

Subj: Q & A regarding the McCrackens
Date: 10/4/2009 11:37:53 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: scott.mccracken@iteams.org

Dear Praying Friends,

We seem to be facing some "question marks" in some important areas of our life right now. Thanks for praying for us to know God's mind and heart regarding these matters.

Others have been asking the questions below and we thought you might be interested in an update as well. There are two main subjects (Ellie's therapy and Scott's resignation)...

Q: How is Ellie doing?

A: As most of you know, Ellie was officially diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy (CP) in November 2007. After almost 2 years of physical and occupational therapy we have seen definite, but very slight, improvement. She is a mostly happy girl that brings us much joy (you can see/read more at: <http://elliebomccracken.blogspot.com>). She does not speak, does not sit up by herself (except in her special chair that keeps her from sliding out), cannot hold her bottle or feed herself, cannot stand or walk. (Ellie turned 3 in April 2009). Although we love and respect her therapists here, and they love and care for Ellie, we are being encouraged to pursue more (short-term) "progressive" therapy possibilities in the States to supplement her therapy opportunities here.

Q: What kind of "progressive" therapy possibilities in the States?

A: We have been doing quite a bit of research and interaction with some clinics in the U.S. regarding HyperBaric Oxygen Therapy. We are currently interacting with a clinic in Louisiana about the possibility of Ellie receiving HBOT there in the first months of 2010. You can read more about that clinic and HBOT at: www.hbot.com

Q: Will this HBOT cure Ellie?

A: There is no current cure for Cerebral Palsy. If God does not choose to miraculously heal her (which we pray for), then therapies to improve current limitations are the best we can do. Some children do not respond well to HBOT. Others respond almost "miraculously" well. There is no guarantee how Ellie will respond; as her parents, we only want to TRY to do the best we can for her. We think this may be something that could work well for her.

Q: What will this kind of thing cost?

A: Insurance pays for HBOT for many medical conditions, but currently NOT for treatment of Cerebral Palsy. However, in our case, our insurance does not cover anything related to her CP anyway because it was a pre-existing condition. The first round of 40 treatments of HBOT (after which it should be known if she is responsive or not), accommodations, and plane tickets will cost a minimum of \$10,000 US dollars.

Q: How do you expect to pay for this?

A: We don't know. We believe that where God guides, God provides. If He is not leading this way, He will not provide and we will not go. If He does, we will. (Scott and Ellie would go—it will last from 3 to 6 months). So far, a missionary couple and two immigrants in Greece approached us with contributions toward such a fund. We currently have a total of \$1,150 EUROS or \$1,690 USD toward this.

We can (and will) use any excess (over and above our monthly amount) in our International Teams account toward the therapy bill.

Q: When does Scott's resignation of his current POSITION (not from the mission field) take affect?

A: December 31, 2009

Q: What will he do next?

A: We still do not know. We are talking to God and others, trying to listen and discern what will be the best fit for his gifts and passion. Hopefully, it will still be with International Teams and hopefully we will remain in Athens, though we are open to however and wherever God may lead. Scott has the sense that the Lord is calling him back to his ministry roots with a focus of more direct "face-to-face" evangelism/discipleship with refugees (teaching, preaching, training individuals and small groups).

Meanwhile, he is preaching two to four times a month at ethnic and international churches in Athens, continuing in his role as Associate Ministry Leader, doing weekly Bible studies with a Sudanese man (Mr. Ali), acting as a communication link for the Persian Christian Fellowship and Helping Hands, doing a weekly Bible study with the

PCF leaders, meeting with another refugee believer for discipleship, meeting weekly with the Athens RefMin Team Leader, hospitality ministry with Vicki, homeschooling (Literature Discussion and Bible class), taking Ellie to 4 therapy sessions a week, and other miscellaneous family and ministry activities.

Thanks so much for praying for us. We will send you more family/ministry info soon.

Very Grateful For You.

Scott and Vicki

Tax-deductible checks can be made out to: International Teams
Please indicate with an enclosed note that it is for Scott and Vicki McCracken's account, and send to:

International Teams
411 W. River Rd.
Elgin, IL 60123

Find out more about online giving at:
<https://www.iteams.org/iteams/>

Scott & Vicki McCracken
Tel: (30) 210-65-28-191
scott.mccracken@iteams.org
<http://elliebomccracken.blogspot.com>
<http://refminathens.blogspot.com>