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McGraths' Newsletter –April, 2011
Manila, Philippines

Mabuhay (Welcome) to the Philippines:

Do you see the joy and excitement reflected on the face of this man, holding in his hand for the first time a copy of the Scriptures in his own heart language (mother-tongue!)?

This scene is repeated over and over again every time we are privileged to be part of a Bible dedication, once Scriptures are completed and ready for distribution.

For many it is the first time they have ever seen their language in print! And also for many, it has been something they never thought they would ever experience. Having their language in print often brings a healthy pride to the people group.

But more importantly, holding the Scriptures in their language in their hand, for the first time they understand that God speaks their language! You and I probably cannot imagine what that means. We have had the Bible in our language



from the moment we were born. We began learning the alphabet and simple words at early ages. When our parents taught us words, they showed us what they looked like by printing/writing them on paper. But imagine if you can with me, not having a written language – maybe not even knowing what writing is! What would it be like just having an oral language? Then imagine one day someone came and put your oral language in written form. Then they taught you how to read it! Then one day they handed you a copy of a book which contained God's message to you, in your language and you could read His love letter

to you! Can you even begin to imagine that?

The two pictures above, show colleagues who serve as translators here in the Philippines. Ed, Louise and Carol are part of translation teams who have spent many years to see these special events happen for their respective language groups. Carol (middle above picture) has persevered in her ministry, even though she is legally blind and dependent upon a helper and special fonts on a computer, has seen this glorious day in her language group.

It has been our privilege to provide support from a Human Resources perspective for our colleagues, as they have had needs over the period of our first 2 years here in the Philippines. And as our partners, you too, have been part of that team. You have a share in the joy seen on the faces of these folks receiving their own Scriptures.

A week from Sunday, May 1st, we fly out of Manila and land in Vancouver, to begin our SRP (Secondment Return Period) (formerly “furlough”). During May and June we will travel across Canada to Halifax and back to Ontario. We hope to see many of you during those days.

The month of July, we will spend in Ontario, mainly with our family and resting, in preparation for our return here to Manila on August 1st.

Here are the churches we will be at in case you are able to visit us at one of them:

May 8th – Avonglen Church – Irma, Alberta

May 15th – Northside Community Church – Kitchener, Ontario

May 22nd – Westfort Baptist Church – Thunder Bay, Ontario (to be confirmed)

May 29th – Walkerville Baptist Church, Windsor, Ontario

Jun 5th – visiting family at Forest City Baptist Church – London, Ontario

Jun 12th – Lachute Baptist Church, Lachute Quebec

Jun 19th – Eglise Baptiste Evangelique de Terrebonne Mascouche – Mascouche, Quebec

Jun 26th – in Halifax – church not confirmed.

Jul 17th – Calvary Baptist Church, Ottawa, Ontario

This will be our last newsletter, until we return from our SRP in August, so we hope we can connect with many of you while home.

We want to express in person to you our gratitude for your faithful partnership during these past two years. You have been a blessing, and without you, we would not be able to be here serving as we do. So as our Filipino friends would say: Maraming, maraming salamat, po! (Thank you very, very much, with respect!)

With grateful hearts,

Eric & Sharon McGrath

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Support level – 93% = \$302 below Ministry Budget