

Table in the Wilderness

Loewen's Prayer Email Update

Oct / Nov 2010

There are times in the life of a missionary when there are so many things to pray about that it is difficult to write and share due to the huge load of concerns. But of course this is the time when prayer is needed and emails need to go out! This update just needs to get out to all of you so you can pray for us, so I won't bother including pictures and do any sort of design, as it just takes too long and perhaps I am a perfectionist about things like that. Does the look of this letter really matter? No, but we sure hope it reaches people who are willing to support us in prayer! By now I hope that all of you have received our September 2010 prayer letter—either the hard copy, email PDF version or maybe both.

We have had challenging times recently at Honest Hands. Melchor (my coworker) remarked that we had some of our best camps ever back in May and June, and now it feels like one of the weakest batches we have ever had. We had a great first semester (July to September), but there are lots of issues now. If you are interested in pictures of the following students, refer back to our September prayer letter.

Mac dropped out — due to lack of interest, and the unfortunate reality that his uncle is the pastor of a Oneness cult church. His family was attending a good solid Bible study, but now have returned to the services held by the cult. **JR** dropped out as he had completed the ALS test, and I would not allow him to take a “vacation” to take a one month computer course. We tried to convince him to stay through until graduation, but he was not interested. **Reynald** has been absent for the past few weeks as well, and we recently heard that he had spent a week in jail and is now too ashamed to come back. As students drop out, it starts to affect those left in the program, and the overall mood at Honest Hands. I have also been extremely busy over the last month aside from my work at Honest Hands — chairing the annual budget meetings for our missionaries here, and working through all sorts of administrative details relating to new missionaries on the way to join our team.

Now for the good news! I was feeling a bit down about all of this last week. Rocky showed up one afternoon to talk and asked for prayer that he would find work. He was a graduate of our first batch and is now married and trying to provide for his wife Rizea. We prayed together, and the very next morning a fancy car pulled up at Second Mile. Rocky and Rizea jumped out, and we knew that something was up. A lady had been looking for someone to work on her farm, and asked a store owner near Rocky's house if she could recommend anyone. The store owner said, sure—Rocky! So now both Rocky and Rizea have jobs with free room and board. They are doing maintenance, cooking and household chores. Great news. Pray they keep their jobs and use their salaries wisely as they need to pay off some debts and save for the future.

We had a good Honest Hands reunion at the end of October, and had about fifteen grads of our program show up. Some of them are still kinda bumping along, not super active, not super bad, while others are really serving God and moving in a good direction. Pray that we would be able to counsel and encourage young men who sometimes lack direction, energy and courage in their lives.

There is never a dull moment at Second Mile or in our little barangay (neighbourhood) of Balubad 2. Frank and Joanne are a retired couple from Florida who are visiting for a few weeks. They have an amazing burden to wander around the community and visit people, inviting them to follow Jesus. Melchor has been pastoring Balubad Christian Fellowship for the past two years, reaching out to the people around us. There are so many needs in the community — alcoholism, violence, sickness, poverty and broken families. Just last week a security guard was stabbed to death across the bridge. The suspect has fled. Pray for justice and peace in Balubad, and that people would make Jesus the King of their lives. That's the only thing that can really bring restoration to all the brokenness. Lisa helped other staff and missionary ladies with the monthly Second Mile "Girls Club" last night. This is a time where local ladies can hear the Gospel, enjoy some games, crafts and time in the Word. Lisa spent time taking care of 25 little kids who tagged along with their moms, so she reported a lot of energetic kids and opportunities to share stories with them.

Lisa and Malachi are flying back to Canada for a short break this next week! Lisa will spend a few days with her parents in Manitoba and then head up to northern Alberta to see her sister and her family. Bonita and Jason just had their fourth kid and Lisa is looking forward to seeing her new niece. Pray for them as they travel and spend a short time with family.

Carl will be teaching the three other boys for the next few weeks while Lisa is in Canada, so pray for him as he juggles teaching with all of his other responsibilities. At times our house feels a bit "tight" with regular life, school and everything else that goes on with active boys.

Christmas is coming up soon so that is a really busy time here for all of us as Christmas is a huge deal in the Philippines. Christmas carols start playing in the malls in September (the first of the "brrr" months as they say). There are lots of Christmas parties going on, presents to buy for students and staff, and we also need to write our next prayer letter. Pray for focused time and energy to do all of these things.

Thanks again for your support,
prayers, and emails.

Carl, Lisa and the boys

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