

A Merry Christmas greeting to my praying friends!

12/16/09

I am calling myself "Mary Pop-in" these days because my visit to the USA is short and you never know where I will pop-up. My ability to schedule visits has been limited by the holiday season and by a multitude of medical check-ups. I had a delightful trip to Dallas to be with my parents. I have had some very satisfying visits with friends and family and some churches. I am looking forward to more!

Most of my exciting news comes from my TESOL graduates that have gone on to serve the Lord in various countries. God is using their lives. They find adventures around every corner even as they do the most mundane task of language-learning. Please remember to pray for the Filipino missionaries on the field and in preparation.

Is it just the age and stage of my life's work that I now stand in the cheering section as my students reach beyond their own borders?

There are times when I feel as though my life has gotten routine with little to report. Sure. I could tell you about my bunions that "bark" at me regularly, but is that considered to be part of the "sufferings of the saints?"

Should I mention that I was hospitalized last May for two days with "tummy troubles?" (It is funny that my total bill, including the ER and all medicine came to be exactly the amount I needed to get my car out of the shop that same week: just over \$200.00.)

My required physical examination has turned into a medical marathon! I have been scraped, poked, prodded, squeezed, radiated, photographed and x-rayed. After a while I got confused about whether the gown was supposed to be open in the front or the back!

The good thing from this is that we finally figured out what has been causing my "tummy-troubles," and that its solution is simple. (If you are curious, I will be happy to give you details.)

I would appreciate your prayers as I face the possibility of having bunion surgery on both of my feet. This would clip my wings for 6 weeks. Many kind people have told me that they would help me during that time.

Also, please pray that my support level will be up enough so I can get back to the Philippines in February. I need to get back so I can prepare for my summer intensive TESOL certificate course at Cebu Graduate School of Theology. Many students are counting on this course for their degrees and for their missionary preparation.

A sermon I heard recently reminded me of what is truly important. The essence of the message was that although we are aging and are rotting on the outside, in Christ we are getting younger and are renewing on the inside. It is important to take care of what will last forever.

Thank you for reading this note and for praying. Your friendship and partnership means much to me.

Mary Larsen

larsenmc2000@yahoo.com

My mailing address in the USA is 9070 Via Tortuga, Atascadero, CA 93422 My cell number is 805 703-3543