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McGraths' Newsletter – December, 2010
Manila, Philippines

Christmas Greetings to our Faithful Partners:

Eric spoke in chapel recently about Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. His life is a reminder for us, especially as parents, to be committed to the Word and leading of the Lord, regardless of what societal pressures may be placed upon us or our families. Four times, Joseph responds to the voice of God, to do what would cause his average fellow countrymen to exclaim --- "You are going to do what? But she is pregnant and you're not the father!!" "You are going where?" "Do you know how much it will cost to go to Egypt?" "You are going to live where?" "Don't you know that no good thing comes from Nazareth?" Yet Joseph resists the tide and goes against the flow, because God's Word is so vital to this righteous man. May our lives be lives that exemplify righteousness that hears God's Word and obeys it!

We have settled back into life here in Manila and the Philippines.

First we want to express our gratitude to all who helped with our unexpected trip home for rest. While we do not have a complete accounting of those gifts yet, we do believe that the majority of our flight costs and additional expenses have been met. Thank you so much for your gracious response. Especially are we grateful to my cousin Morley and his wife, Artie, for their hospitality shown so abundantly, while we were home in Canada.

Two days after arriving home, our refrigerator went down on us. After seeking advice about repairs here, the best advice was to cut our losses and buy a new **one**. This meant a PHP30,000 (\$690 CAD) expense we were not anticipating.



Eric was the guest speaker at our southern and northern language team update retreats – one in Manila and one on the



southern most island – actually at an island just off shore at a place called Paradise Island! Sounds exotic, eh? I believe that the actual name is called Samal City on Mawes Island, for those who might want to look for it on a map of the Philippines. Eric also conducted a Human Relations seminar to the paid staff at the Davao centre.

While the time in Ontario was very beneficial for Eric and restored his strength and energy to carry on his ministry here in Personnel, Sharon came home with severe pain in her shoulders, neck and head. After visiting the doctors, the pain has been mostly relieved through some medication. However, she is having a device made to wear, to address some TMJ (Temporomandibular joint disorder). Please

continue to pray for her relief from the pain, some of which is the result of chronic arthritis in her shoulders and neck.



Sharon has “hit the decks” running as well. She too travelled down south, and spent some time with her member-care colleagues in Davao. Barnabas is an organization that sends folks around the world to minister to missionaries and missions organizations. Sharon is busy with the plans for Barnabas reps to come and visit our missions family during February and March, 2011. Sharon has also been busy once more with folks who have needed doctor/hospital care here in Manila. She is getting to know the ins and outs of St Luke’s Medical Center here in Manila, real well.

Her role also includes summarizing all of the prayer letters from our Philippines’ mission family and providing a synopsis report to their respective supervisors. This is a very important role, which aids busy supervisors to be on top of important matters in the lives of those who work for them.

Then in January, Sharon will explore another new role, possibly assuming a ministry from one of our staff who is returning to the USA, to live. This is a very computer demanding role, updating a website, that many times is not always user friendly. So please pray that she will sense the Lord’s leading concerning this new role.

If you receive our newsletter regularly, you will know that the only indication of our support level, which we usually provide is in a little box near the end of our letter. This month we move it up a little higher in our letter, asking, if you are able to, to prayerfully consider our need. We are short \$490 CAD per month as of December 2010. Let us be quick to add how grateful we are for those who so faithfully and sacrificially support us month to month. The Lord has been so faithful through you and we give Him the glory. Enough said about that.

It looks like Christmas day will be spent with colleagues. The plan now is that we will gather at the office Guest House at noon for a pot-luck dinner, then play some games in the afternoon. Then some may gather at our place with the leftovers to watch a video later in the day. It should be fun. Many of us will be thinking of our families, wishing we were with them, but praying that they are having a blessed and special celebration back home.

Lord willing, we will celebrate our 4th anniversary on December 30th. We hope to be able to get away to the same place where we went last year with our Canadian friends, Peter and Betty. They are planning on joining us once more this year for our anniversary and the New Year’s fireworks, which are spectacular on another island location, called Boracay.

With grateful hearts, ***Eric & Sharon McGrath***



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Mark support sent to the office “for the ministry or work of Eric & Sharon McGrath”