



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 4

Manila, Philippines

June 2009

“The Eagle Has Landed!” (Or should we say the JAL 747 has landed?)

I'm asking God for one thing, only one thing: To live with him in his house my whole life long. I'll contemplate his beauty; I'll study at his feet. That's the only quiet, secure place in a noisy world, the perfect getaway, far from the buzz of traffic. – Psalm 27:4, 5 (The Message)

Crossing the Ocean:

We had a great flight over and arrived safely on May 26th at about 10:30 PM. It was about 1:00 AM before we arrived at the Guest House. We had the privilege of sitting in Business class seats on the 13 hour leg of our journey which was real special! What comfort in seating!!

The next morning at 9:00 AM began a week long orientation program. This included having blood work and x-rays taken and going to what is called “Quarantine” to have a Philippine doctor pass us medically for our visa. We got our Driver's Licenses which included drug and medical testing; purchased cell phones and then toured some significant places in the city. What a rich history there is here, but one filled with much political upheaval. It was very interesting to see the involvement of so many nations that have contributed to the diverse Filipino make-up! Then on Friday we visited the language school where we will be studying. We begin July 6th attending five days a week for three weeks and then three days a week from then until the end of September. So it was a very busy first week.

Now we have about three weeks to get more sleep and make adjustments to the heat, while also doing some reading and studying as part of our orientation. Also we have medical and appointments to make - checking in with family doctor, a cardiologist, other specialists, and dentist.

Crossing the Culture:

Having the advantage of Sharon as a coach has been significant in slipping into Filipino culture. I do not feel like we are dealing with any culture shock yet, even though there has been significant adjustment to make.

Eric suggests that there are four phrases that describe our cultural experience so far:

- i) The crowing rooster
- ii) The blaring horns
- iii) The shrill whistles
- iv) The power of the Filipino hand!!

Explanation: **i)** Every morning about 3:00 AM our “resident” rooster, down the street from the centre, begins his morning introduction to the day, even though it is still a couple of hours away. **ii)** Driving in Manila is something akin to what it must be like at the Indy 500, but at a

much slower pace. It is a challenge but it is definitely a fun experience. But you must get used to the horns! Everybody blows them. They blow them to let you know they are behind or beside you or they want you to hurry up or the light has just turned green and you haven't moved yet! More about driving here in another letter! **iii)** Most establishments here in Manila have security guards of some kind, and most have weapons and whistles! They aid you into and out of parking spaces with the blowing of their whistles and tapping on your car. And then of course the traffic police have them also. So your driving experience is a cacophony of sound for sure!! (see verse at beginning of letter!) **iv)** One thing we have learned (at least Eric has learned!) is the power of the Filipino hand. When you see a hand raised for you to stop – you stop!! If it is motioning you to move you move! And it is not always police and security that use it. Sunday on our way home from church, a motorcyclist had stopped in front of us and had his hand raised for our lane and the second lane to stop! When we did so, an elderly lady and her grandchild stepped off the curb and crossed the street.

Filipino culture is a very polite culture, and has a great deal of respect for North Americans. We must be careful not to abuse but to deserve it as we live and minister among these dear people.

We want to try and keep our letters to one page both sides, so we must wind down for this letter. Just a couple of things in closing:

- 1) If you recently have begun to use email, please let us know so we can send our prayer letters to you that way. E-mail reduces the cost for us and any delay on your receiving our letters. We are still pleased to send our letters by snail mail to those who have no e-mail facilities.
- 2) We continue to post pictures on our website – www.lively.ca. Once there, just click on “Photos” down on the left-hand side and then select the packet of photos of your choice. **Ignore the “login” option – that is just for me to be able to upload more pictures.
- 3) If you are on our mailing list and have changed information please let us know! Also just a reminder that we do get bounced mail, and sometimes it is because of Spam filters that haven't been set properly.

It was our privilege to share at the Sunday evening vesper service here at the centre, this past Sunday. As we shared our testimony with the folks, it reminded us afresh of His mercy and grace shown to us in the fact that we are now here in Manila. But it also was a fresh reminder of the part you all have had as you have given and as you have prayed for us. Your partnership in this ministry is very significant and we do not take it lightly. Our prayer is that we serve the Lord significantly on your behalf while here.

You can call us – 519-489-0317 – we would love to hear from you! Just remember that between us and EST is a 12+ hour time difference.

More next time.....
Love in Christ,

June Support Status Report:	
% OF TOTAL NEED MET	83%
BALANCE REQUIRED	\$650/mth
Praise God for His faithfulness!	
Thank you for praying with us for the balance.	

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
800-WYCLIFFE

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