



International Teams
<http://refminathens.blogspot.com>

ELLIE PICS...

<http://elliebomccracken.blogspot.com>

McCracken Memo

**Refugee Ministries
Athens, GREECE**

Winter 2007-2008

17 Year Old Prayer Request Finally Answered ! Scott Is No Longer the Team Leader!

As of January 1st, I (Scott) have turned over the position of Team Leader to Kenn and Lisa Dirrim. This is an answer to prayers I have been praying for over 17 years!!



Kenn & Lisa Dirrim
Team Leaders
Athens Refugee Ministry

Kenn & Lisa hail from Rose Drive Friends Church in California, one of our special supporting churches.

I will be "coaching" Refugee Ministry Team Leaders in Turkey, Italy, Athens, and possibly another European country (we are working on the possibility of starting a new one soon--details later). I will also be involved in the following ministries: helping with writing funding proposals, 2 Bible studies a week with refugees, hospitality ministry, and the development of a "different kind" of discipleship training program for refugees in Athens (details later). I also hope to work more on improving my Greek (which needs MUCH improvement).

I will also continue to preach at least once a month at St. Andrew's International Church, and occasionally at

other churches.

On the home front, I will continue teaching two subjects in homeschool (Bible and Algebra), taking Ellie to the physical therapist twice a week (and doing exercises with her at home), playing taxi driver for our kids, and trying to do better at serving Vicki however she may need me.

I am NOT "retiring" as some have suggested. I am re-focusing on something NEW, and asking God to do something NEW here... through someone NEW.

Thanks for your continued prayers for me, the Athens Refugee Ministry Team, and the Leadership Team.

Kendra Serving 'Round the World...

(Read more on their blog) <http://visiontrip08.blogspot.com>

Kendra and her friend/teammate Becky Sirinides begin their world missions trip on January 16th when they flew to Austria where they'll serve for a month at "The Oasis" (the ministry to refugees that Vicki and I helped start over 20 years ago). From there, they will go to Costa Rica, then Elim Bible Camp in Colorado, then the Philippines, then Nairobi, Kenya (IF the situation improves

there). They will return to Athens in August 2008.

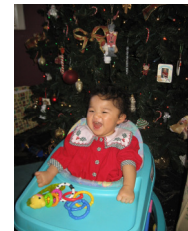
They purchased their tickets, and have just under 1/3 of what they will need for the entire 7 months of service. Anyone desiring to invest in this mission trip can send their tax-deductible donation to:

International Teams, 411 W. River Rd., Elgin, IL 60123-1570

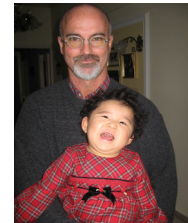
Please make out the checks to: **International Teams** and enclose a note indicating your desire for it to go in **Kendra McCracken's** account.

Thank you for any prayer and/or financial investment you have made, or may make, in this way.

Kendra is planning to go to nursing school in the U.K. this Fall.



1st Christmas With Us!



Daddy's Chinese Lass



Enjoying Team Retreat

ANSWERS TO PRAYER...

- Ellie received her Certificate of Citizenship and passport days before returning to Athens
- Our account at I.T. is back in the BLACK!
- Gregor's mom is doing better after cancer treatments, and they are all back in Kosovo
- Will's tuition has been provided up to now
- The NEST ministry (temporary shelter) recently re-opened after almost 3 years of being closed

PRAYER REQUESTS...

- **Mr. Ali (from Sudan) who still does not know Jesus**
- "M", from Iraq, who is a new believer facing many problems
- **Our Refugee Ministry teams in Italy, Turkey, and Greece (more about them next time)**
- Finances and other logistics for Kendra's higher education
- **Improvement of Ellie's physical abilities, speech, and motor skills (read more on the blog)**
- The several new believers from Afghanistan (growth, safety, basic needs met)
- **A much-needed new facility (see below for one example, among many)**



Christmas 2007

Athens RefMin Teammate Kallie Skaife writes...

Last Sunday afternoon, after the hour we spent together with the Iranian and Afghani women at the A.R.C., one lady came and told us that she wanted Jesus! This dear woman revealed her tragic story to us some weeks ago in secret on the street pavement as she said she did not want any of the Afghani women to see her speaking with us (in the A.R.C.)! We stood there and listened to her for an hour while she shook like a leaf—and not only from the cold. We held her and cried and prayed on the pavement at 10 o'clock in the evening!

On this past Sunday night, we brought her to the office, as the A.R.C. was crowded by at least 100 Afghans and Iranians having a meal and chatting. While we tried to speak to her, show her relevant parts of scripture and pray, the office door was opened maybe 20 times, the telephones rang a number of times, people popped their head in to ask questions, use the photocopier, send an email, you name it!

We talked and held her hand and prayed as she gave her heart to Jesus, right in that office with the hundred interruptions, like a fish in glass bowl!!!!!!!!!!!!

There is a God in the heavens and there is a Holy Spirit!

Athens Makes 29th On List of the 30 Most Expensive Cities of the World!

The only city in the U.S. to beat it was New York (at 17th)! Read more for yourself if you like at:

<http://americaninathens.wordpress.com/2007/06/19/athens-29th-most-expensive-city-in-the-world/>

Of course, having to pay over \$6.00 USD for a gallon of CHEAP gas and \$8.40 USD for a gallon of milk, we were not surprised to learn this.

More proof that **Jehovah Jireh is truly our Provider**, as the value of the U.S. dollar falls against the Euro, prices go up, supporters drop off, financial needs increase, and THE LORD CONTINUES TO PROVIDE through the prayers and the gifts of His people. **THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING HIM TO USE YOU IN THESE WAYS!!!**

"On Tuesday only three women came to ask if we could pray with them, and again the only place where one could bring anyone who needs ministry or confidential talk is our "glass bowl" office! So my biggest longing, burden, dream is for at least two, comfortable, beautiful, sunny rooms where we can bring anyone who needs privacy, prayer, a friendly chat, or ministry, away from the hubbub of the A.R.C. crowd." —Kallie Skaife

We recently lost ALL of our 1000+ e-mail addresses! **If you would like to be added, or re-added, to our "Knee-mail" update list**, please let us know at:

Scott.McCracken@iteams.org

Financial Investments can be made by writing a check to **International Teams**, and sending to: International Teams, 411 W. River Rd., Elgin, IL 60123 Please enclose a note indicating your designation (i.e., for Scott & Vicki McCracken's account).

Thank you for your partnership in reaching the nations through Athens **and beyond!**