

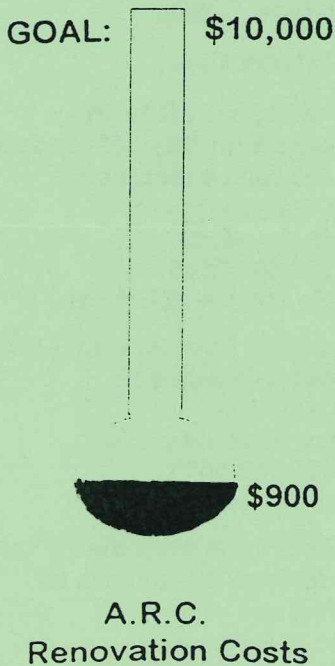
McCRACKEN MEMO

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VICKI'S VIEW...

Once again it falls to me to fill you in on the family happenings! At 9½, Kendra is becoming quite a little lady! However, her "little girl" enthusiasm is still intact, for which we are grateful! She loves to read, write stories and sing. She tackles her piles of homework without much complaint and she enjoys school and her friends. She is a real helper around the house, and loves to rock and sing to her baby brother. Cody will turn 7 in March and has adjusted to 1st grade with ease! He seemed to improve in his Greek at an accelerated rate, and has become a wonderful student. He likes school and has made some good friends. He and Kyle continue to be best buddies and keep the house lively as only growing boys can do! Kyle turned 5 in January and has suddenly shown an interest in "growing up"! He ties his shoes and is learning to read (English & Greek). Thankfully, growing up doesn't seem to have changed his perpetual smile and funny antics! "WonderWill", at 6 ½ months, is crawling all over the house, pulling himself to standing, sitting up on his own, and has cut 6 teeth! He is speeding through infancy, but is a happy baby and we are all in love with him! For all our children, our greatest desire is that they would love Jesus and grow in compassion and service toward others. Thank you for praying for our wisdom in parenting.



SCOTT'S SIDE...

"Athens Refugee Center" Is Finally A Reality!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

After *over 8 years* of praying, looking, sharing the vision, and waiting on God, we are finally the happy owners of (PHASE 1) of the Athens Refugee Center (the A.R.C.)!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This facility is the second floor of the two floors in the building we mentioned in our last newsletter. It will house almost all of our ministries except for shelter and housing. (These ministries will be housed in PHASE 2 of the A.R.C., still to come).

PHASE 1 will be home to various ministries, including soup kitchen, a food pantry, Tea Bar, evangelistic meetings, a library, special training courses, Bible studies, language classes, a clothing room, special events, office and storage space, video presentations, ethnic fellowships, job referral office, etc. One of the exciting things about this facility is that several of these various ministries can take place *at the same time*. Until now, we could only do one thing at a time (sometimes two things), and usually in a cramped and ineffective manner.

(Continued on next page)...

We still owe another \$14,000, to be paid by October 1999; and we still have to raise about \$10,000 for renovation costs. Also, we still need to raise the money for PHASE 2. But God is moving and we are excited!!!

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE PRAYED AND SACRIFICED TO HELP US REACH THIS GOAL! THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING THE LORD TO USE YOU AS SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR TEAM.

Christ To The Kurds At Christmas...

Christmas 1998 was a huge blessing as God used us to share Jesus with those who had never before heard the Gospel. We held a *special outreach at the camp of 300 Kurdish refugees* where we currently have a weekly soup kitchen and a children's ministry 3 times a week. This outreach included a children's drama of the nativity (at which they also sang a Christmas Carol in Kurdish), singing, an Arabic brother preaching the Gospel, and the distribution of Christmas "shoebox" gifts.

Additionally, we *had two evenings of programs in our downtown facility that reached over 200 refugees* and included a 3 course meal, special music, the children's drama (our kids were involved both times), the preaching of God's Word, and the distribution of Christmas "shoebox" gifts. Although most of those attending were Kurds, there were also Romanians, Iraqi Arabs, Iranians, Albanians, and others from around the world.

THANKS TO GOD AND ALL HE USED TO HELP US SHARE HIS LOVE WITH THESE NEEDY AND OPEN PEOPLE!

RON KENOLY To Athens In June...

We will be privileged to sponsor a benefit concert in Athens by anointed pastor/recording artist/worship leader **Ron Kenoly** on June 19, 1999. As there will be major expenses and extensive preparations to make between now and then, we would truly value your prayers.

Also, if you (or a church group you know of in America or Europe) might be interested in combining a Greek vacation with this concert/worship experience, we are able to offer some special prices on hotels and tours in connection with this event. Just let us know.

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING THAT THIS CONCERT WILL BE USED TO MAKE PEOPLE MORE AWARE OF OUR MINISTRY TO REFUGEES, AND THAT WE WILL RAISE SIGNIFICANT FUNDS TOWARD PAYING OFF PHASE 1 OF THE ATHENS REFUGEE CENTER.

McCrackens To The States This Summer...

Lord willing, we will be in Alabama from May 30th to July 13th and can be reached at: 4230 Thigpen Dr. S. Mobile, Al 36693
Tel: 334-666-9645
E-mail: smccrac@ibm.net

in Montana from July 13th-20th, and can be reached at: 1027 Alderson Billings, Montana 59102
Tel: 406-252-6886
E-mail: smccrac@ibm.net

and in Oregon from the 20th of July to Sept. 9th, and can be reached at: 25268 E. Bolton Rd. Venita, OR 97487

Tel: 541-935-1018
E-mail: smccrac@ibm.net

We hope to see some of you in other places during these times but, unfortunately, time and money won't allow us to see everyone we want to.

In addition, *we are trying to arrange more speaking engagements* than we usually do during furlough. If you belong to some kind of group (i.e., church, club, Sunday School class, ministry organization, etc.) that would be interested in having us share what God is doing in Athens, *please contact us as soon as possible and we'll see if we can arrange it.* Our agenda is already filling up quickly!

Prayer Requests To Heaven...

- **That PHASE 1 of the ARC will be soon paid off**
- **That PHASE 1 of the ARC will soon be renovated and used for the Glory of God**
- **That the money will soon be raised for PHASE 2 of the ARC**
- **Along with other missionaries in Greece, we are currently facing visa problems. Please pray that God will make a way for us to legally stay here**

God bless you all and thank you for serving Him together with us! We love and appreciate you.

Financial Contributions: Write checks to International Teams, and specify for the McCrackens OR the Athens Refugee Center; Send to: International Teams 411 W. River Rd. Elgin, IL 60123-1570