

Subj: **Kendra McCracken Update**
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Dear Friends,

Below is our daughter Kendra's latest update on her "round-the-world" mission trip. Thanks so much to all who have prayed and/or invested in her...

Grateful,

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May 2008

Dear friends and family,

I seriously can't believe that it's May already. It's so weird to think that I left Athens in January, just under four months ago. Time flies like nothing else when you're constantly experiencing new things and meeting new people.

We kicked off our journey in Vienna, Austria, where we spent four weeks working at the Oasis with refugees, similar work to what we do in Athens. It was fun to be a part of another refugee team, and interesting to see how differently they minister to the refugees in Austria then we do in Athens.

Then we spent six weeks in Costa Rica, teaching English to Costa Rican IT missionaries who will be going to Africa and the Middle East. That was something completely new for me, since I'd never taught anything, and let me tell you, you never realize how completely messed up the English language is until you have to teach it! But we had a wonderful six weeks there, and we developed some great relationships with our students.

We have now been in the Philippines for just over a month, working with a church that is mainly focused on youth ministry. You can learn more about it at: www.youtube.com/jcpsm and www.gisingkabataan.org

It has been a very fast four months, and God's been teaching me a lot - I suppose more than anything else that the ways I react to things and the ways that I'm used to are not the same as everyone else's, and that's not a bad thing. I wish I could say that I've easily adapted to every place we've been in. But I haven't, and I believe that the Lord is stretching me in certain areas of my life that I never knew needed adjusting.

Now we are considering our options for when we leave in June. Some wonderful opportunities have come up to serve in both Australia and Zambia. Ideally, when we are finished here in the Philippines, we would serve in Melbourne for a few weeks, working with refugees, and then leave for Zambia with a team from Sydney. We would spend around three weeks in Zambia, working at a children's camp, and from there leave for Kenya, which will be our last

stop.

Obviously all of this will take money. God has been providing every step of the way for us so far, and I have confidence that if this is His plan, then He will continue to provide what we need. The total amount this will cost is around \$5835. This includes airfare, ministry, and personal (i.e., food, laundry, toiletries, souvenirs, etc.) costs. After our Philippines expenses are all taken care of, that will leave about \$4,135 we still need to raise in order to serve in each of these places.

God has amazed me in the ways he has provided so far through so many people, and the way that you have all supported me through your prayers and finance has been so encouraging. Please continue to be with me in prayer. If you feel led to assist me financially, please make out the check to International Teams (with an enclosed note designating it for Kendra McCracken's ministry account) and send it to: International Teams, 411 W. River Rd., Elgin, IL 60123-1570, U.S.A.

Blessings! Love,

Kendra

P.S. Don't forget to check out our blog at:
<http://visiontrip08.blogspot.com>