

Dr. Joseph, Sept. 2012

Scott and Vicki McCracken scott.mccracken@iteams.org September 19, 2012

Dear Praying Friends,

We are back home in Greece after a 3 1/2 month furlough! Somebody ordered cool and rainy weather for us and we love it!

I know most people don't read our emails and even fewer actually pray, BUT WILL YOU PLEASE READ THIS ONE PRAYER REQUEST, and then if you want to you can read the further explanation below it?

Prayer Request: WE ARE ASKING AGAIN IF YOU WOULD PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT RIGHT NOW AND PRAY FOR OUR PAKISTANI BROTHER DR. JOSEPH AND HIS FAMILY.

(If you need a refresher on Dr. Joseph's story, you can get part of it at:

<http://refminathens.blogspot.gr/search?updated-min=2011-01-01T00:00:00%2B02:00&updated-max=2012-01-01T00:00:00%2B02:00&max-results=9>

Scroll down to the next to the last story on the page.)

EXPLANATION: As most of you already know he was granted, after his appeal, asylum in Greece. You likely know as well that he immediately applied for family reunification in July 2011. What you may not know is that until now, that has not happened. From the side of Athens, everything has been APPROVED. What is lacking to finalize everything is the signature and granting of the travel visa by the Greek ambassador in Pakistan. He is not only refusing to do this but has taken extraordinary measures to look into Dr. Joseph's case, displaying knowledge of many irrelevant details and ignoring the clear documentation of his life being in danger. Additionally, he is communicating with the Greek government, requesting that Dr. Joseph's asylum be TAKEN AWAY!

For over 3 1/2 years his wife and two young children have had to flee from place to place across Pakistan, hiding in seclusion, not able to go out in public, the children unable to attend school or play outside, his wife having nervous breakdowns, people who have helped shelter them facing rape and death. For over 3 1/2 years this family that deeply loves and misses each other has been separated and fearing for each other. His children are growing up (now 7 and almost 5) not knowing him. Dr. Joseph has not yet told his wife about the ambassador's efforts to block their reunion because he is afraid of what she may do (to herself) if she finds out. In addition to the natural stresses and anxieties a situation like this would bring, his wife's family is constantly barraging her with comments about him leaving her "for the good life" and "the women in Greece".

Our dear brother Joseph is having trouble sleeping because of nightmares about people trying to get them, is taking anti-depressants, is losing weight, and is generally depressed and in despair over his family's situation. He is hanging on to God but it is extremely trying.

Additionally, you may be aware that in May Greece voted (for the first time) parliamentary seats (18) for the Nazi party. Ever since then, violence on the streets against immigrants and refugees has been an almost daily occurrence. Just Google it and see what comes up. Many of those beaten and killed are Pakistanis.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for prayerfully considering this brother in Jesus.

Grateful,

Scott

