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McGraths' Newsletter – July, 2010  
Manila, Philippines

Greetings Faithful Partners:

Well, finally a regular letter from the McGrath's – or at least almost a regular letter!!

The picture to the right was taken on April 30<sup>th</sup> during our staff outing. It was a great day enjoyed by all, especially the nice sand and water!! But who knew what lay hidden beneath and in between! ☺ This day, as you know, began a 10 week journey to the present, which has been eventful to say the least.



Eric has had three hospital stays here in Manila, and been prescribed several antibiotics and other medicines to fight off the effects of the super bacteria which invaded his body, due to a cut at the beach. And then due to his weakened immune system, he was subject to an e coli bacteria which did a number on his urinary tract!

It meant nine weeks of pretty much bed rest and not much else! But that seems to be in the past now! Praise the Lord! He has been back to the office, at least mostly, for half days and assuming some of his responsibilities – office tasks, teaching in staff devotions and resuming teaching responsibilities in the discipleship class at church. He says he is operating at about 85%, still tiring very easily and having some discomfort in his legs. But each week, there seems to be progress being made.

We are so thankful for all your prayers, cards, notes, calls and other expressions of love and care during these days. The Lord was so good through it all providing four Christian specialists and at least four Christian nurses who cared for Eric during his hospital stay. Also our SIL staff and church folks were so faithful and a tremendous blessing to us, as they visited prayed and shared. Maybe we can share more details when we see you next May at home.

Sharon was worn out by the ordeal, as she cared for Eric but also attending to others of our co-workers who had wide and varying needs to be addressed under Member Care. She needed to take some time to just recuperate after the hospital stays were over, and seems to be almost back to normal now. As you know, being a care-giver is very draining and strenuous work – sometimes worse than the illness!

This picture was taken during the Senior Recognition the first Sunday of May (before there was any sign of illness!!). Several young people, who are children of our colleagues, graduated from Faith Academy to move on to higher education studies and we had this service to honour them. Many will return to North America or their home countries to take further studies.



During the service the parents spoke words of encouragement to their child and then prayed for them. This was often an emotional time as the child would be leaving the nest and flying off on their own for the first time in some cases.

We have written to you about Gay, (that's her hiding behind her husband on the left!) our house helper, especially following the typhoon last year. We were able to help them purchase some items that they lost during the flooding.

This past weekend we celebrated her birthday and so had the whole family come to our home. We went up to the SIL Centre and they were able to swim and then back to our place for pizza and birthday cake. The family really enjoyed their time and presented us with a beautiful handmade "Thank You" card, designed by the middle two daughters.

This coming weekend, Sharon and I are travelling to Kalibo to visit/speak at a Baptist church there. Sharon will be singing at the service, providing special music. We are presenting the church with a box of hymnbooks, shipped over by a sister church in Kitchener. The church here was flooded out last year and lost most of their hymnbooks. They have been photocopying the hymns they need each Sunday for their congregation from books that survived. With then gift sent over from Canada, they will now each be able to have a hymnbook in their hands.



A friend of the missionary couple, who we will be staying with, heard of our visit and the reason for it. He said to them that he might just come to church as he would like to be part of a church that uses hymnbooks. This gentleman is from India, and we are not sure he is a believer, so pray for any on-going contact our missionary friends may have with him.

We hope to have three days of R&R at a nearby location. It is rainy season here, although there has been little rain and there are water shortages all over the Philippines. But rain or shine, we are looking forward to just doing some resting and reading and relaxing for a few days.

We are back only for a couple of days, and then Eric makes a business trip down to the southern-most island of the Philippines called Mindanao, to spend a few days there on personnel matters.

Again thank you for your faithfulness in prayer and support. You will notice our financial need has changed a bit. This is a one year course correction and has been caused by shifting dollar values and costs. Thanks for praying with us about this need.

We look forward to being home and visiting many of you next May and June. If you would like us to visit your church or in your home, please drop us a note and let us know and we will do our best to fit in as many visits in those two months as we can. We will be home for July as well, but are reserving that time for family. Our contact information is below.

Thanks so much again for partnering with us in this great work of reaching our world for Christ. Eric & Sharon

**Contact Information:**

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800-463-1143

By contacting The USA Wycliffe office: Wycliffe Bible Translators, P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862  
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Mark support sent to the office "for the ministry or work of Eric & Sharon McGrath"

**July Support Status Report:**

% of Total Ministry Budget Met – 85%

Balance required: - \$565/mth