



Yes, LORD!

walking in the way of your laws, we wait for You;
Your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.

• Isaiah 26:8 NIV

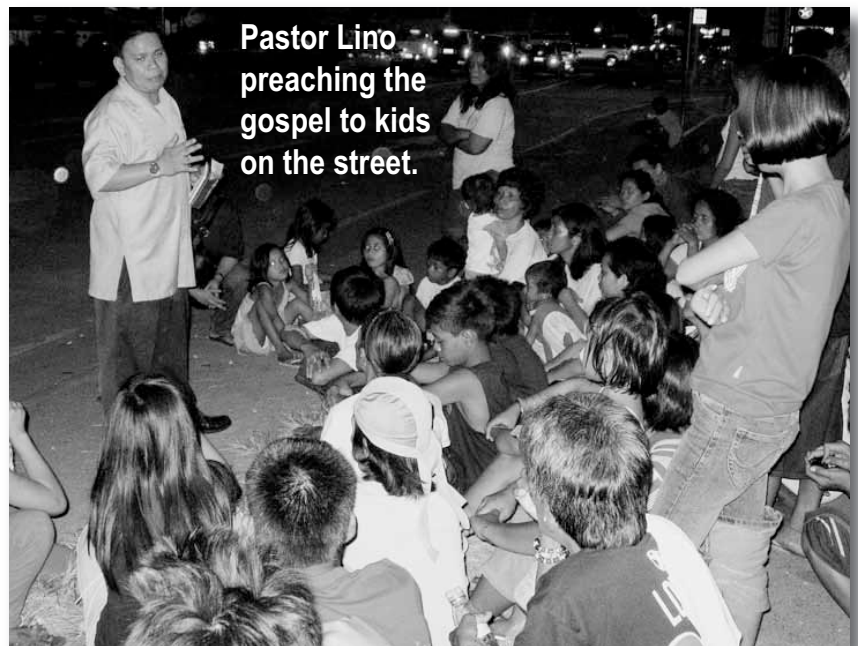
Jeff & Mary Ann Anderson, serving in Manila with Action International Ministries

Volume 25 • 1st Quarter 2009

Sacrifice and Service

It's a deep joy to serve the Lord Jesus, His people and the poor side-by-side with others who supremely love Him and compassionately serve others in Christ's name. Whether we're feeding malnourished children, distributing disaster relief, ministering to street children or conducting evangelistic Christmas parties we partner with Filipino brethren who share our heart's passions. We have two overarching objectives in all our work which are to lead others to a saving relationship with Christ then see them incorporated into a loving Christ-exalting church and to equip and partner with local churches and evangelical agencies in their ministries to the poor.

February 3-6 our Street Impact Team, which is our street children and disaster relief and development team, sponsored a strategic planning consultation along with our partner ministry based in the UK 180° Global Alliance. Forty five key directors, pastors, church workers, missionaries and social workers serving among street children from around Metro Manila and nearby cities, the Bicol region, Cagayan de Oro and Marinduque attended with several meeting each other for the first time. We covered topics like how to deal with children in conflict with the law lead by an attorney from International Justice Mission and developing and implementing children protection policies lead by our team's social worker Luv Zacal. We also had a ministry presentation given by volunteer workers from Christ Commission Fellowship, a local mega-church, which has a very fruitful ministry to street kids and their families which was followed by a lively Q&A session. However the primary objectives of the consultation where to gather people together for worship, prayer, instruction in the Word, fellowship and plan how we can better work together over the next two years. The energy which ignites and propels us forward is our faith and unity in Christ, along with our joy in serving together with the single aim of glorifying God among the poor. We are being poured out joyfully upon each other's sacrificial service and it doesn't get any richer than this. We arrived at the consultation as colleagues but left as trusted friends who



Pastor Lino
preaching the
gospel to kids
on the street.

can call on each other in times of need.

As you read the following reports pray that our partners will joyfully persevere in ministry and produce lasting fruit in very difficult situations, that our unity in Christ will remain strong as well as deepen and for wisdom as we implement our plans over the next 24 months. Thank-you for being faithful prayer warriors and sacrificial givers because none of this could take place without you.

God's To-Do List

A difficult lesson I'm continually learning in God's school of discipleship is that while I have my "to-do" list, He has His. Each day I have written in my planner what needs to be done, as well for that week, month and upcoming months. Being Field Director I need to stay on top of ministry details while following procedures, policies and schedules but at the same time be a flexible "people person" which is a difficult balance for me. The truth I'm reminded of is we serve people for the Lord's sake not our programs and policies which are intended to guide our service. (2 Corinthians 4:5)

Over the years ACTION Philippines has earned

"Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me." Philippians 2:17-18 (NKJV)

The story in Acts 9 of Saul's (Paul) conversation along with his calling and baptism by Ananias show Jesus Christ sovereignly interrupting both men's lives and their obedience which changed the course of human history and our personal lives for God's glory and the good of all mankind.

the reputation of being approachable and responsive when a fire levels a squatter community, a killer landslide or flood strikes an area due to a typhoon or a desperately ill person seeks our help because he has no other means of getting medical aid.

For example as we were preparing for our strategic planning consultation, we were communicating with our street children ministry partners in Cagayan de Oro City (CDO) in northern Mindanao to determine how we could help them with relief because their entire region was being hammered with days of non-stop torrential rain, flash floods, landslides and storm surges. Thousands of people saw their homes and belongings washed away and were evacuated to shelters. We quickly ramped up a relief plan and sent our faithful partners \$2,250 for purchasing relief items for 220 families which they distributed the day after receiving the funds. They have now accounted for the funds and given a thorough report of their relief operation so they conducted their work with in-



Raffy is one of the children at a Christmas party with his mother who collects and sells recycleables for a living. He is in need of surgery for his cleft lip so if his family is willing we will help him.

tegrity knowing they're accountable to the Lord, ACTION and our donors. In addition, because their street children ministry network was represented by four pastors at our recent strategic planning consultation, they gave a very good follow-up report with much appreciation to the Lord and ACTION.

The CDO network comprised of 8 churches and 2 agencies also participated in our recent evangelistic Christmas party ministry and we're now seeking a way to help them with their feeding ministry with food from Feed My Starving Children. We're also praying with them about putting up a ministry center for street children which would provide food, first-aid, a safe place to sleep and do laundry, friendship evangelism and for those whose lives have been transformed by the gospel discipleship, vocational skills training and non-formal education.

Interruptions are never convenient but they are one of God's ways in giving us opportunities to share

the gospel and provide compassionate care which can change a person's life. They remind us we're serving the Lord and people rather than our to-do lists and programs.

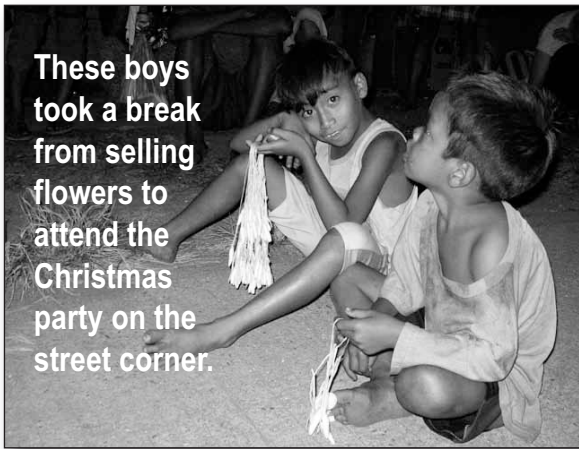
Christmas is joyful because of Christ

It was a great joy to share the true meaning of Christmas with those who may not have had another opportunity to celebrate Christmas or hear the gospel during this past Christmas season namely street children and their families, prisoners, slum and cemetery dwellers and the poor living in the mountains or along the sea. We teamed up with 33 evangelical churches and 12 agencies to conduct 74 fun and gospel filled parties around Metro Manila, three prisons and several other cities and towns. A total of 4,430 people attended with 4,043 indicating they turned from sin and trusted Christ as Savior. The churches and agencies we partnered with work with us through-out the year so we don't consider the parties as stand alone activities but a link in the chain of ministry in an area either by strengthening what's already taking place or kicking off a new outreach. Each participating group went through a thorough orientation before we started the parties which included developing plans for follow-up of their new contacts so this is already happening. We thank the Lord for each partner who gave financially, prayed and worked to make our '08 Christmas ministry fruitful for God's glory and the expansion of His Kingdom. The total cost was \$14,169 which God provided through His people worldwide and I am thrilled that partnerships are growing around the Philippines and the world which only God can do.

The following are a few testimonies from workers and party attendees.

Testimonies of workers

1. *Rose a worker among the Badjao (Muslim gypsy fishermen) in Batangas City:* I thank ACTION for the joy and love you brought to the hearts of the Badjao children and their parents. The unbelievers heard the message of how God gave His only Son so they can be saved. Now they understand that though they are very poor they are important to God, like a precious pearl. This activity also gave the Badjao believers an opportunity to lead and participate in organizing God's work which was hands-on training.
2. *Ching a worker in Cagayan de Oro among street children:* I praise God for allowing the Mindanao Street Children Ministry network to participate in celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ through ACTION's provision. Our celebration was made successful by the involvement of the organizers, parents, volunteers and children. We were privileged to share Jesus Christ with the street children and we believe each one went "home" filled with love, acceptance and real joy. The workers were also blessed to share their time and effort in serving these children.
3. *Elmer a church worker among street children:* I am very thankful for choosing us and our area for an evangelistic Christmas party because this helps the families we're ministering to and opens a way to have Bible studies with them.



4. *Verlan a social worker at an agency working with street and slum families:* Our goal was to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and lead each one to a personal faith in Him. We included the families of the children because the parents have the primary role of nurturing and rearing their children and have a critical role in preventing delinquency among their children who are at risk. One of our objectives is to reach out to the whole family and conduct training, help parents set priorities and most importantly involve the entire family in a Bible believing Church.
5. *Ruby an agency worker among slum children:* One morning a child approached me and she was very concerned about the spiritual welfare of her parents. I told her to pray fervently along with her brothers and sisters and ask God to save them. Our Christmas party was His answer to our prayers because we had a local evangelistic team share the gospel and emphasize salvation for the adults while Child Evangelism Fellowship led the activities for the children. The party was truly like a miracle for all of us because it was like God feeding the multitude so the poor could feel the love of God through the food and gifts.
6. *An unnamed worker from a street ministry called Mercy Ministries:* The street kids were really excited about this party. They even dressed well and cooperated with us and some of the older kids borrowed clothes from friends and relatives. Some parents even attended with their children, which was a big answer to prayer, to see families together. One of the parents, Cecille, was really happy when she got the gift of groceries because her birthday is near and she was praying for food to feed her friends and family so God answered her prayers. The kids were really happy to receive clothes and the chance to eat at a restaurant in the mall.

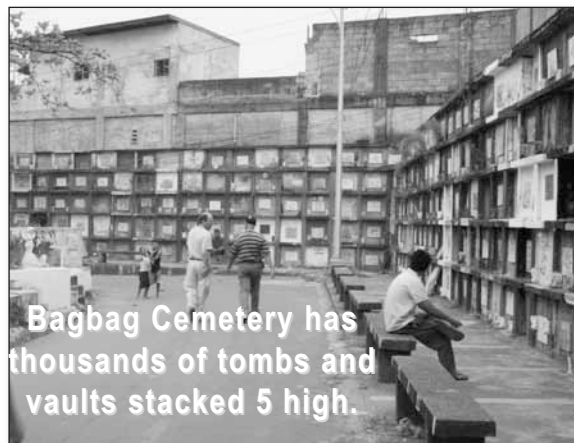
Testimonies of children and youth

1. *Roshelle residing in a program for street girls:* While watching the film about Jesus I saw that He was nailed to the cross and I was really crying because I know He didn't commit any sin. I learned from the story that God gave His only Son so I trusted Him to be my Savior and Lord. I desire now to change my life and I pray that more people will realize they are sinners like me and need to know Christ as Savior.

2. *Isabel a young woman living in a slum:* When I was a little kid I remember we could buy whatever we needed because my dad worked abroad but problems came and we lost all our resources. I'm glad that through this party I learned that Jesus will never leave me and will take care of me. I learned too that He came into this world as a baby to save all people so I received Him as my Savior.
3. *Alvin a young man living in a slum:* I am a drinker and I repented of my sins, accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior and want to change my life. I am thankful to the Lord, ACTION and this church for this party and program.
4. *Rodalyn a young girl from a poor rural family:* I thank our pastor for inviting us to the Christmas party with my brothers and sisters. I trusted Christ when the pastor shared that Jesus loves all us kids and I will now attend Sunday school.
5. *Ren a street girl:* Thanks because you taught us the Word of God and I'm glad to know Jesus Christ through this party. I learned that He's the most important gift I can receive which I learned through the Christmas message.
6. *John Paul a young boy staying in an orphanage:* I'm happy I am now here in this place, I'm learning a lot and I accepted Jesus into my life. Thank you for the Christmas gifts but I hope my family will have food on their table too.

Ministering life to those living among the dead

Recently we visited the home of Kevin an 11 year old boy living with his grandmother, his siblings and his aunt and her family. They are living in a squatter home inside the Bagbag Public Cemetery in Novaliches, Quezon City. Both Kevin's parents are in prison so he and his siblings are being cared for by his grandmother who begs for a living. Kevin is participating in a 6 month feeding program conducted by our partner church Foundation of Truth (FOT) because he's malnourished. He was recently diagnosed with TB so we're seeking family cooperation for the 6 month TB treatment. FOT's feeding is using food from Feed My Starving Children and church workers are doing a marvelous job teaching the children and their parents about the Lord Jesus and His love for them which is follow-up of their Christmas party. There are an estimated 400 families living in this cemetery and we're planning to have any evangelistic crusade for them sometime around Holy Week possibly using the Tagalog version of the Jesus film. Cur-



Jeff & Mary Ann Anderson

Prayer List Bookmark

Thank you for your prayers. Please tear off this portion from the newsletter and use this as a prayer reminder during this quarter. Below are the prayer requests and praises mentioned in this newsletter and previous hard copy and email letters.

Praises & Prayer Requests:

- Several boxes of food from Feed My Starving Children have arrived and been distributed.
- Financial support for 2008 ended strong. Pray for God's supply in '09.
- On-going ministry following the Christmas parties.
- Wilderness campsite developing with a camp scheduled for May.
- Ten Wood Tech students graduate March 7.
- Mustard Seed class four opened January 26 with ten students.
- Successful ground breaking for Shalom Birthing Clinic January 28. Pray for funding.
- Field Conference and International Council Meetings.
- The work of two short termers, Praise Goh and Erin Johnson.
- Our son Amos as he is looking for employment and striving to graduate June 12. Lord willing, we will attend his graduation in Pasadena.
- Our daughter Micah has a major decision to make in the next couple weeks regarding remaining active or going inactive with the Army National Guard following her deployment in Iraq. She will join us in April for her two week leave.

For regular updates, visit www.jeffmaryann.com



Action International Ministries

Sign up to receive our "Yes, Lord!" email updates by contacting us at: jeff@actionintl.org.

Visit our website for photos and additional stories:
www.jeffmaryann.com

Gifts for our support are tax deductible and may be sent to an ACTION office listed below. Designate your gift for: Jeff & Mary Ann Anderson Support, Account 40012A

Secure online giving, go to:
www.actionintl.org/anderson

Giving may also be designated for these ministries:

- Real Campsite Dev. (75041)
- Camping Ministry (75040)
- Christmas Ministry (75035)
- Shalom Birthing Home Bldg. Project (75037)
- Mustard Seed Ministry (75120)
- Fish & Bread Feeding (75031)
- Medical Ministries (75032)
- Anderson Support (40012A)
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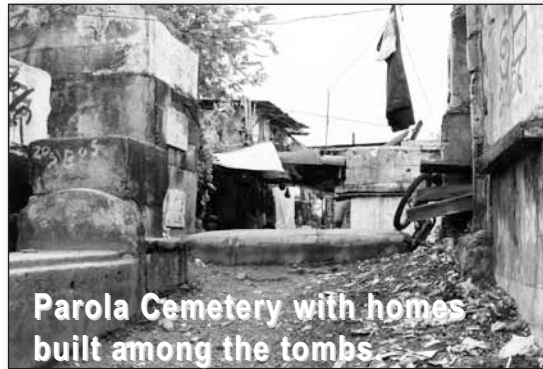
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rently many children and some parents are attending Sunday school each week at FOT with the plan of having an afternoon worship service for them since at this time they won't mix well with the morning congregation.

Pastor Ed is a ministry friend going back several years when he volunteered at Christian Growth Ministries' Home of Joy orphanage. Over the years we've lost contact but recently connected again because he and his wife Jane are planting a church among cemetery dwellers in the town of Cainta on the east side of Metro Manila. This is their seventh church plant during their fruitful ministry and when we asked him why they're working among those living literally on top of and in-between the tombs Pastor Ed said "because after doing a survey they're the most receptive." In Parola Public Cemetery the government has stopped burying people because of the estimated 133 families living there but Ed and his team are ministering Feed My Starving Children food and the life giving message of Jesus Christ to many children and parents three times weekly. They're well on their way to establishing a fellowship of believers in Christ and, as a matter of fact, the day we visited them they were going to have a Valentines party that night for young people. Their Christmas party was a major event in strengthening their work in the cemetery.



Rocky—growing while serving

I remember in 2000 when Rocky was a camper recruited by Pastor Felix of Living Bread Baptist Church (LBBC) who found Rocky as a lost directionless kid roaming the streets of Pandacan, Manila. Rocky is from a broken and very poor family and was starting to hang-out with the wrong crowd when Felix brought him to an ACTION evangelistic camp. It was at camp that Rocky turned from his sin and trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior and got connected to LBBC. He was transformed and that was the beginning of his new life as a follower of Christ and servant of others. After camp for few years Rocky lived at LBBC and helped with maintenance while assisting as a children's Sunday school teacher and participating in other church activities.

It was while he was at LBBC he learned of ACTION's Honest Hands (HH) life skills discipleship ministry located at our 2nd Mile compound which he joined in 2002. For 10 months at HH he grew in his walk with Christ, developed leadership skills

and gained Bible knowledge under the tutelage of ACTION missionary Carl Loewen and his staff men Pastors Mel de Jesus and Lino dela Peña a former street boy himself who



Rocky counseling street kids during a Christmas party at 2nd Mile.

trusted Christ at an ACTION camp in '95. Eventually Rocky went back to elementary school and completed grades 3-6 graduating as a 21 year old. He's a tall gangly young man so that must have been a sight to see Rocky with his classmates!

Rocky eventually served as junior staff at HH assisting students with chores and other activities, including a camp for street kids, and joined Pastor Mel in his Friday night Bible school class at a nearby school. Until now on Sundays he helps at Mel's church so Rocky is growing in the Lord as he's busy serving in the church under Mel's mentorship.

In June '08 Rocky entered Working Hands' (WH) wood tech program (we wrote about this ministry in our 4th quarter '08 "Yes, Lord!") and is learning basic carpentry skills while continuing in his study of the Word under Pastor Rowell Arnaldo, a Working Hands staff man and grad, and will graduate March 7.

Rocky is praying about going to Bible school after WH and is hoping to get a stable job. Over the years he has shown steady growth in Christ while serving others so he is a testimony of the power of the gospel to transform lost directionless people into followers of Christ and servant-leaders in the Kingdom of God.

Annual Field Conference & IC Meetings

March 14-17 will be our annual Field Conference. Our speaker will be Pastor Tom Crouse of Holland Congregational Church in Holland, Massachusetts who will also be speaking at other ACTION events while he's in Manila. Pray that our conference with the theme, "Honoring God as we serve together," will be a blessing in the Word and an encouragement to all.

From March 19-28, I will be representing our Philippine team at ACTION's annual International Council (IC) meetings in Calgary, Alberta. We will tackle several crucial items which are affecting ACTION's 25 countries of operation and over 250 missionaries. Pray for God's wisdom and harmony as we work through several sensitive issues. I also serve as ACTION's Associate International Director as well as the IC secretary so Mary Ann will assist me in taking the minutes of the meetings. Our field budget pays my conference expenses but we need to cover Mary Ann's expenses of \$1,900. Prayerfully consider sending an extra gift to help with her expenses. Thank you.