

# “Yes, LORD!”

Jeff & Mary Ann Anderson, missionaries for 25 years in Manila, Philippines with Action International Ministries

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What does the LORD require of you?

To act justly  
To love mercy  
To walk humbly with your God.  
Micah 6:8 (NIV)

These children were left homeless after a fire destroyed their home. The family now lives in a push cart.



## Batteries recharging Our bodies healing, vision clearing

By Jeff Anderson

In Manila we say we're "low-batt" when we're drained because we liken ourselves to cell-phone batteries that need recharging due to continual use. When we're "low-batt" we usually recharge by taking time off, eating good food, getting extra sleep, for me regular exercise, setting aside extra time to read our Bibles and good books or get fresh air and quietness in the countryside. When Mary Ann and I left Manila in December for our six month furlough our batteries were very low and had been for several months because we couldn't get them re-charged in our usual ways. We were both feeling very fatigued with achy joints and muscles so one of our priorities was to get our strength

back during our home assignment. In January we saw a doctor who treated me for worms, parasites and allergic sensitivities. He also determined I was deficient in several vitamins and minerals which are now being boosted and have a toxic liver due to what we breathe in Manila which is also being dealt with. Mary Ann was treated for parasites, a virus and was determined to be deficient in vitamins and minerals which is also being addressed. In March we have a follow-up appointment so we'll know how we're doing but we are feeling much stronger.

Then on January 25 we were at the Minneapolis airport leaving for Seattle to visit the ACTION office and minister at Missions

Fest Vancouver where I would teach a workshop called "Restoring Children of the Street." After checking in, I saw a slight flash of light in my left eye then my vision became cloudy with floating squiggly brown shapes. This continued for a couple days then Mary Ann and folks in the office said I should see a doctor which I did the 27th. He did a thorough examination then sent me to a retina specialist who determined the retina had a large tear. She did immediate laser surgery, with over 600 "spot welds", told me to lay with my eyes closed at a 45° angle for 24 hours then come back to see her which I did. After looking me over the doctor cleared me to go to

Vancouver the 29th. Then I saw a retina specialist in St. Paul on February 3, which the doctor in Seattle wanted me to do, and she saw the “welds” done in Washington were giving way so cryotherapy was done. After the procedure she said “now I’m happy” and when I told her I’m a missionary she said “I want you to continue traveling the world doing your mission work.” She then cleared me to go to Winnipeg the next day for Missions Fest Manitoba which I did with a very sore, red eye and blurry vision.

After a follow up appointment on the 22nd the doctor commented that I’m a fast healer. After I told her I went to Winnipeg the day after she “beat up” my eye (her description) and spoke three times she said “you’re hard-core so people better listen.” She cleared me to resume normal activities like jogging and told me to get my eye checked in six months. The doctors have said it’ll take up to 8 weeks for my vision to return to normal and it is clearing little by little.

I praise God because He’s the Healer and Comforter during these days of recharging and healing. I am grateful for good medical care and for those who lovingly helped me (especially Mary Ann) and showed their concern by praying and sending notes of encouragement.

## Receive Christ & your Christmas will be glorious

This was the theme for our 30 evangelistic Christmas parties in December in partnership with 21 churches and eight agencies with Luke 2:9-10 as the text for the messages. There were 4,138 street children, inmates, rural and urban poor families attended and 3,388 indicated they turned from sin and trusted Christ as Savior. The churches and agencies are now doing follow-up ministry for their new brothers and sisters in Christ. The cost was \$14,755 for which we thank the Lord for providing through His people. The following are select testimonies from those who attended the parties:

- Isaac: This Christmas I received an important gift which is Jesus Christ. I thank the Lord for the church worker who invited me to attend this party. I know God has a purpose for my life.
- Leo: For me, the Lord used my wife as



**Christmas parties are enjoyed by everyone. There were 4,138 street children, inmates, rural and urban poor families attended and 3,388 indicated they turned from sin and trusted Christ as Savior.**

an instrument to encourage me to pray to God always and commit my life to Him. I joined her at the Christmas party and realized how important it is to have Jesus in my life.

- Raymond 11 years old: I’m a beggar and vendor. I sell candy and flowers to help support my family. My parents are also vendors on the street. My family attended this Christmas party and we enjoyed getting to know people. I’m glad to know that Jesus loves me and I gave my life to Him.
- Larry: I’m a former inmate. I was released in June of this year and in jail I attended Bible studies where I learned about Jesus Christ and His promises so I opened my life to Him. While in jail I prayed regularly that if there’s a chance my case would be dismissed I would serve Him. I am very thankful to the pastor because he always encouraged me and prayed for me then he invited my whole family to this Christmas party. I’m glad to say that my entire family, including my wife, accepted Christ to be their Savior and Lord!
- Cherry: In 2008 I returned to the Philippines from Malaysia where I worked as a domestic helper. My dream and ambition in life was to build a big house and provide the needs of my family. We started to build our house and bought appliances. In 2009

we started to experience many trials and financial difficulties because my husband got sick and needed medicine. We needed to sell our appliances and house in order to provide medicine and kidney dialysis for my husband. Two of our kids couldn’t continue in school because we can’t support their educational needs. We lost our savings and everything. A church worker invited us to attend their Christmas party with other families and it seemed the pastor’s message was talking to me. He said that the importance of our lives isn’t material wealth but to have Jesus Christ in our lives. The true meaning of Christmas is Jesus Who was born to be our Savior. The pastor also prayed for my husband and God’s purpose for him.

## 2011 Evangelistic Street Children Camps

February 22-25 was our first of four scheduled evangelistic camps for this year. We had 42 campers with six participating churches and all the kids indicated trusting Christ as Savior. The churches and our team are now following up the campers. Three boys were interviewed and will possibly enter the Working Hands program which is our Discipleship/Vocational Skills training ministry. Pray

that all the kids will grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and the churches will be diligent in ministering to them. Our remaining 2011 camps at Camp Jabez are scheduled for: June 14-17; August 2-5; and September 13-16. Each camp costs \$2,500 so pray that the Lord will provide the needed funds through His people. Also pray that many youth will genuinely turn from sin to the Savior and desire to get off the streets, partner churches and agencies will be prepared to receive their new brothers and sisters in Christ and assist them as needed.

## Feed My Starving Children Update (FMSC)

Our Street Impact Team in Manila continues to receive 11 large boxes of FMSC food monthly packed and shipped by three Sunday school classes of senior saints of Grace Church Eden Prairie. February 11 Mary Ann and I joined them, whom we've nicknamed Grace's "senior youth group", at FMSC's Eagen site and we had a great time together as we worked, joked, laughed and prayed over food about to be shipped. We are so pleased with our senior partners because they do this every second Friday of the month as a labor of love to help feed many malnourished children in the name of Christ with ACTION and our partners. This is truly a team effort and the job wouldn't get done without each one doing their work as unto the Lord. Currently 1,828 kids are being fed along with 60 senior inmates at the National Penitentiary.

## Jail ministry started from being in the wrong place at the wrong time

Last September after ministering at the People of Praise Church (POPC) in Malolos City, Bulacan a few of us visited three boys ages 14, 15 and 16 in the city's jail who were arrested for snatching a cell phone. One of the boys attended our August camp for street kids so we wanted to see how Bernie was doing. We learned that the gang leader testified Bernie was innocent so he was in the wrong place at the wrong time but his case needed to go through the system so he wouldn't be released for some time. During our visit

we saw the kids were hungry and scared so POPC started bringing them food and ministering to the three plus all their jail mates. In December POPC in partnership ACTION and a local Starbucks coffee shop had a Christmas party and started regular literacy training for 38 children-in-conflict with the law which continues including Bernie. Bernie was finally released from jail in January and still studies literacy at POPC and is involved in church activities. The jail warden recently said this is the first time he's had literacy and spiritual "formation" classes in his jail and he's seeing positive changes in his wards' lives.

We currently have 327 students studying literacy at 14 sites in partnership with churches and agencies.

## Missionary Care

(by Mary Ann)

On February 17-19 I was able to participate in two conferences on missionary care sponsored by Minnesota Renewal Center. Missionary care has long been a concern of mine. My desire is to see those who are called to missionary service make it to the field and once they are on the field, they stay. From the time a person knows that God is leading them into foreign missions, there are many obstacles they face and must overcome. Some are obvious such as raising support, getting the right training, and finding people who will pray for them. Other obstacles are not so obvious such as

coming from a loving family who find it unbearable to separate. When I counsel those who are at this stage of missions I often encourage them that they need to love the Lord their God above all else and follow Him to the ends of the earth. The other part of the journey are the many challenges that affect a single or family when they arrive on the field. They need to discover new ways of doing things, adjust to new customs and foods, and learn to get along with a new team that has practically become their lifeline. They are also confronted with spiritual opposition and at times sickness and danger. I'm praying for the Lord's wisdom in how I can help new missionaries make the necessary adjustments so they can have a long and fruitful ministry.

## Fire season

The threat of fire is a primary fear of approximately seven million people living in Metro Manila's squatter communities. This fear is prominent because people living in these congested areas have seen how quickly fire spreads between shanties to raze hundreds of homes and displace thousands of people in a short time.

These devastating fires are usually ignited during the dry season by candles, stored gasoline and explosives, cooking stoves and fires, and kerosene lamps. Firefighters are typically not able to put out the fires due to lack of water and be-



**Children love the food they receive from FMSC. Their weight and health greatly improve when they get a few good meals a week.**

**Many thanks to our friends from Grace Church who pack and ship food to us.**



cause masses of panicked people fleeing the burn area jam the passageways.

The people who are displaced by fires usually end up temporarily residing in crowded schools and gyms, on the street, in parks, or with relatives. Most people are able to only carry a few items with them as they flee the fires. It is heartbreaking to see men, women, and children rummaging through burn zones as they look for salvageable items in the charred ruins of their homes.

On January 29 a huge fire burnt out many families in Navotas City. Our Street Impact Team was called immediately by the pastor of a long-time faithful partner church in ministry to children-in-crisis asking for help. We didn't have funds available to help immediately and due to our camp we were not able to provide relief aid until February 28. That day we gave aid to 200 families, and many trusted Christ as Savior so we have further obligation to assist them if possible.



Many families who lost their homes are living in over-crowded, unsanitary conditions on two community basketball courts. Many children are sick so we are praying about how to help them.

Luv Zacal, ACTION staff, surveying the damage after the fire in Navotas.

## Furlough until June 14

Our burden as we report to God's people about our lives and work is Proverbs 31:8-9 (NLT): "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice." Pray that God will stir up His people to fulfill our responsibilities to the poor both near and far, thrust out more workers to serve among the world's children-in-crisis, raise up more prayer warriors and generous givers to support His work in and through us.

We thank the Lord for all our prayer warriors and financial supporters. We finished 2010 with strong support but we are needing to beef up our monthly sup-

port before we return to Manila. We are also trusting the Lord to provide \$20,000 to purchase a smaller vehicle upon our return to Manila to replace our older van.

We hope to see as many of our partners as possible. Please give us a call at 651-399-8164 or email us (see below).

### March

- 12-18 Seattle, WA for International Council meetings
- 13 AM, Lake Tapps Community Church, Lake Tapps, WA
- 20 AM, Skamania Community Church, Stevenson, WA and PM, Community Bible Church, Lebanon OR
- 27 AM, Pacific Community Church, Bandon, OR
- 29 Return to Minnesota

### April

- 3 AM, Maple Plain Community Church, Maple Plain, MN
- 9 PM, Cloquet Gospel Tabernacle, Cloquet, MN
- 10 AM, Cloquet Gospel Tabernacle
- 15 PM, Audubon Chapel, Audubon, MN
- 17 AM, Lake Eunice Evangelical Free Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

### May

- 1 AM, Grace Church Eden Prairie
- 15 AM, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, MN
- 22 AM, Grace Baptist Church, Cloquet, MN

### June

- 3-5 All Nations Fellowship/Bethlehem Baptist Church Retreat
- 14 Return to Manila

## Action International Ministries

To sign up for our monthly "Yes, Lord!" email updates contact us at: [jeff@actionintl.org](mailto:jeff@actionintl.org). Visit our website for calendar updates, photos, blog and more details: [www.jeffmaryann.com](http://www.jeffmaryann.com) Furlough phone number: 651.399.8164

Gifts are tax deductible and may be sent to an ACTION office near you or go online to: [www.actioninternational.org/anderson](http://www.actioninternational.org/anderson) Giving may be designated for the following:

- Street Children Ministry (75031)
- Disaster Relief and Development (75501)
- Fish & Bread Feeding (75031)
- Anderson Vehicle Fund (40012G)
- Anderson Support (40012A)

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