



McCracken Memo

Spring 2001

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<< REW PLAY > FF >>

I (Vicki) was wondering about the "theme" of this newsletter the other day--the same day I decided to clean out under our bed. I ran across some old love letters from Scott, some old photos, and a journal that I started when we first moved to Greece. If you don't mind I'll keep the love letters to myself, but you might be encouraged to see what God has done in the 10 1/2 years since He brought us to Athens!

<<REW...Jan. 23, 1991...*"God, I'm thankful for good friends. I'm realizing how good of a friend Lisa is, and Debbie, too, and now Lois. Thank you so much for women to share my life with. Thank you, Lord, that I do not have to encounter the loneliness that I was so afraid of when I left Austria. Last night was the first prayer time for the girls--I think it will be good."*

>>FF...March 7, 2001...**This ladies Thursday night group that started with three of us, praying for a friend's husband who was in the Gulf War, is still going strong! I am the only charter member, all of the others having moved on; but through the years there have been over twenty ladies involved, usually between four and seven of us at a time! It continues to be an incredible blessing to me. The Lord has faithfully provided loving and supportive friends for us all of these years! Tomorrow night it's at my house, so I am dreaming up some wonderfully rich dessert--another part of the tradition!**

<< REW...Jan. 20, 1991...*"Lord, please bring peace to the Middle East soon. Give wisdom to President Bush and the other leaders. "*

>>FF...March 7, 2001...**"Lord, please bring peace to the Middle East. Give wisdom to President Bush and the other leaders!"**

<<REW...Feb. 19, 1991...*"A lot has happened since I last wrote...had a Valentine's party here for the Filipinos. " (We had 80 people squeezed into in our apartment for that party!)*

>>FF...Feb. 25, 2001...**We had a talent show at the ARC for our team, volunteers, and refugee friends. We laughed a lot and had singing, skits, poem readings, card tricks, joke telling, etc. Those that participated were from America, Iran, Greece, the Philippines, and Canada. Though we continue to love having people in our home, those large get-togethers work much better at the ARC! How THANKFUL we continue to be for our beautiful ministry center!**

<<REW...Oct. 17, 1990...*"We had Nadia and David (from Iraq) for dinner last night and had INTERESTING conversation. We had thought they were Christians. They do believe in God and love Him, but haven't accepted Him personally. Scott told a couple of stories to them and it seemed to make a real impact--especially Nadia."*

>>FF...March 2001...**God continues to draw people to Himself; we are encouraged by the number of Muslims who are being exposed to the Gospel and impacted for eternity! This past Sunday another 15 former Muslims were baptized! This month our fellow Kurdish and Iranian believers will be using the ARC to host an evangelistic (Middle Eastern) New Year's party for their countrymen. Last year these parties were God-glorifying events at which many heard the Gospel for the first time!**

<<REW...Jan. 18, 1991...*"Lois (our first teammate) came day before yesterday. I like her a lot. She's very sweet and Kendra took to her right away. "*

>>FF...March 2001...**We have 12 adults and seven children on our team, plus one man who is joining us for three months! They are a wonderful group! God has brought us many quality people over the years that have partnered with us to share the Gospel and to provide friendship and "aunts, uncles and cousins" for our kids! Many now represent the work in their new locations. This year we will have a total of seven special ministry teams coming to join us--and that doesn't include friends and family coming to pitch in once in a while!**

<<REW...Aug. 12, 1991...*"Lord, I'm so excited about furlough!"*

>>FF...March 2001...Yippee! We are getting excited about furlough again! It is so wonderful to spend time catching up with friends and family and having the opportunity to share what the Lord is doing in Athens! As of now, our plans are to be in the Mobile, Alabama area from June to mid-July, and then in Eugene, Oregon from mid-July to mid-August. Scott must return for meetings in Hungary by August 19th this year, so our time will be cut a little bit shorter than usual. We wish we could get around to see everyone, but it just isn't possible. We hope this time to get to some places where we haven't been on our past furloughs. If you would like to see us and give an opportunity for us to share the work, please contact us as soon as possible!

<<REW...Feb. 25, 1991...*"God, I do thank you for my Kendra, even though she is throwing a tantrum right now."*

>>FF...March 2001...Thankfully, Kendra has outgrown her tantrums--we are now to the pre-teen stage! At 11 1/2, Kendra has grown into a trustworthy and sweet young lady who still loves to read and enjoys school and her friends. Lately, I have been thankful to watch how the Lord is bringing her to swift repentance; she seeks to quickly make things right in her relationships. Cody and Kyle are still "joined at the hip"--preferring to do everything together, including brushing their teeth, sharing their school friends, and making a general disaster of their bedroom. Cody, at almost 9, has a tender and compassionate heart. He seems to breeze through the challenging school system with little effort. Kyle just turned 7 and has surprised us with how well he's done in first grade. It's not that we thought he was dumb or anything- it's just that Kyle is the kind of kid who sees something funny in EVERYTHING! And I mean- everything! If you hear him screaming bloody murder from the bedroom and it sounds like he broke a leg or something, just wait. He'll be laughing pretty soon! Will, at 2 1/2 continues to be "the one that broke the mold"! He manages to get into things that the other kids never even thought of! (like washing all of my make-up in the toilet a few weeks ago!) But he is sweet and funny and affectionate! As Cody said yesterday, "I'm so glad Will was born!"

<<REW...Mar. 6, 1991...*"Lord, I'm thankful that you brought us here. I'm thankful that I can look back over the last 6 months and see how you've already used us in people's lives. Father, you did call us here--it was no mistake. Please forgive the resentful attitude I've had the last few days. It is an honor and privilege to be obedient to you and to serve you. Help me to focus on my many blessings and WHO YOU ARE--rather than always wishing for more.... Please meet the needs of our supporters, Lord--we thank you for each one. Thanks for their support and love. We praise you for meeting every need and beyond."*

>>FF...Today...As I look back on my journal, I see over and over again God's faithfulness and care. There are so many answers--some came the way we wanted, some were disappointments that later became clear as God's perfect plan. Some of the concerns are still there and we are still praying fervently--trusting that God IS working, even when He seems silent. I have seen some growth in certain areas of my life, and sometimes I cringe as I realize I am still battling the same old stuff! How thankful I am that God is still on the throne--the same mighty and loving God, yesterday, today and forever! And how thankful we are for YOU!!! Friends and family and brothers and sisters who have partnered with us all of these years to touch people whom you may never meet this side of heaven! We do pray that our Father will meet your every need and let you know how truly grateful we are for your part on our team!

If you have access to email and would like to receive frequent updates and prayer needs, let us know your e-mail address and we will put you on our mailing list.

*** Prayer needs and Praises:**

- for the Lord's continued leading as we pursue adoption
- for a restful and fruitful furlough
- for Scott, as he tries to be faithful in using his limited time with unending needs and opportunities
- for the Kurdish and Iranian New Year's parties--that the Lord would be presented effectively