

Yes, Lord!

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

Daniel 11:32b

News from
Jeff and
Mary Ann
Anderson,
serving
globally with
Action
International
Ministries

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All Scripture
references are
in the English
Standard
Version (ESV)
unless
otherwise
stated.

Life and Ministry Updates

Greetings friends from Spokane Valley. Since our move last November, it still seems odd to greet you from here rather than from Minneapolis or Manila, however, we know what we know; it is God's will and timing that we are here now. Ecclesiastes 3:11a tells us that our time on earth is fleeting as we have an eternal perspective on our numbered days (Psalm 90:12). Solomon wrote, *"He (God our creator) has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart."* During our season of life we have more time behind us than we have in front of us. We praise God for our lives on earth and the assurance of eternal life with Him in heaven because of Jesus Christ. At our age (I turned 71 on May 14 and Mary Ann 69 on April 22) we still have a lot of "tread on our tires with a full tank of gas" as we serve Christ full-time locally and globally with ACTION. Here is a brief update on our lives and ministry.

We're getting settled but not settling

We are slowly getting settled. It has taken time, planning, flexibility, cooperation and patience to get setup with new medical doctors and dentists, organize our apartment and office and find a Bible-teaching church near us with a global missions outreach. Ministry trips to Texas, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia this year also slowed our transition. We realize transition requires time, planning, flexibility, cooperation and patience. We plan and pray together and organize the best we can. We then commit ourselves to the Lord and His guidance. We ask Him almost daily to guide our steps (Psalm 37:23) and He is doing that.

We are worshipping at Valley Bible Church and have met with their missions pastor. He wel-

comes our assistance with their local and global outreach as we are able. Mary Ann has volunteered to serve with VBC's reception team and joined an exercise class twice a week with ladies from the church and community. She also joined an evening Bible study for ladies which is now finished for the summer. In the Fall we'll join a home-group Bible study.

Micah Ann Scott, our daughter, her husband Danny and their kids Constance and Felicity have been very helpful. They've introduced us to many of their friends and invited us to activities such as at their Christian cooperative school, church and community events. These are great opportunities to meet people and learn about the Spokane area.

Every other year we plan to have a family get-together. In May our son Amos, his wife Laura and their kids Ethan and Lydia, living in New Haven, Connecticut, along with the Scotts, Mary Ann and me went to Puerto Rico for ten days. Again this trip required flexible planning and



Resting after hiking up a 600 foot incline
in the rainforest on Mother's Day.



**Left photo is
Amos and Laura
Anderson and kids
Lydia and Ethan**

**Right photo is
Danny and Micah
Ann Scott and kids
Felicity and
Constance**



prayer both before and during our days together. Everyone enjoyed the planned and unplanned activities. We enjoyed seeing centuries-old historic sites, swimming in a nice backyard pool and the Atlantic Ocean, delicious Puerto Rican food, hiking in a lush rainforest, exploring a deep dark cave, kayaking in a magnificently colored bio-luminous bay of the Atlantic Ocean and just hanging-out swapping stories and playing games.

We asked our grandkids to prepare our worship service on Mother's Day. They did a great job leading us in song and prayer. Each one also shared a text from God's Word and told us what they are learning from it. They are being trained well in Christ and the Scriptures. We're glad they also enjoyed listening to our crazy stories! Thanks for praying for our family. Some of you have cared for us for many years.

With eternity in our hearts, we know that life on earth is not our forever home. We are settling in Spokane Valley but know it is temporary. We will someday be in heaven face-to-face with Jesus in our Father's eternal house (John 14:1-6).

Our message is the same with adjustments

In our last letter we mentioned that we spoke to a class at Constance's and Felicity's school in February. We were asked to talk about our ministry in a restricted access South Asian country, their culture and what the Lord is doing there. At the time the class was studying this country and its region, so the students were prepared for our presentation. They asked good questions about the people, their culture and food and our ministry. We challenged them, even though they're young, to prayerfully consider with their parents and teachers at their school and churches, about their current and future role

in local and global ministry. One young student eagerly asked several excellent questions during the class. After class he saw us in the hallway and thanked us for our presentation. Mary Ann saw him with his mother at an event a few days later and again he thanked her for our talk. Will he be a cross-cultural Gospel worker someday? We don't know but the Spirit is speaking to his young heart and mind.

In April we spoke to a large group of seniors during their weekly Sunday evening worship service at their residence. We talked about our lives and ministries in the Philippines to street kids and in the slums, natural disaster response, administration and publishing and our current ministry of helping develop followers of Jesus who will make other Christ-followers among the nations. This includes onboarding new ACTION workers like we did virtually the previous week from the USA, Costa Rica, Bangladesh, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda and India. We mentioned our passion is also helping develop reproducing ministry leaders such as we experienced during this year's International Council meeting in Malaysia in March.

It was a deep joy to sit side-by-side around the table with ACTION leaders from several countries who we helped onboard and mentor over the years. They add a healthy global perspective to our devotions in God's Word, prayer and discussions. ACTION is no longer sending workers only from western nations to the rest of the world. Years ago we determined, with lots of prayer, to join the Lord of the harvest in sending anyone to anywhere if they have a clear biblical calling to serve Christ in His harvest. This process can be messy; however, it's our privilege and responsibility, in partnership with their sending

churches, to equip, send and steward our workers well so they'll enjoy a long and fruitful ministry. After our South Asia Conference in Thailand in February and our International Council meeting in Malaysia, we were invited to minister to the ACTION teams in the Philippines, Bangladesh and Nepal. We would also like to visit our co-workers in Indonesia. Please pray for wisdom, guidance and finances.

We challenged the seniors to use their lifetime of experiences, life and work skills, spiritual gifts, influence and material resources to help make disciples of Christ. We asked them to ask the Lord, with their Bibles open, who they could minister to at their residence or their church or among an unreached people group. Many talked with Mary Ann and me, including their chaplain, after the service about the Great Commission. No matter our age none of us has graduated yet from God's school of discipleship. We are not exempted from following Jesus' command to go to the nations with the Gospel and make followers of Christ.

Here's the takeaway. Christ's mandate is for His followers to make disciples from all nations. It is for all His disciples regardless of our age, gender, status, nationality or story. Of course, we share this message in age-appropriate ways, but it is the same. We're not done till we're done. What we know, we know. In addition, we don't know what we don't know. However, God is sovereign and providential, so we don't need to worry about the future (Matthew 6:19-33; Mark 4:1-20). Matthew 28:18-20 is clear. We either obey by going with the Gospel ourselves or by helping others go by our prayer and finances, or we disobey. It is that simple. Here is the Great Commission again. Read it like it's your first time to read it. *"And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Amen!

I have these quotes written in an old KJV Thompson-Chain Reference Bible of mine. They help me stay focused and on-task.

- "A missionary needs to wear out two pieces of

leather: his Bible and his shoes" (Urbana 1984). I was there and clearly heard Dr. Roger Greenway say this during his message.

- "The mission of the church is missions, the mission of missions is the church" (Dr. Oswald Smith of the People's Church in Toronto).
- "The church that is not on a missionary diet will starve to death" (author unknown). This is held by church leaders through the ages. A church becomes unhealthy and loses spiritual vibrancy if she doesn't have outreach activities locally and globally by sharing the Gospel, doing good deeds and making reproducing disciples of Christ.

ACTION Podcasts

Last July we participated in recording ten training videos for ACTION USA's long-term workers. They were recently released for viewing by our workers and their sending churches and supporters. Our hat is off to Adam Hussey for interviewing us three times and editing all the podcasts. They are part of ACTION's mentoring, training and ongoing learning process for all our workers regardless of their nationality or season of life and ministry. These podcasts complement the training videos we helped produce with Adam a few years ago for workers preparing for short-term work. *If you have questions or want the link to the podcasts, feel free to contact us at our email addresses at the end of this letter.*

Working on this prayer letter in my home office.





The Anderson family, Jeff and Mary Ann, and the Scott family

Prayer requests for Jeff's health

1. In April I finally had an appointment with a cardiologist in Spokane. We discussed my Arterial Fibrillation records from Minneapolis and decided the next step will be a cardiac ablation on June 5. By the time you read this letter it most likely will have been done so pray this procedure will regulate my continuous irregular heartbeat. I asked him why he thinks I developed A-Fib. He said he's not sure, but it could be from years of living in Manila's heavy pollution and my years of strenuous running.
2. On August 28 I have an appointment with a sleep specialist to go over my sleep test last November 9 in Minneapolis. Its finding is I have mild apnea which could be another cause of A-Fib.
3. I've also been diagnosed to have hypothyroidism. My primary care

doctor has prescribed three different doses of medication over the past several months, a supplement and eat five Brazil nuts daily because of their high selenium content. Each blood test shows improvement.

4. Since February Mary Ann and I have undergone several expensive dental procedures such as new crowns and fillings. She's done for now but I need a root canal re-treated soon after my ablation. This root canal was done years ago in Manila and is infected.
5. I have had a very achy right shoulder (possibly frozen) so I am gutting out stretching exercises. I have no idea how this started. Pray for wisdom about maybe seeing a physical therapist.

We don't like talking about our aches and pains. They don't stop our life and ministry but they do cause

us to be wiser with our diets, sleep, exercise and pace.

We are grateful

We are grateful to the Lord for your ongoing faithfulness in prayer for us and your generous financial giving to our personal support and ministries. When Mary Ann and I thank Him for supplying our daily bread and meeting our needs we also praise Him for you. I am listening to teaching on 1 Thessalonians by Dr. Gene Getz. Verses 2-3 of chapter 1 remind me of you and fuel our prayers for you. Paul wrote, *"We (Paul, Silvanus and Timothy) give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."*

May our Heavenly Father abundantly bless you and your loved ones!

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