

# Yes, Lord!

The people who  
know their God  
shall stand firm  
and take action.

Daniel 11:32b

News from  
Jeff and  
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serving  
globally with  
Action  
International  
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All Scripture  
references are  
in the English  
Standard  
Version (ESV)  
unless  
otherwise  
stated.

## Looking Back and Looking Forward

### Looking Back

In April Mary Ann and I assisted with teaching during ACTION USA's orientation for six new members. We mentioned that we joined ACTION 40 years ago in March, 1984. Those years have flown by with many unforeseen ups and downs and twists and turns. We told the candidates, (who are now appointees to their fields of ministry), that we clearly see God's leadership, guidance, and provision in the past. He has been, and continues to be, our *Jehovah-Jireh*. Abraham gave God this name in Genesis 22:8-14 when He provided a prized sacrificial ram (not just an ordinary lamb) so he did not need to sacrifice his son Issac. Verse 14 reads "So Abraham called the name of that place, 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'" *Jehovah-Jireh* means He provides for His people eternal grace through His beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ, continual provision of all we need for life and godliness, and all-encompassing wisdom for overcoming our hardships and maturing as a result of our character developing tests and trials. *Jehovah-Jireh* is not "The Lord did provide" but "The Lord *will* provide."

**This name does not just remember the past, but it anticipates God's future provision.**

During our orientation participating members and the appointees mentioned to us in one way or another that our teaching and stories of God's calling, grace and provision helped give them courage and an example of staying on their course of life and ministry.

Among the Bible texts that the Spirit uses to inspire us to keep pressing on is Philippians 3:12-14. Paul writes to his faithful friends and supporters in Philippi, "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have

*made it my own, but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."* Paul clearly remembered his life before he trusted Christ, he rejoiced greatly in his new life and calling in Him, and he was aware that he was imperfect. He wanted to keep growing in life and godliness. He had an athlete's discipline, focus and energy. He had not yet finished his race. He was focused on one thing; on finishing his race and being called to the winner's stand where he'd receive the prize for his upward call of God in Christ Jesus (heaven with Jesus). Like Paul, by faith, Mary Ann and I want to continue trusting God's living and written Word.

### Looking Forward

In June we are going to an undisclosed South Asian country for the third time. We were to go there last August but our brothers and sisters in Christ and hosts there felt it was too unsafe at that time. They asked us to postpone, so we will use our airline vouchers from August. They expire in July so that's the timing of this trip. Since then airfare and other costs have increased so we are trusting our *Jehovah-Jireh* to provide additional funds needed for lodging, food, airfare, local travel, security, and planned and un-



Photo from our previous trip to this South Asian country.

planned ministry. We will minister in churches, including our friend's church, dedicate to the Lord their new-born third child, and minister at their church's recently planted churches among unreached people groups. The trip will be strenuous and expensive. Please pray for us. We need prayer for protection, stamina and provision. Pray also that we will be an encouragement to our friends. If the Lord leads you to give financially we would really appreciate it.

**Why are we going there?** We have mentored and coached Mr. and Mrs. S., our friends and co-workers, since we helped onboard them with ACTION over five years ago. They are graduates of the International Graduate School of Leadership in Quezon City in Metro Manila. Currently Mr. S. is working on a PhD at a different seminary in the Philippines. His thesis is "Missions in harsh environments: guided by the Holy Spirit despite limited resources." It will focus on nations in the 10/40 window known for persecution and workers with limited resources. They are hungry for fellowship, mentoring in ministry and discipleship in Christ. Both are active learners. Mr. S. and I talk and pray securely regularly. He is zealous about making disciples among young followers of Jesus in his country who are taking the Gospel to unreached people groups throughout his country and beyond its borders. He is following the development of the Palawan Christian Resource Center

All4Christ is building in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines. Lord willing, he'd like to teach at the PCRC and send students there so we prayerfully discuss our mutual desire as well. He is a big-picture visionary. A Paul. I am a step-by-step plodder. A Barnabas. On previous trips and during this one, I will walk beside him as he leads the disciple-making movement in his country. I want to smell what he smells. Eat what he eats. Touch what he touches. Feel what he feels. Hear what he hears. See what he sees—both physically and in the Spirit. We want to meet with his faithful young disciples, some of whom we already know. *That's why we're going.*

### **ACTION Skills Conference**

From July 8-12 ACTION will have our third Skills Conference. It will be in Osceola, Wisconsin at the ARC Bible camp. Mary Ann is the overall coordinator. So far we have 35 people registered (including kids).



Photo taken from our last Skills Conference in Post Falls, Idaho, January 2021.

Appointees and those with years of experience with ACTION will attend so it ought to be a rich time of fellowship and learning. Its theme is "*Stand Firm on a Christ-centered Identity*" (Daniel 11:32b and 1 Peter 5:6-9). We will discuss many in-house topics, two excellent local speakers will join us and we will have time for fun and relaxation. We desire to grow in Christ together. Pray for us please.

### **We are Thankful and Grateful**

God is our *Jehovah-Jireh*, yet He uses people to provide what we need. Over the years He has provided through unexpected sources but primarily by His people. We are very thankful to God for His unfailing provision. This helps us trust Him for our future needs. We are not entitled. God does not owe us anything. He is not indebted to us. God is a gracious giver. This is His nature. We rely on Romans 8:32. Paul writes this from his experience, "*He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*" Notice that Abraham was allowed to spare his son Issac, but God did not spare His Son Jesus, the Lamb, the ultimate sacrifice, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

We are grateful to you for your faithful prayer and sacrificial giving as unto the Lord. We serve Jesus, His church, the Gospel, and people together. All this is for God's glory and fame among the nations.

**Action International Ministries**

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