

# reflections



AN UPDATE BY NATHANAEL & MICHELLE MANTHEY, MISSIONARIES WITH HANDI\*VANGELISM MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

## Ministry Update

Thank you all for your prayers, cards and support! Between the new baby and ministry opportunities, the later half of this year has been all about adjustment for us.



Nathanael with his buddy for the day, Handi\*Camper William

Nathanael continues part-time at the Firestore as they graciously allow him to rearrange his work schedule for ministry events. This summer he attended Handi\*Camp at Sankanac several times. He also completed a correspondence course through Moody Bible Institute. Lord-willing, he will take a course at Lancaster Bible College in the spring semester. He attended a ministry day at Philadelphia Biblical University in

September and will return there in February for their camp fair. In February, we will also be visiting colleges in western PA, Ohio and Kentucky to look for counselors for next summer's Handi\*Camp. (There were many new faces this summer from last February's camp fair trips.) Philip will add an interesting new dynamic to this next trip. Michelle was on maternity leave for much of the summer, returning



Big Tom with Nathanael & our nephew Ryan

to the prison in August and the REST office in September. Prison Bible studies went well while she was away, thanks in large part to REST's newest addition, Heather Stewart, and volunteer Kristina Reisinger who provided weekly consistency. Heather also took over Michelle's hours at Tabitha's, our thrift store ministry. Michelle now works at the REST office 1-2 days a week, goes into the prison Thursday nights and works from home with lots of non-weekly ministry thrown in for good measure. Despite a change in routine, we've continued to meet with Big Tom. Instead of weekly trips to Tabitha's, he joins us several times a month for dinner with other members of the Manthey clan. He'll also join us for the Manthey family Thanksgiving like last year.

Pray for stamina! Our November weekends are packed with the H\*VMI move to Ephrata (PO Box remains the same), a Mission's Conference at Mount Calvary Church and our staff retreat. We also have the Coatesville Christmas Parade on Dec 4, where we hand out thousands of candy canes, tracts and advertise for a 50% off sale at Tabitha's. It's always lots of fun, but we still need volunteers to help hand everything out. Let us know if you're interested!

## Daddy Lessons

Recently when Michelle was at her weekly prison Bible study, Philip and I spent some quality father/son time together. I envisioned a wonderful play time, followed by a nap for Philip and a Phillies game for me. I was so naive!

For whatever reason, Philip was fussy and refused to be consoled. I changed his diaper. I fed him a bottle. I held and rocked him. But he would only calm down when I walked around, bouncing and singing to him. Whenever I tried to sit, he would loudly proclaim his disapproval. At one point I tried to reason with him. I looked him in the eye and asked, "Do you have any idea how much you are loved?" To this he only cried louder. (I guess that's what I get for trying to reason with a baby.) But as I spoke those words to my son, I felt the Holy Spirit repeat them back to me, "Do you have any idea how much you are loved?"

The next evening, we were sitting on the couch, and Philip was snuggled against my chest. He was lying there quietly, eyes wide open, resting in my love. It was then that the Holy Spirit reminded me of his father's heart toward me. Often He would rather I stop doing stuff to prove my love to Him and instead just rest on His chest, soaking up His love.

Knowing we are loved changes how we live. There is security in love. And there is freedom in love.

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19



Our family at H\*VMI's Banquet in October

# 4 MONTHS With Baby Philip

June 24, 2010

Our beautiful baby boy, Philip Thomas Manthey, was born at Chester County Hospital. He weighed 7lbs 2oz & was 19" long.

Our lives are forever changed.



July

Parenting Lessons:

After spitting up, peeing & pooping on all of his clothes, Philip was left with just his diaper and hat to wear while visiting friends...



...but he looked adorable in them!

We learned early on that Philip loves to be swaddled for bed. Here he is in a "sock swaddle"—our little bean!

August

Philip attended his first H\*VMI events...

REST Ministries' volunteer/staff picnic at the Harmons & a H\*VMI fund-raiser with the Lancaster Barnstormers (right). He was an angel for his very nervous parents!



October 17



Philip was dedicated to the Lord at Providence Church by our Pastor Phil. Here he is being held by Nathanael's father—his namesake, Grandpa Phil. It was Philip<sup>3</sup>.

November

Philip & his cousin Madison were born just 5 days apart. Here they are while visiting their Great Grandma at 4 months old. They're changing so fast.



Philip loves to smile & laugh, especially at funny words or sounds. He even went through a phase where he giggled every time we said the word "stinky." He is so much fun!

## contact information

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