

★ McCracken Memo ★

ATHENS, GREECE

JAN/FEB 1992

TRAVEL SECTION

It is good to be back in "the land that the gods chose" (as the commercial says)! We're not so sure about that but it is nice to be into our old routine and back at work! Our furlough was wonderful and it was so great to spend time with our families and to see so many of you. Our only regret was that we didn't get to see everyone.

We had an unexpected sidetrip while we were in Florida for a few days. I (Vicki) awoke with pain in my lower back one night that increased through the next afternoon. To make a long story short, I had a twisted ovary that had to be surgically removed, and spent five days in the hospital. Though it was a very painful experience we are so thankful for God's protection and healing. My recovery was quick and our baby remained healthy and kicking all the way through! We are grateful for the many prayers on my behalf.

RELIGION SECTION

We are thankful that God's Holy Spirit was not on a furlough when we were...Two men with whom we had shared the Gospel (Tony from Syria and Saba from Iraq) both became Christians while we were in America! Saba participates in the new Iraqi Bible study that Scott now helps to lead, and Tony is active in our Believers' Fellowship, and discipleship studies with the Pastor of our church here.

FINANCIAL SECTION

Thank you for your speedy and generous response to our financial need. We are glad to report that December giving was up and our deficit was taken care of. However,

as of this writing, January is looking pretty slim and the cost of living in Greece continues to rise dramatically in an effort to conform to the standards of the European Community.

Thanks for your prayers and giving in regards to our need for a car. We have been looking daily, but so far we are still relying on an unreliable bus system. It's a bit frustrating as daily life here takes about three or four times longer than if we had a car. We continue to trust the Lord to meet our needs and we humbly thank you for your love and care.

HUMAN INTEREST SECTION

Gregory, the Albanian convert that we wrote about in our last letters, continues to humbly grow in his walk with God and passionately share Jesus with friends and family. One day his brother-in-law, Leon, and a couple of friends were downtown when a local called the police (recognizing them as Albanians and assuming they were "trouble-makers"). Since Leon didn't have his passport with him or a visa to be in Greece he was terrified to know that he was going to be deported back to Albania. As he sat in his cell he called to the Lord for help. A couple of hours later the police released him without explanation. Leon went home and told his wife that he wanted to commit his life to the Lord as she and Gregory had done. We praise the Lord for Gregory's enthusiastic witness and the depth and humility of his spiritual growth. We know Gregory would covet your prayers as he seeks God's will concerning his return to Albania as a missionary.

ADDRESS CORRECTION SECTION

If you are moving, PLEASE PLEASE inform us of your new address! The postal service will not forward or return bulk mail and we have no way of knowing whether or not you are receiving our letter. Thanks.

PRAYER REQUESTS SECTION

* We are in need of a building in a central location of downtown Athens. It will take a miracle! God has given us a vision for several ministry opportunities that would be operated out of this building.

* Continued health for Vicki and the baby, and a smooth adjustment for all of us upon his arrival. He is due March 25th.

* Financial needs and a car.

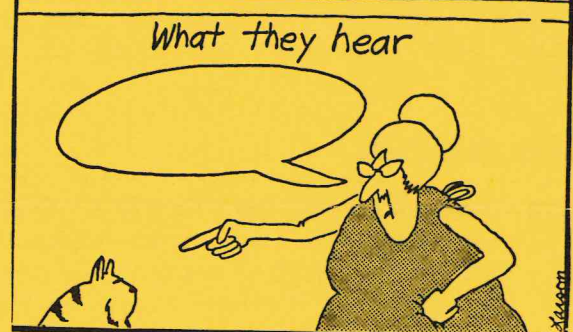
* Gregory's sister, Laura, is in the hospital and probably will be for some time. She is early on in a pregnancy and having complications. It is also unknown how they will pay the hospital bill.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION SECTION

Address Change/Corrections should be sent to: Bill McCracken
4230 Thigpen Dr. S.
Mobile, Al 36693

Financial Contributions should be sent to: International Teams
P.O. Box 203
Prospect Heights, Ill
60070

Personal Mail should be sent to:
Scott & Vicki McCracken
Panagiotou 3
Papagou 15669 Athens/Greece



P.S. As this letter is being printed we are in the process of purchasing a used mini-van for a much less than a used car of the same age and condition would cost here!! Praise God and thank you for your prayers!