



# McCracken Memo



ATHENS, GREECE

SEPTEMBER, 1993

In this letter we would like to especially  
*P-R-A-I-S-E G-O-D* for the following...

*Pregnancy*...Yes, we are expecting our third child some time in January! Vicki has experienced a relatively easy first and second trimester, without even any morning sickness. Thank you for your continued prayers.

*Relatives Coming*...We are so excited that God has provided (even in some miraculous ways) for Vicki's brother Jon (and his wife Kelli) to come in November, my parents to come in December, and Vicki's mother (and a close friend) to come in January when the baby will be born!

*Alex*...is a young Albanian who came to know Jesus this summer! He came with an Albanian Christian named Dity to our International Believers Fellowship. The following Wednesday he came to the discipleship study that I have with Dity. There and then, we were able to share the Gospel with Alex. It was the first time he'd ever heard and understood what Jesus did for him. He put faith in Jesus that night and was baptized in the ocean this past Sunday. Thank you for your continued prayers for Alex.

*International Believers Fellowship*...our weekly fellowship continues to grow in number and in intimacy with God and one another. Our current group of regulars includes people from Kenya, Nigeria, Seychelles, Iraq, Scotland, the Philippines, Albania, Syria, and America. Thank you for your continued prayers for our growth and unity.

*Summer "substituting"*...While our Field Director was in the States this summer on furlough, he asked me to help cover some of his responsibilities while he was gone. Because of this, and money he made available, I had the opportunity to visit our refugee teams in Straubing, Germany and Strassbourg, France. My time was mainly spent praying with, counseling, and encouraging the leaders of these teams.

*Eritreans*...this summer God used the Eritrean fellowship to bring together over 200 of the Christians in Athens, from a dozen or so different fellowships. They sponsored a Praise and Thanksgiving service to thank

God for granting their country peace after over 30 years of war with Ethiopia. I preached on the topic of true peace, and it was a time of real unity-building in the Body of Christ.

*Gregory...* is still in Albania, learning, growing, and being used by God. I had the privilege of spending a week with him in Albania a couple months ago, and then God worked an incredible miracle for him to come visit us in Athens last week! He is part of the (Youth With A Mission) Discipleship Training School in Tirana. After their Outreach Phase, he will be leading a team of 5 to plant a church in his home town of Shkoder. One of my greatest joys when I visited Gregory was to meet an 86 year old man named Elias that he helped lead to Jesus. Elias is blind, lives in a nursing home of appalling conditions, is a former Muslim, and really loves Jesus! Thank you for your continued prayers for Gregory, and for the ministry God has called him to in Albania.

*Opportunities for ministry...* God continues to provide us with many avenues of ministry, both "spiritually" and "practically". In recent months, God has allowed us to minister to others by helping provide food and rent money for the poor and hungry, teach English at the Sisters of Charity Catholic Mission, have people in our home for food and fellowship, preach from the pulpit, teach in homes, visit/correspond with/meet material needs of those in prison, and train leaders of ethnic fellowships. Our work is NEVER dull, and we are so grateful to be doing something that is so fulfilling! Thank you for helping us to be here, and thank you for your continued prayers and support for the on-going ministry opportunities.

*Development of our team...* yes, our team! Gene and Judith Heckenberg arrived last month with 3-month old Peter. By the time you read this, Dan and Annette Carroll should be here with their 4-year old daughter Sarah and 4-month old son Timothy. We are so excited about their arrivals and the assets they will be to the work here! Please pray for their speedy adjustments, language studies, set-up, culture shock, and general orientation.

Thank you for *helping us praise God*, and for helping us help *others praise God!!!*

In the Vine and  
In the Vineyard,

*Scott & Nichi Melnick*