

Dear Praying Friends:

Now that we are settled in Manila, we will only be sending out a major newsletter every three months. In between we will send a bulletin-styled update, to keep you apprised of things. So welcome to our first Update. They will be available online at [www.lively.ca](http://www.lively.ca), where you can also see some of the photos we have taken since we have been here.

NEWS:

1. Our Vonage phone has been down for a few weeks now, so if you have been trying to get us, you have been getting a message saying that the number is not assigned. Lord willing, that will all change when we get into our own place. We are not sure why it is not working, but when we move, we will have the full capacity of our Vonage modem.
2. At this point, we will be moving into our own place on August 8<sup>th</sup>. The couple who has been living there moved on centre this past weekend. This freed the house up for the painters to move in. The painters project they will be done and we can move in on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
3. We are into our second week of language school. It is going well and we are learning a lot of basic concepts, like greetings, colours, numbers, family members and how to ask questions, keeping the questions in the right tense and person. We have three more weeks of classes, and then we will take a week off to move and set up our home, and then resume classes until the end of September.
4. Eric is required to complete a course called Cross-Cultural Living Internship (CLI). You are usually given one year to complete the CLI assignments. Eric's goal is to have it done by the end of October.
5. This will "qualify" him to accept an additional role as Associate Director of Human Resources (ADHR). From now until the completion of the CLI, in addition to his Member Care responsibilities, Eric will serve as Assistant to the Director. This will provide a very much desired opportunity to have a few months of "on-the-job" training, while completing both language school and the CLI. It is an honour to have been asked to accept this new role. With the Lord's grace and wisdom, and the wise counsel of my colleagues, we look forward to serving in this capacity.
6. Our Ministry Budget (called SQW) has been revised. Our colleague overseeing this area realized that our budget failed to take into account the accurate cost of language studies. Our language studies are in fact twice what were budgeted – over \$1000 and then there were some additional expenses that had been omitted from our budget initially, which she caught and have now been added. The additions you will see reflected at the end of this letter. Once more we express our deep gratitude for your trust in supporting us, as we represent you and our Saviour here.
7. Sharon is meeting this week with the new head Librarian to discuss her role and expectations. She will move into that role, when we complete language school. Sharon will also have flexibility with her library responsibilities in order to serve along with Eric in his Member Care role as needed from time to time.

## PRAYER MATTERS:

### Praise:

- 1) We have settled into a church home called Community of Christ church. Pastor Benji de Jesus is a very good Bible teacher, with a commitment to the Word of God and practical preaching style that we appreciate. Filipinos really enjoy up-tempo contemporary music, so we are asking the Lord to help us adjust. Eric has been asked to speak on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sharon sang this past Sunday. A very young church family – we are the grandparents of the church! ☺
- 2) For good health and adjustment to life here in the Philippines. For safety as we experience life here, too. We had our first taste of typhoon season this past week. Offices close and streets flood and people are really put in some difficult situations. And I mean “taste”, as we were only hit by the southern part of the typhoon, as it spun off the northern Philippines heading west to mainland Asia.
- 3) For great times of sharing together in office devotions each Thursday morning and during the Sunday evening meetings. These are great times of singing, studying God’s Word, getting to know our colleagues and staff, and hearing reports. But most of all there are prayer times. What a thrill to sit in with Filipino staff and listen to them pray in their heart language and realize that while we cannot understand them – God does! And that’s all that matters.

### Prayer:

- 1) For good study and learning skills as we continue our language studies.
- 2) For the cleaning and painting crew who will be working on our new home. For their safety as they work.
- 3) For safety and a good move, as we relocate all of our possessions into our home on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 4) For our ministry in our local church, sharing with these special young adults and their families.
- 5) For on-going wisdom, patience, compassion and guidance in our roles here at the Centre.
- 6) For opportunities to speak about the Saviour with those we come in contact with outside the Centre.
- 7) For our fellow colleagues as together we are privileged to serve in these strategic times in the Philippines.
- 8) For the provision of the increase in our SQW.

### **July Support Status Report:**

% of Total Ministry Budget Met - 79%

Balance required: - \$845/mth