

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

4th Qtr. 2023
Volume 38

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

Making the best use of our limited time

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:15-17).

There are two common Greek words in the New Testament for time. “*Chronos*” refers to clock time and “*kairos*” refers to opportunity time. *Kairos* cannot be measured like *chronos* because it is always in the now. In Ephesians 5:16 Paul encourages his readers then, and us today, to make the best use of God-given opportunities. In God’s view temporal time (seconds, minutes, hours, years) is valuable because it creates opportunities with eternal duration. Seizing opportunities by our investment of time, treasure and talent that are productive immediately, or even decades later, are extremely important. Christ-followers seizing opportunities for His Kingdom are like alert business people seeing a profit-making opportunity and quickly grabbing it. Paul is exhorting us to understand life is not just about *chronos* but more importantly about *kairos*.

Wise people say “yes” to opportunities to expand God’s Kingdom on earth and gain riches in heaven. This means living carefully by knowing our priorities, and saying “no” to secondary things. By saying “the days are evil” Paul is communicating his urgency because evil surrounds him. We need the same urgency. In short, we invest ourselves by keeping our biblical standards high, living wisely, and making the most of our opportunities to spread the Gospel, make reproducing disciples, build-up the church, and do good.

Let us echo Moses’ prayer, “*So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.... Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands*

upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!” (Psalms 90:12, 17).

Ezra 7:10 “*For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.*”

Like Ezra, we want to walk faithfully through **studying** God’s Word, **obeying** it, and **teaching** others to do the same. This is the essence of the Palawan Christian Resource Center.

A Kingdom opportunity is in motion

We have written about the PCRC often. The 3.5 acre site for it in Puerto Princesa, Palawan Province in the Philippines has been purchased by All4Christ. A4C has the title, representatives from A4C and our partner ministry, the Center for Biblical Studies and Seminary, and Manfred the site’s former owner who will oversee the construction of the PCRC, are working with architects and engineers to finalize the plan for the landscape and buildings. Various permits should be in our possession when construction starts in February.

Our A4C and CBS teams are drafting a case statement for the PCRC which Mary Ann and I will help finalize. In God’s grace we are moving ahead to make our dream a reality. Before A4C was formalized, our A4C and CBS teams ministered to traumatized pastors and their wives, church leaders, missionaries, and Bible school and seminary students. This followed lots of relief and development work among masses of people who were wiped-out by Super Typhoon Haiyan ten years ago on November 8, 2013.

In 2017, A4C incorporated in the Philippines and in 2018 in the USA. We held in-person conferences for God’s servants in many Philippine provinces before the two-year COVID-19 nationwide lockdown started in March 2020. This included distributing needed study Bibles and

biblical books. During the lockdown A4C continued ministry by having well-attended monthly e-conferences. In-person conferences have resumed and continue to be well-attended. Mary Ann and I participated in a conference last December in Palawan and will assist with another this December.

A few years ago A4C and CBS received a clear Macedonian-type call from pastors to assist them with discipling, training, and mobilizing churches for local and international ministry. They were under-equipped and resourced and feeling left-behind. As a result we prayed, investigated and held conferences in several places in Palawan. We determined their call was God's leading and a "Palawan Dream" was birthed. A year ago, after diligent prayer and looking for land that would fit our "Dream," the current location was found and seized upon.

Ron Stensgard, who lives in North Dakota and a founding member of A4C's USA Board, has walked this trail with us since the Hiayan days. He is now referred to as our "passion-ary" because of his passion for the Lord Jesus and his God-sized vision for Christ's glory in the Philippines and beyond. Ron is a good friend and dear brother in Christ. He said this about the PCRC, "I have no doubt that the Lord put this great opportunity and burden in front of us. The PCRC could be a beacon on a hill for students getting

a quality education, encouraging and upgrading pastors and church leaders to be the best they can be, train people for cross-cultural ministry and bring international students to study and have hands-on training. We also have the opportunity to help other schools that are struggling."

This is why Mary Ann and I are investing ourselves in the PCRC. We are building its ministry to far outlast our time this side of heaven. We desire to see well-prepared servants of Christ minister the Gospel and do good among unreached people groups and the poor throughout the Philippines, Southeast Asia and the 10/40 window. This is a God-sized timely opportunity. This is why we are going there in December and in February 2024. Pray for us please. If you want more information about how you can join us in seizing this opportunity let us know. Our next prayer letter will include photos of the project.

A4C's motto: *The life of the minister is the life of the ministry.*

My personal verse for A4C is 1 Thessalonians 2:8, "*So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.*"

Support Needed

We are praying we can finish this year and start 2024 financially

strong. We are currently holding about \$10,000 in ministry receipts that need to be reimbursed to our savings. They are for airline tickets, hotels, meals on-the-road, mileage and ongoing office expenses. Please consider sending a year-end gift to our support or start supporting us regularly if you are not. You can give securely online or send a check to the ACTION office nearest you. Information for giving is below.

Thanks to all of you

We gladly serve full-time in ministry. In Minneapolis at Midwest Challenge Mary Ann started full-time in 1976 and me in 1977 (pre-Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge). We have served the Lord as husband and wife since December 1979 with MWC and ACTION. We are not retired and plan to keep serving Christ and making disciples as He gives us strength and provides our needs. The PCRC will be a "dream come true" for us because we have envisioned a ministry like this for decades, even before we went to Manila in 1985. It has been totally worth it all to follow Jesus through the years. We keep hearing Him say to us "come, follow Me."

Thanks to all of you for your prayers, financial gifts and encouragement. We serve together as members of Christ's body. Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2024 to you, and your loved ones!

Action International Ministries

Online giving: www.actioninternational.org/anderson

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