

*I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.*

*Psalm 4:8 (NIV)*



# Winter Furlough Report

August 2007

## Joyfully Adjusting to Life in the USA

### The Fast Life

What do life in the United States and a roller coaster have in common? They both move very fast and they have a lot of ups and downs!

On June 1st we arrived in Los Angeles and immediately met our 7th and newest grandson. Kristy and 18-month-old Gabriel picked us up at the airport. We were so happy to see family again.

Then we moved into the fast lane. We got a car, got various paperwork projects done, shopped for some essentials, and laid out the itinerary for our first trip. Two weeks after arriving in the US we headed north on a 4,000 mile trip up to Washington, east to Montana, then back down to southern California.

We were three weeks on the road and enjoyed every bit of it. We had wonderful visits with family members and friends, from the Sierra Nevada mountains, to the north side of the Columbia River, the panhandle of Idaho, to the ranchlands of Montana, and the red cliffs of Utah. We also stopped at some national parks along our route. What a grand and beautiful country we live in! Right after this trip we made a quick dash to New England for a fun family reunion in Vermont.

### Partnerships

Now we are focusing on connecting with folks in California before we travel to the East Coast. We have enjoyed every contact we have made and have a renewed appreciation for those who have partnered with us through so many years.

### Too Many Good-byes

Many people have asked us how it felt to say good-bye to the Philippines after working and living there for 30 years. Plainly put, it was hard. Sally shed plenty of tears. Leon felt a little sad when he turned over the truck keys to the new owner. We hated to leave our cat behind and are thankful that she made a good transition to her new family. We were honored and hugged on every side. But we were clearly ready for a furlough year.

### Adjustments

Every time we come back to the US, we have adjustments to make. This time it is the cell-phone technology. We can't get used to seeing people with objects clipped to their ears! Or talking on cell phones while merging into high-speed, freeway traffic—scary! We are traumatized just by the merging, never mind talking on a phone too! We are also amazed to find that you can pay for your McDonald's meals with a credit card. Do people carry money any more?

### Eastward, Ho!

Next month we will begin our trek to the east coast. We will zig-zag across the US, visiting family, friends, and our support team. We are looking forward to these visits and some interesting sights.

Thank you for your prayers, support and especially the warm welcome home.

May the Lord bless you.

*Leon & Sally Winter*



## Praise 'n Prayer

- We praise God for making possible the purchase of reliable transportation that should do for many years.
- We are especially thankful for the good times we have had with our children and grandchildren. Our siblings, too!
- We praise God for the time we have had with faithful partners. Some of them have stood with us from the very start, back in the '70s.
- Praise God for the gift of top-notch dental care that we are receiving.
- Pray for our safe travel as we cross the US. We estimate it will take 7 weeks.
- Pray for Leon's passport renewal. We plan to visit daughter, Barbara and family in South Africa in December.
- Pray regarding finances. We're learning that living in the US will be a greater challenge to our budget.

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