

# Table <sup>in the</sup> Wilderness

Carl and Lisa Loewen's Prayer Letter

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## Graduation

Six proud young men graduated from the Honest Hands Discipleship program on March 17th. God has done great things in their lives as they have surrendered to Him and turned away from sin. Here are short summaries of their testimonies (left to right).

**Jeff (16):** "Thanks to God because my life is new. Now I am not really struggling that much with addictions like alcohol. I accepted Jesus as my Saviour and He gave me new life."

**Marvic (22):** "My whole heart, my whole being, all my thoughts are about my love for God. He is the one who gives us everything. I know that He is with us when we are sad or struggling. He has done so much in our lives."

**Albert (18):** "I became new here at Honest Hands. Through reading the

Bible, I realized what God wanted me to do. My surrender to God became genuine. Before I struggled with addictions, but not anymore."

**Marlon (22):** "What has God done in my life? Of course the most important thing is that I know God, and He changed my life. I thank Him because I learned so many things at Honest Hands about His Word in the sessions . . . I didn't just become renewed personally, I am now serving in my church and my faith is deeper and stronger."

**Alfred (21):** "At Honest Hands I experienced the joy of being close to God – His presence. Before I did not think about the results of my sinful life or about what was right or wrong. I only wanted to have fun, and of course to survive my difficult life. I only focused on myself, and only trusted myself – I did not trust other people or God . . . now my focus and vision have changed. God is good, and He loves us and I have grown close to Him."

**Louie (20):** "Many good things have happened to me here. I have learned a lot including the need to have joy each day as I continued building friendships through jogging, exercise, basketball, gardening, sessions and other things. I am full of thankfulness to God for a program like this that has helped me and taught me so much about the Word of God. I hope that Honest Hands keeps going so that many can be helped and taught about God like us. Many, many thanks to God!"

The staff and students would like to say a big thanks to all of you for your support and prayers. Four of our six graduates plan to start Working Hands Vocational program in May. At Honest Hands we need your continued prayers as we move on to discipleship camps in May and June and plan to start the next batch in early July. Our biggest need right now is for a new senior houseparent. Without this key man our long term program cannot run.

## Lisa's Report Card

Well another year of school has finished at the Loewen household. Isaiah finished grade 6, Jacob finished grade 4, and Samuel finished grade 2. Overall it was a good year. Some highlights for us were studying the book "Hatchet" by Gary Paulsen - learning about how to survive in a Canadian wilderness (something the boys know nothing about), cooking "Porcupine Meatballs" and "Chocolate Moose" and being able to watch the Hatchet movie. We have also really enjoyed studying Canadian history and especially watching the CBC Canadian History DVD's. A highlight for me was working with Isaiah and Jacob as they improved their writing skills. They each wrote a research paper for their final project – Isaiah on *Russia* and Jacob on *Alligators and Crocodiles*. Samuel became a great reader this year and is trying to keep up with his brothers by reading lots of books. I did a reading promo with the boys this year: for every 100 pages Sam read, 300 pages for Jacob and 1000 pages read by Isaiah they would each get a free book. By the end of the year I owed them all lots of books! Of course we also work on the basic subjects like math and spelling, but they aren't quite as exciting to talk about. Malachi is also learning a lot and loves to draw people and is excited about learning his letters and numbers. I think he will be one of the smartest kindergarten kids when he actually starts real school! I am thankful to all of you who prayed for us over this school year. It is hard work for both mom and boys, but I think we are getting used to it and seeing good progress. Now we can enjoy more 'fun' time together in the summer. Our goals are to have some time for work, skills and fun! The boys plan to take swimming lessons in May, I have lots of projects I want their help with and we just got a big inflatable pool so I'm sure we will have lots of good times. Keep praying that we will all follow God, learn more about Him and be kind to each other.

### **Praises:**

- It was a treat to have Carl's parents visit in December.
- Our home church pastor Darren Plett visited in February.
- Orientation for new missionaries in February went well.
- Homeschooling is done for another year!
- We had a good time at our annual ACTION conference and a good family vacation in the cool air of Baguio this past week.

### **Prayer Needs:**

- Pray for the upcoming Honest Hands Discipleship camps.
- Lisa's preparation for the next homeschooling year.
- Crucial need for a houseparent at Honest Hands.
- Need for wisdom for future plans.
- Peace and good relationships with our rambunctious boys.
- Carl's work with new missionaries, the ACTION council, and other responsibilities.



### **Upcoming Schedule**

**April:** Recruitment for camps. Follow up former students. Break time for staff. Carl is preaching at our church in Silang on Easter Sunday.

**May 23-27:** Discipleship Camp #1

**June 6 -10:** Discipleship Camp #2

**June 20:** target date to start homeschooling

**July:** Honest Hands Batch #9 begins. Our 3 older boys go to camp.

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