

Dear Praying Friends,

The following was written by Athens Refugee Ministry Team member Kallie Skaife. It is a bit long but very encouraging so I hope you will take some time to read it and pray.

Grateful,

Scott & Vicki McCracken

A FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS

Our dear family and friends,

For all those who pray for "B" and wonder what has happened to her, here is the latest news.

On Easter weekend, "B" came to spend the weekend with us. Saturday night we celebrated the resurrection together and early Sunday morning she said good-bye and left us. We found out later that she and some other Afghan families, decided hurriedly, that being Easter Sunday, (as big a day in Greece as Christmas is in Europe and the U.S.), the police checks would not be as thorough and it was a good opportunity to try and make their way to Italy!

All went well until at the harbour, her eldest daughter was allowed to board the ship after showing her documents BUT NOT the rest of the family and **THE SHIP LEFT WITHOUT "B" and her two younger children!**

Alone, 14 years of age, tall and truly very beautiful, the eldest daughter was on a ship heading for Italy. Our imagination grabbed our fears and our fears grabbed our imagination.

'Lord, protect this precious young woman...'

During the next 36 hours, we tried to trace her aboard the ship, through satellite access that was granted by the appropriate police authorities, but it was as if the earth, or more likely the sea had opened up and swallowed her whole.

Our heart came to a halt and "B" 's sugar levels reached 3,5mg!

EL ROI - the God who sees.

He became our only confidence and comfort.

She was found only a week later, somewhere in Belgium. An Afghan family took her in for 2 weeks until she made an appeal for residency to the authorities. The first time she sat round their table to eat, they thanked God and opened the scriptures!

..Patras (Greece)...Brindizi (Italy).Rome (Italy)...Paris (France)..Brussels (Belgium)..

How many chances do you think a 14-year-old beautiful young lady has to survive such a trip and end up in the home of a CHRISTIAN Afghan family?

THE LORD... Lord of the refugee highways,... Lord of the smugglers,.. Lord over mafias,... Lord over human trafficking.. OUR LORD.

The first time I spoke to her on the phone she sounded almost intoxicated, but not with the adrenaline of the adventures of her risky journey.

"Mrs Kallie, I met Jesus.. now I know Jesus..I cried, 'Please help me , I am alone'...He said, 'Will you open, I knock'.. I opened..I am so amazed I understand who He is.while in Greece I did not understand'.

A 14-year-old with no proper documents, not much money, no language, no covering, hovering between the borders of childhood and adulthood. On the way, between Athens and Brussels, Jesus revealed Himself and dazzled her!

Now, her little 4-year-old brother, "Z", has lost 2 kilos in a month, pining for her, for she looked after him tenderly as a worthy mother and her loss is inexplicable to him and very great.

But there is good news.

This little boy was known to be a diabetic. He was tested a couple of times and for 2 years he displayed all the symptoms that accompanied this disease. Continual hunger and thirst and continual visits to the toilet! At the weekends when he and "B" stay with us I counted, at times, as many as 16 visits to the toilet in an evening!!!!

A few weeks ago, during an evening such as this, we prayed for him at our team meeting and took him to a children's hospital where he was admitted for a week's observation. A precious Christian couple offered to pay all the hospital bills for "B" and her son.

Many prayers from many people have gone up for "Z" and "B" 's healing but that morning, as I continued to cry to God in my heart to heal him and spare him the pricking, it occurred to me that even if the Lord healed him he would still have to be observed for a few days, or else how would it be established that he was free from diabetes.

Expectancy filled my heart and I went out of the hospital to buy him a special toy to ease his stay. He would have to be pricked before and after every one of his 5 small meals a day! 10 prickings in 10 little fingers. But he is only a four year old and who can explain and comfort him. The most tender woman doctor was provided, she loved him at first sight! We were given a 2 litre bottle of water in order to measure the amounts that he drinks and a two litre bottle to measure the amounts that he passes out as urine.

I spend the day with them talking.

During that day though, to the amazement of the doctors and mine, he stopped his excessive drinking, he stopped urinating and all the sugar levels were normal!

Believing and doubting at the same time I left for home that evening. 'Lord, can it be true? Are you going to heal him?'

Well the boy was released only 3 days later as everything seemed to be back to normal. A few days after that he was admitted again for a yet more sophisticated test which could verify beyond doubt that his liver was coping with the sugar normally.

Again everything was normal!

It has continued so.

Although we had cried countless times for his healing and we were expecting, we were stunned once again. We believe the Lord healed him.

"B" is a special woman, her spirit is open at the moment and is drinking like a dry land which was visited by rain.

She is growing in grace; she is learning to love the Lord, and learning to express her love to her children in new ways. She is discovering that all things have become new. She speaks to people in the park about Jesus and gives them tracks in Farsi! She records in a small note book all that she feels God says to her and does in her life and the cry of her heart to Him. She is learning to listen for His voice.

Last week I showed her Exodus 33-34.

'Lord. Show me Your glory.

You cannot see My face and live.

.But I will make my goodness pass before you.

The Lord. the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth, who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin.'

She read incredulously the passage, then she put the open book over her head and wept saying, "Anger, slow anger, slow anger, slow."

Quick anger is at the base of Islam.

Quick anger and cold fairness. You did this, you deserve that.

There is no notion of giving freely to someone, at ones own cost, something he does not deserve. Therefore there is no redemption.

We are witnessing more and more that what breaks foremost the hearts of the people from Islamic background is their encounter with Grace.

Merciful, compassionate, pitiful, slow to anger, extending kindness and blessing to generations.

This is our God.

And who can resist such grace, who can resist His nobility.

Last Saturday night, when she came to spend the night with us, she was depressed and dispirited, pondering on all the tragic circumstances of her life in the last year and all the possibilities that lie ahead. We talked and tried to comfort her but she went to bed still in her valley.

On Sunday afternoon, at our small women's meeting, **she shared with the other Muslim ladies, "Six o'clock in the morning I woke up very depressed. Then I remembered that my God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger...I started saying it to myself several times...to my amazement my cloud was lifted!"**

"B" is discovering for herself that Gods words are Spirit and they are Life.

Please, continue to pray for this very special orphaned family, should the Lord lay it on your heart. "B" 's father in law was a very big figure in the Islamic hierarchy of his country and has written books on Islam that have been translated in many European languages. His four sons are fanatic Taliban but Bani's husband, the fifth son, came to know Jesus and was murdered by his four brothers, within the courtyards of his home in the presence of his wife and children , for confessing, ' . . I believe in Jesus and I love Jesus . . ' He only knew the Lord for one year!

Before that he was a communist, well established in the party. But before he came to Christ he had a dream, three men with brilliant faces visited him and the one in the middle banged his hand with force at his desk and declared, 'up to now and no more, communism is finished'. The same dream came to him again after six months, but the amazing thing is that this dear man not only perceived in his spirit that what was communicated to him was a spiritual truth but he acted on it. He went to the party and said that he does not want to be a member any more! For this reason this 'comrade' lost his 'party' job and had to search for another.

It is a mystery how out of such a stronghold background, God called "B" , her husband and their children to Himself and freed them to respond to the Light.

Pray for my beloved friend "B", that the Lord will heal her diabetes, and that she will be able to reunite with her 14 year old daughter who is held in a children's refugee camp somewhere in Belgium.

Pray that the Lord will plant them in the country of his choosing and find them a place to be. Pray for the oldest daughter that she will come to know her Lord as a faithful and loving Father. Pray for her nine year old daughter. Her world has been shaken, and she is quiet, the cry of her heart has not surfaced yet. She may be going to the children's Christian camp in three weeks. Pray there the Lord will reach her wounds and love her through special people. Pray for the four-year-old "Z". His main security at the moment appears to be his mother, he clings to her. There are circumstances and language and losses that his child heart does not understand and is not able at the moment to process. But, the Lord has healed him and has come to him in an explicit dream! He keeps saying that he will become a pastor!

I love them all dearly, their friendship has stamped my life, but a little more dearly I love that little "Z" with these expressive eyes that allow you to read his soul. My longing is that his fathers love for Jesus will rest on him in double portion.

Thank you all for standing with us in this ministry, only God knows how much we appreciate it.

Kallie (and Jimmy) Skaife

P.S. Request

Is there any one who has an old copy of DAILY LIGHT, in any version that he does not use that they can pass it on to us? It is an invaluable devotional for new and old believers and they are getting more and more difficult to find.

Is there anyone who has an old copy of PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT by Kay Arthur?

It is also an invaluable book and out of print at present, but I would so much love to go through it with the women.

If you could help in this way you may send them to our address in Georganta 26, Kifissia, 145 62, Athens, Greece.

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