



## McGrath's News

*“Break open Your words, let the light shine out, let ordinary people see the meaning.”  
Psalm 119:130—The Message*

Volume 2009, Issue 1

Wainwright, Alberta

January/February 2009

Dear Partners:

We have delayed our January newsletter, so that we could report a little more conclusively on our current situation.

### **Standing in the Gap**

Ezekiel wrote in Ezekiel 22:30 this: “And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and **stand in the gap** before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. “

Back in early January as we contemplated our next newsletter this verse stuck in our mind, to share with you. Little did we know that it was going to have as profound an impact on our lives as it has.

### **Standing In the Gap with Mom**

Early in January we drove to Wainwright, Alberta, to attend to Sharon's Mom's health care, after she fell and broke her wrist between Christmas and New Years. Then while dealing with that, the doctors discovered that her cancer had returned to her liver. Some other health issues presented themselves, and this caused us concern that the cancer had spread further.

But this week we were thankful to find out that it has been confined to her liver and ribs, and both situations are now being treated by an oral chemo. She will return in two months for follow-up on those.

However, Mom has become very disoriented and is in the local hospital, as we seek to find out the reasons for that.

So we are “standing in the gap” here with Sharon's Mom and step-dad for the time being. They are both 84 and have expressed many times their thankfulness that we are here with them.

### **Standing in the Gap with Us**

Just a week before we came west, we had been given clearance to buy our tickets and travel to the Philippines. Just before we bought our tickets, we received word that one of our anticipated supporters had withdrawn, and that made us cancel our travel plans. While it was very disappointing at the time, we should have realized that God had other plans! Will we ever learn?

But as we stepped back and looked at our finances we discovered that our support thus far received was for the most part from many individuals, ranging from \$8 to \$165 per month. This was very encouraging, as we realized afresh the sacrificial giving of our partners. So we decided to break our remaining need down into \$50 increments, seeking to make our needed balance more reasonable and within reach. It meant at that point, that we would need 17 partners, who would commit to \$50 per month and “stand in the gap with us”.

As you know, we have not sent out a newsletter since then and the Lord has blessed us and encouraged us, in that 5 of those “gap partners” have come forward. So now we just need 12 more “gap partners”!

Thank you for praying with us that the Lord will look after this in His time and with His “gap people”.

### **Standing In the Gap in the Philippines**

How thankful we are for the excellent staff that is serving with SIL Philippines right now. We are particularly blessed by so many of them who have written to us and encouraged us with their notes and prayers during this difficult time. We know that many of them carry very heavy loads and are in many cases “standing in the gap”, filling responsibilities other than their own as they await the arrival of additional staff. How our hearts ache to be there, stepping up and carrying our load. Lord willing, we will be there before summer.

Will you pray to that end with us? Specifically that:

- Mom’s health issues will have stabilized
- We will be able to be back home and deal with the dismantling of our apartment
- Our support will be in place, so we can proceed with visa applications, ticket purchases, etc
- The SIL Philippines staff will be encouraged and blessed with grace, strength and wisdom as they carry on the great work they do

### **Christ Stood in our Gap!**



What a thrill to know that Christ stood in the greatest gap of all – the one that exists between God and man! And that by simple faith in Him, we can know that our sins are forgiven and that heaven is our home, when we leave this world. If you have accepted Christ as your Saviour and Lord, you know what I am talking about. If you haven’t and we can be of further help to you along your spiritual pilgrimage, please don’t hesitate to let us know.

With grateful hearts,

Eric & Sharon McGrath

#### **Contact Information:**

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By contacting The USA Wycliffe office: Wycliffe Bible Translators, P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862  
800-WYCLIFFE

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

#### **February Support Status Report:**

% OF TOTAL NEED MET      82%  
BALANCE REQUIRED            \$594/mth  
Praise God for His faithfulness!  
Thank you for praying with us for the  
balance.