our home church Pleasant Valley EMC) flew out to be the graduation speaker, and the students enjoyed his challenge for them to be: a Strong Man, a Work Man, and a Bible Man. We have enjoyed having Darren visit us again and have had lots of good chats with him.

Of course no graduation is complete without lots of food, and you can see Lisa and her friends are happy to be done cooking after preparing almost 450 styro packs of chicken curry & rice for the guests.

Honest Hand's discipleship classes are moving along very quickly as often happens after Christmas. This week Melchor is teaching on Spiritual Gifts and the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians—pray that the students will grab hold of these truths and be willing to serve confidently in whatever areas God has gifted them.



Honest Hands went through a bit of a rough time before Christmas as we had to let two house parents go within a few months. So most of my Christmas vacation was spent praying about (and trying not to worry) who would fill the house parents position on January 3 when the students returned. God provided as He always does. Daryl Surban and Renz Aldojiza are both graduates of Honest Hands and they agreed to come back to help us out until our March 17th graduation. You can see them at right (on the left of picture). It looks like one of my boys managed to get in on the picture as well (Sam). All six of the students returned on Jan.3, so that was quite a good day. That doesn't always happen after Christmas vacation! Some of them are preparing to take the upcoming entrance tests for Working Hands (woodtech and computers), so you can pray that they will not feel too nervous.

We keep celebrating birthdays at Honest Hands, and Melchor recently enjoyed a cake that Lisa baked. Keep praying for Melchor & Tess as they do a lot more than 'just' Honest Hands. The church they are leading in the community continues to grow.

More parties: one great thing about the Philippines is lots and lots of parties. Relationships are always more important than accomplishments, so it is good to have people in our home. We hosted a party for all the couples that are our "inang-anaks" which means that Carl was a sponsor at their wedding. Almost all of them showed up. We had a good time of worship, laughing and time in the Word. They look to us for advice and guidance, so we take advantage of that opportunity. See picture at right.

Lisa also hosted a baby shower and party for Teresa, who has been the secretary at Second Mile for the past year. I tried to keep our boys out of their hair, but with all the laughter and crazy games that was hard to do! Lisa is staying very busy with homeschooling, and our boys are working hard to finish everything by March 17th, so they can start summer holidays. Pray that they will have good focus and good attitudes. Of course, energy & patience for the teacher!



It was great having Carl's parents (Danny & Florence) out for a visit over Christmas. Sometimes we debate whether it is OK to have lots of pictures of our kids in our letters, but I think some of you are interested in our family, so we throw this in as a bonus if you want to see some pictures of our Christmas holidays around home and also our trip to the beach (life is rough, huh?). Our boys had a great time with their Grandma & Grandpa Loewen, and we all enjoyed hanging out with them.



More prayer requests:

- Please pray for Carl as he prepares orientation sessions for new missionaries on February 23 to 25. Matt & Becki Beack and their two boys will be studying Tagalog over the next year and then will be working with street children. Pami Ellis will be working as a nurse at the birthing clinic that ACTION operates near Manila. It is great to be able to welcome new missionaries to our ACTION team.
- Pray as well for the pastor's conference that we are hosting here at Second Mile next week (Feb. 9-10). Pastor Gary Dozier from Portland will be the main speaker, and our Pastor Darren Plett will be sharing as well.
- Praise God for good financial support last year, especially in the month of December. Thanks to all of you who gave year end gifts!
- Pray for wisdom for our family as we raise our boys, homeschool them, and think about the future.

May God bless each one of you,
Carl, Lisa & the boys.



Winnipeg Missions Fest

For those of you in the Winnipeg, Manitoba area we would like to encourage you to attend the annual Missions Fest, February 4-6 at the Church of the Rock (1397 Buffalo Place).

ACTION has a number of people at Missions Fest this year including the following:

Doug Nichols (founder of ACTION) will be speaking at the Main Session #1, at 7 pm on Friday Feb.4. I am sure you would enjoy hearing his stories, challenges and encouragement from the Word.

Then Doug will lead a seminar titled "Let the Grey Heads Arise" which will be on Saturday at 1:30 pm. So if your hair is grey . . .

Jeff Anderson: our former ACTION Philippines director and current Street Impact Team leader will be doing a seminar on Saturday at 4:30 pm titled "The Need for Ministry to Children in Crisis". Jeff was instrumental in helping us get the Honest Hands ministry set up and keep running over the past ten years. If you are interested in street kids ministry attend his seminar.

www.mfest.mb.ca

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