

Dear Praying Friends,

How grateful we are to God for people like you He has used to encourage us and stand with us through prayer and financial investments! **THANK YOU FOR YOUR VITAL ROLE IN HELPING US REACH THE NATIONS THROUGH ATHENS AND BEYOND!**

Here is a little Q & A to address issues we are being asked about this summer...

**Q: *How are the newlyweds doing?***

**A:** Kendra and Steve are both doing well in Scotland, where Steve is working, Kendra is learning to cook and manage a household, they are practicing a lot of hospitality, and they both will be going to school in September (Steve to finish his last year of university, and Kendra to start her first year of nursing school). PRAISE THE LORD that Kendra was granted SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL AID from the school! Now she has to return to the U.S. for two weeks in order to get a student visa.

**Q: *How is the leadership transition going in Athens?***

**A:** It is still early (just over a month), but so far it seems to be going well and we are positive about what the Lord seems to be doing on the team and through the team, as well as in the local church and through the local church. Thanks for your continued prayers regarding the leadership of the Athens Refugee ministry.

**Q: *How is Mr. Ali?***

**A:** Our very dear 66-year-old Sudanese friend is doing well in many ways, but still is holding out on putting his faith in Jesus. Over the last 5 years or so, we have studied together the Gospel of John, the book of Acts, some of Isaiah, some of Genesis, the Gospel of Matthew, and now we are going through the book of Galatians. He has talked with many believers (both long-term and short-term staff with the ministry here), read books, heard sermons, etc., etc. but really needs divine revelation (like "Paul-on-the-road-to-Damascus" kind-of-revelation). I am not sure how the Lord will eventually break through his hesitancy, but we sure appreciate your prayers on his behalf (and ours).

**Q: *What are you doing with your time these days, and what is next for you?***

**A:** Scott just finished a 6-month online course getting certified training in TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language).

Scott is working with a good friend (who was a refugee with her parents and siblings during our days in Austria) on putting together a "devotional" kind of book, based on the testimonies of refugees who had their lives changed by Jesus in Athens. Lord willing, it will be finished by the end of the year.

In addition to therapy with Ellie outside the home (4 days a week) and inside the home (daily), leadership meetings, hospitality, and homeschooling are keeping us busy.

Our niece Chelsea Powell is coming to live with us for 3 months, arriving on August 30th. She really loves Jesus, just graduated from high school, and wants to serve. Please pray that this will be a time of encouraging growth for her.

**Q: *When is your next trip to the States?***

**A:** Good question! We have recently learned of an agreement between Greece and the U.S. regarding Social Security issues that may require me (Scott) to return to the States for 6 months in the new year. Additionally, we are looking into more progressive therapy opportunities for Ellie that may happen at the same time. Lord willing, Vicki and the kids would be able to join me after about 3 months for a summer furlough. NONE OF THIS IS YET CERTAIN. Please pray for us as we continue to seek the Lord. We need information AND revelation.

**Q: *What else is happening in the ministry these days?***

**A:** Here are some excerpts from recent updates of refugee ministry team members in Greece, Italy, and Turkey:

**GREECE:** In the Persian Christian Fellowship, three couples renewed their marriage vows because they had been married in the Muslim faith and wanted a Christian ceremony. We also dedicated some new babies. One of those couples was recently baptized and their baby dedicated to the Lord. This gave many Muslim refugees the opportunity witness a Christian marriage and baby dedication for the first time ever, and to understand God's intention for families to live in peace and harmony, with the Lord's blessing! They were reminded that the Lord intended for the husbands and wives to be committed to each other (Ephesians 5:21-33).

One of the Afghan couples who renewed their marriage were invited for dinner by another Afghan family. In their culture, when families gather, the men and the women are in separate rooms. After a few hours, the men heard arguing from the group of women in the other room.

One Afghan woman asked "Ch": "We heard you became a Christian, were baptized, and received the ceremony of Christian marriage?"

"Ch" Said, "Yes"

The Afghan woman asked, "Are they going to give you money and send you to another country?"

"Ch" answered, "No, we are giving money to the church during the offering, and they are not sending us to another country; they are only sharing and teaching the Gospel of Jesus. We chose to accept Christianity."

The woman said, "You are unclean!"

"Ch" tried to protect herself and defend her faith. Finally, the conversation got "heated", and the men calmed them down, and they left the place.

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Tine and I hosted a group of women who have been interested to hear more about Jesus...There were four Muslim ladies, the Farsi Christian woman (who doesn't speak English) and 6 of us women from the team. There were 10 kids...several of the women took the kids out on the back balcony with games, coloring pages, and play dough...(the women) talked for 2 hours...

**ITALY:** We are blessed by ever increasing relationships that cross national and cultural boundaries. We are also fostering a deeper relationship with "F" and "M", Iranian Christians living an hour north from here. They come to our home about once a week for fellowship and opportunity to talk with the various Afghan refugees. A delightful couple, and a great example of the value of networking between teams (Nader "introduced" us via phone when we visited Athens);

"J" (Pakistani) has expressed renewed interest in participating in ministry this summer, and we have recently learned of some refugees (Afghani) that make some faith claims and informally help in many of our outreaches.

Weekly meetings with "A" continue (teaching English, dinner & conversation). He has begun asking more and more spiritually-oriented questions and we regularly talk about Christianity, Islam and Biblical issues. Mostly we are finding that we love him more and more, and deeply desire that he meets Jesus.

**TURKEY:** C" continued to meet with us and others in the Iraqi Bible study...He is growing in his faith and reading the Scriptures voraciously.

Please pray that God would continue to provide people to disciple him in his journey, especially during our furlough.

Thanks again for your prayer and financial support! We appreciate you!

Grateful,

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