

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.

The counsel and plans of the Lord

Years ago I learned a truth from my good Filipino friend Pastor Bill Lyda. The truth he taught me and modeled before me has stuck through the many twists and turns of life and ministry. The simple yet profound truth is *“The steps, [stops and delays] of a man are established by the Lord”* (Psalm 37:23). I need to keep applying this because I am by nature a straightway guy. I arrange my days, weeks, and months. Each day has its to-do list. It is the way I’m wired. Through the years, however, I’ve learned to hold well-developed plans loosely and keep committing them, Mary Ann, myself, family, coworkers, partners, and our finances to the Lord’s guidance, protection, and provision. Learning to live by God’s providence and sovereignty has kept me from a lot of discouragement and frustration. It has given me reassurance that He is in-charge, not me (I’m trying to be nimble), and that ultimately I am serving Him and His purposes, not mine, or ACTION’s. Mary Ann and I serve the Lord Jesus globally with ACTION. We work daily to help complete Christ’s commission to His followers to make disciples among all peoples in all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). That is easier said than done in our topsy-turvy world.

Recently I read Psalm 33 many times. Verses 10 and 11 grabbed my attention. They are giving me assurance that we are not out of line. We’re learning to be in line with the Spirit through God’s Word, our circumstances and the wisdom of godly people. The verses are: *“The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.”* The truth is the scheming counsel and plans of godless people and nations will be frustrated and brought to nothing and no one or nation

can subvert God’s counsel and plans for our good and His glory. He is trustworthy, loving, good, consistent, and perfect in all His ways. He is in total control of history. Jesus is “the ruler of kings on earth” (Revelation 1:5).

Where does history end? This question is before all of us and affects our everyday living. The Apostle Paul answers this question in Philippians 2:9-11. He writes, *“at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* Have we fully dedicated our bodies and all our stuff to the Lord of lords and King of kings (Revelation 19:17) to be used for His Kingdom? If not, what are we living for that in the end is worth living for? While we can let’s give ourselves passionately to King Jesus. He is coming again. Soon.

Trip to South Asia is off

God knows what we do not know. After many hours of prayer, planning and preparing messages for our trip to a South Asian country it was called off due to escalating national political unrest and social uncertainty. Our friends and coworkers there think it’s too risky for us and for them if we are there at this time. At minimum we could be deported while they could suffer far worse. In addition inflation is rampant so it’s difficult to set a responsible budget. We should not go there until their national leaders have sorted out their path forward and life has settled down. Thankfully we got vouchers for our airline tickets which we need to use by July 11, 2024.

We hope and pray we can be with our friends and colleagues in this country soon. The kingdoms of men are shaking while God’s Kingdom is growing and deepening among peoples in

unlikely places. Pray for Mary Ann, me, our dear friends and faithful co-workers, and their nation.

Palawan Christian Resource Center (PCRC)

The final payment is ready to be paid for the 3.5-acre site for All4Christ's PCRC in Puerto Princesa, Palawan Province in the Philippines. A few of our A4C teammates and representatives from the Center for Biblical Studies Institute and Seminary, our partner with the PCRC, were there in July to check on the selling and purchasing paperwork. They reported that the papers are in order and up to date. When the signed papers are returned the payment will be made and the property title will go to A4C. Manfred, and his wife Bea, are pleased to sell their property to A4C and help it become a ministry and missionary training center and theological school.

Manfred, a German, is an experienced overseer of industrial site developments. He has offered to oversee this project at a reduced price. He is now working on the phases and their costs. When we have that information we will write a case statement for fund raising and recruitment of skilled people to work alongside Manfred and his crew. We plan to refurbish the existing building and do other projects in January and February. If you are interested in the PCRC get ahold of me and I'll connect you with those who can answer your questions.

Barbecue ministry

This summer we enjoyed serving at Cityview Church's weekly barbecue in South Minneapolis. The surrounding neighborhood has families from several countries starting new lives. Many are limited or do not speak English. The area is also full of drugs and crime with tent encampments, rehab centers and sober houses. As we're grilling and setting up tables, chairs and a bounce house for kids, we put a sign board on a busy intersection advertising free food. People from many walks of life stop by for a burger, hotdog, all the fixings, chips and ice cold water. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a delicious meal with friendly conversation. There is no judgment, just truth and love. If people request prayer, we pray for them. If people want to learn about the Gospel and CVC, we tell them. We don't force spiritual conversations or conversions. We are building a bridge for the Gospel into people's lives. Friends who once gabbled down their food and left in a hurry are now relaxed as they laugh and converse while enjoying seconds, or thirds, of their meal. Some stay to help clean trash and put stuff away. A few are attending Bible studies and worship services at CVC. CVC is not resisting their changing neighborhood nor is the church running from the difficulties. Our team is doing what Gospel-centered people do. We serve our neighbors with God's love no matter who they are. We see their potential in Christ. We

love them with truth so they can be transformed from the inside out.

Our former turf and ministry

Mary Ann started full time ministry in South Minneapolis at Midwest Challenge (now Life Rebuilders) in 1976. I started there in 1977, we were married in 1979 and served with MWC through 1984. In 1985 we left for Manila with ACTION. Much of our work in Manila in the early years was patterned after MWC. In July we attended MWC's 50th anniversary. It was a blessing to reconnect with former coworkers and meet LR's current workers. The ministries at LR and in Manila are fruitfully carrying on.

Thank you

Our world and South Minneapolis have changed a lot, like we have, but the Gospel and our calling have not changed. Thank you for your prayers and financial support. You are helping us stay-our-course in life and ministry. We are grateful to our heavenly Father for you.

If you'd like us to pray for you, send us your prayer requests.



Action International Ministries

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