

# McCracken Update July 2012

MINISTRY INFO x



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Dear Praying Friends,

Just want to touch base and let you know how furlough is progressing for us...

1. We have been blessed to be able to speak at several churches, a few Sunday School classes, and one home group so far. Some of the opportunities were for only 4 minutes and some were up to an hour. We would love more weekday speaking engagements but I guess summer is a really bad time for that, and perhaps the Lord just wants to provide in other ways. He is our Source. We have been encouraged by some one-time gifts, as well as one couple who are going to start financially supporting us monthly and one of our supporting churches that is increasing their already-generous monthly commitment. Additionally, a local Sunday School class from Cottage Hill Baptist Church had a garage sale on behalf of us and a young lady going on a mission trip to Mexico. We are truly blessed!

However, we are still a long way from where we need to be with our current financial situation (economic crisis in Greece, boys in college, loss of support in recent months, etc.).

2. We have found an apartment for Cody and Kyle to live in while they go to school at Clackamas Community College in the Portland, Oregon area. Their cousin lives in the same complex and it is a 12-minute walk from the school. **IF ANY OF OUR OREGON FRIENDS LEARN OF A CHEAP, RELIABLE, USED CAR or of CHEAP HOME FURNISHINGS, or of a JOB POSSIBILITY in the Portland area, we would love to hear about it.**

3. Ellie is currently going to physical therapy twice a week and is doing well. She had a **WONDERFUL** experience at Camp Smile. You can read more and see pics at: <http://elliebomccracken.blogspot.com>

4. Kyle joined us in Mobile, Alabama on July 2nd. Cody will join us on July 17th. We will all leave here for Eugene, Oregon on July 23rd. My parents have been great hosts and we will really miss them when it is time to go.

(By-the-way, it's not related to furlough, but Kendra will be finishing her nursing degree in Scotland in September!).

We wish we had the time and money to visit with all of you who play such an important part of our efforts to disciple the nations through Athens. **THANK YOU** so much for allowing the Lord to use your prayers, financial investments, and encouragement.

5. Finally, many of you have been praying for our Pakistani brother Dr. Joseph (if you are new to this knee-mail list you can read more about him at: <http://refminathens.blogspot.com/2011/04/dr-joseph.html>). He is still waiting to be reunited with his family, and he sent me this email a few days ago:

"...I learned through medical reports (scanned copies were sent to me) that my sister who is 27-yrs-old and has a baby girl (3 months old) has been diagnosed with liver cancer at advance stage. Please please communicate to other sisters and brothers for prayers calling on Gods intervention to happen a miracle and reverse this lethal condition for the sake of the baby.

thank you  
Your brother in Jesus  
Dr Joseph  
P.S. sister's name is Hameeda

Thank you so much for your prayers on behalf of Dr. Joseph, his family, and us.

Grateful,

Scott and Vicki

P.S. you can read below a recent update from HH staff member Tasha Hayes and rejoice for how the Lord is answering prayers that many of you have prayed

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(Please note that the usual link to our Family/Ministry Website is missing in the footer of this email. We are working on a new look in a new place and will update you when it is done. If you took a brochure this summer with the link [www.imccracken.net](http://www.imccracken.net) IT IS NO LONGER VALID. We apologize for the misinformation. It was not planned).

[Video Promo for book  
"Kingdom Beyond Borders"](#)  
[Ellie's Blog](#)  
[Refugee Testimonies](#)

Greetings! I have been so encouraged lately by answered prayers that I can't help but share some with you!! Last week it was really hot here. When it is really hot, everyone suffers, but our refugees friends do even more than the average person. Most of them do not have fans, some do not have electricity even if they did have fans, and many of them are afraid to sleep with windows open because they live in a bad part of town. This leaves them roasting all night. Also, last week we officially ran out of all of our dry food donations, summer clothes for children, and have very little summer clothes for men and women. Last Wednesday we got together as a team for a time of prayer. We prayed for many things, but a couple of them were for God to turn down the heat and provide some stuff so we can continue to help these people. God did in fact turn down the heat, and everyone has been much more pleasant! In addition to that, I got a random email from a British school in Athens saying they have two carloads of kid's summer clothes ready to be picked up this weekend! A church contacted another teammate with clothes donations this week, and we got a surprise donation of baby supplies (strollers, diapers, etc.)!!! I was so encouraged by God's provisions for the ministry.

Now, for even more exciting news!!! For the past 3-ish years, many of you have been praying for a close friend of mine, "Z". She is the single mother of four (two of them being twins) that I've written about many times before. We are going to call her Zeba (this means beautiful in Farsi). If you remember, she married at a very young age, was abused, and used to hurt herself because her pain was so great. Three months ago Zeba gave her life over to Christ, and the transformation has been beautiful. She frequently gives food and clothes to other hurting Afghan women, even though she has very little. She comes to the refugee center every Saturday and sits with other Afghan women to hear their stories, help find out their immediate needs, and helps translate for me when I get stuck in my Farsi. Many times I see her crying with the women she's listening to. Many times she is not able to help them physically, but I see how gently she talks with them and they walk away feeling a little better. This past Friday at Bible study she openly proclaimed to the other women that she is in fact a Christian. After Bible study I left with Zeba and another woman from Bible study. We will call her Mariam.

As we were walking to the metro, Mariam said to Zeba, "Many women are telling me not to walk with you anymore because you are a Christian." Zeba stopped and said, "If you're afraid to walk with me, go on ahead. I won't be angry." Mariam grabbed her arm and said, "Let's go. Let them say we are both Christian. I don't care." I was very touched by Mariam's boldness. A couple months ago I wrote about Mariam having her Bible torn up by her landlord and how she wanted to continue learning and studying. With much joy and I can write you today and also tell you that she gave her life over to Christ yesterday! There is so much more I wish I could write, but this is already getting long!

From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you for your prayers for Zeba over the past several years! She has become like family to me and is a heavenly treasure that is a result of God's grace and your faithful prayers over the years. Continue praying for her and for Mariam. Zeba has already been shunned and persecuted for her faith. Mariam was persecuted before she was a Christian, so I'm sure it will only increase. Pray for their protection and for a strong foundation in Christ! I appreciate you so much