

March 22, 2012

Dear Praying Friends,

Several have asked lately how it is going for me in my new role, starting this new ministry focus. We are also asked sometimes what a typical week is like for us. So here is some of what we have been doing this past (relatively typical) week:

Friday: Finished preparation for the first lesson of Sunday's Christian Leadership Course; and did preparation for evening ministry; Bible study on Leadership with Pakistani brother Dr. Joseph at 2 PM; Community Group from 4:30 to 7:30 at Helping Hands (we meet for the purpose of getting to know each better in Christ and to fulfill Hebrews 10:23-25; sometimes we meet in homes and sometimes downtown at Helping Hands. We have kept it limited to 4 refugee brothers and a few HH staff for the last 6 months but we are about to open it up to several more. We usually share a meal together, answer a "getting-to-know-you" question, pray for each other, and look at the Word together concerning a character issue. We also ask the guys to always bring something each week to contribute to the meeting--a testimony, song, poem, scripture, video clip, etc.--and ask each other how we lived out this past week what we learned the previous Friday).

Saturday: did some emails in the morning and met with an Iranian and Kurdish brother in the early afternoon for a little lesson from my Kurdish brother on using PowerPoint presentations. From 4 to 6, I led the last of a weekly Bible study at Helping Hands. We started going through the Gospel of John last JUNE and finally finished. At least one man that we know of (from Kurdistan) gave his heart to Christ on Saturday (others have along the way).

Sunday: We left for church at 8:30 AM and I preached at the 9 AM service in the northern suburbs and the 11:30 AM service downtown Athens. From 2 to 4 PM, we had the first of a 10-week (20-hour) course on Christian Leadership. We had 14 men and women in attendance from Iran, Afghanistan, Eritrea, America, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, and Pakistan. Every week we will be looking at the Calling (vision), the Character, and the Competencies of a Christian leader. We are not following any particular curriculum. It is a very "eclectic" course I am putting together as I go.

Afterwards, Aziz and Donna (HH staff) and a friend of theirs visiting from the States, along with our Iranian brother Ebi (married to HH staff member Carolyn who is presently in Canada) came to our home for great supper that Vicki cooked.

Afterwards, I went and picked Will up from Youth Group.

Monday: Mondays are my "day off" and usually involve teaching a home-school class (Bible/Apologetics) and serving my family in some way (dates, orthodontist/doctor/chiropractor appointments. Today, our good friends Kent and Myrna Morley came over in the afternoon to play games with our family and share supper with us in the evening.

Tuesday: This morning I took Ellie to therapy/school at 8 AM. The government cut the funding for the bus and a taxi driver will start picking her up tomorrow but today I needed to take her and pick her up. I had a Skype meeting with my leader Anthony Jones (he lives in the UK), and at 2 PM I had a Bible study with an Iranian brother in my office downtown (I currently share an office with another ministry in Athens). After my bible study with "A", he led a study with some new believers in one part of the office, and I had another Bible study with a new believer from Afghanistan in another part of our office. In the evening we had some close friends (with another ministry) over for dinner. They will be going to the States for a year this summer and we wanted to make sure we had one evening together before then. We had another great meal cooked by my beautiful and wonderful wife.

Wednesday: The taxi driver came to pick up Ellie this morning (and two other kids, along with an adult helper) but told us this afternoon he won't be doing it again. I had a meeting with an Iranian brother at 11 AM. It looks likely that he will be joining me on my new ministry team and we had a very encouraging meeting! After our time together I had a lunch meeting with another refugee brother who I have been meeting with for several months, and was also expecting to join the new team. However, he told me today that he will NOT be joining and does not want to meet with me any longer, so that was a very discouraging meeting. After that I came home and prepared to lead the Couples Care Group from our church that Vicki and I are part of on 3 Wednesday nights a month. There are 9 couples in the group, but due to travel schedules and sickness I don't think we have all been together at the same time yet. It is a great group of people that we are really loving and appreciating.

In different phone calls with Ellie's teacher tonight, it looks like we will need to take her and pick her up again tomorrow and they will try to find another taxi driver for Friday. So I won't be able to go to my usual men's meeting tomorrow AM and may need to cancel my other appointments as well.

Thursday: Ellie was awake until 3 AM but we had to get her up at 7:30 to leave by 8:00 for therapy and school. The school called about 9:45 AM and said she was having a seizure so I needed to go pick her up. Usually I meet with my friend from Sudan Mr. Ali on Thursday mornings, and I have just started meeting with Kent Morley (the new Helping Hands Team Leader) on Thursdays for a "Leadership Lunch", but I had to cancel both meetings. Instead I stayed home and worked all day (except when taking and picking up Ellie) on the retreat I will lead this weekend and the Leadership Course on Sunday. I finished about 7 PM and then took papers to the photocopy store and went to buy a DVD player for a refugee family with a special needs child.

We were supposed to spend the evening with friends at their house but Vicki did not feel about either taking Ellie or leaving her here with the boys in her current condition, so we stayed home and we all (Cody, Kyle, William, Vicki, and I) listened

to the second sermon (in a 4-part series) on temptation by Andy Stanley.

4 mornings a week I get up at 5:15 AM and go for my "power walk" (fast-walking and long-praying). One morning a week I get up early and go meet with some brothers in Christ for prayer, accountability, and Bible study. Sundays we leave for church at 8:30 AM. Vicki and I are on a rotation for teaching kids' Sunday School. Some Sundays I preach at our church (both congregations) and some Sundays I preach at other churches.

Vicki does a lot of cooking for hospitality ministry, lots of home-school stuff, cleaning, washing, caring for Ellie, etc. She also has a prayer group outreach she leads most Thursday mornings.

Tomorrow I will be taking about 10 or 12 refugees out of the city for a 2-night retreat, returning late Sunday morning. These are the guys we have been meeting with for Community Group on Fridays and the new people we are inviting to join starting next week.

OK. It is 11 PM and I need to go to bed. Good-night and thanks SO VERY MUCH for your prayers and/or financial support to help us disciple the nations through Athens.

Grateful for you,

Scott and Vicki