

Subj: **McCracken Memo/April-June 2006**
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MCCRACKEN MEMO APRIL-JUNE 2006

"Reaching the Nations Through Athens"

MOROCCAN JEW FINDS HIS MESSIAH

Two nights ago, I finally had some time alone in the apartment to read my Injil (New Testament); it's not safe to read it when the other guys are around. They might physically attack me for reading it, not to mention that they already suspect there is something strange about me.

I remember reading that everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. So I decided to talk to Jesus - I wanted to know if he was really there. For a while, I continued to ask, but he didn't seem to answer. I started to get frustrated with Jesus, saying things like, 'Why don't you just show yourself?'

At this point, my tongue was silenced. I tried to talk, but I couldn't make words. All that came out was 'eeh, eeh, eeh...' My heart began to race and I got goose bumps all over my body. I was scared -- in Morocco, some people say that things like this happen when there are bad spirits in the house. Or, I thought, maybe I'm just going crazy!

Desperate to calm down, I thought that a shower might clear my head. I relaxed a little, but was still shaken. I began to call to Jesus again, but this time with less pride. And then I heard his voice and felt his presence all around me... he told me that he is here and alive and he was calling me to follow him. I rushed out of the shower, still with shampoo in my hair, and prayed and worshipped him.

I've liked Jesus for a long time, though I never felt that I could call myself a Christian. Since I've been in Athens though, I have felt God pulling me toward himself. I've told my Christian friends here that 'I will be a Christian... but not yet.' Now, I feel that I can call myself a Christian. I called my mother in Morocco to tell her; it was very important to me that my family should know. I think God is working in their hearts, because they accepted my decision. I still haven't told many people in Athens, because I am increasingly worried about my safety. My God has helped me find a job, so I pray in faith that I will find a better (safer) place to live."

"Y" is from a minority group in Morocco - the remaining Jewish community(about 2 million in the whole country) who have been there since the first Jewish diaspora).

ADOPTION UPDATE

God's timing is perfect and only HE knows when we will finally get our new family member from China, but the time frame has been pushed back AGAIN. Now we are looking at late 2006 or early 2007 as the new possibility. Thank you for your continued prayers on our behalf.

Monday, July 10, 2006 America Online: Macnmony

FAMILY UPDATE

We finished another great school year and are ready to relax a little this summer! Cody looks and sounds like a man at 14. Kyle excelled in his last year of Greek grade school and will be joining us for home-school in the Fall, starting 7th grade. If God provides, William hopes to attend 3rd grade at Champion school, which has been such a wonderful fit for him! He welcomes and delights all who enter our home! As I write, Kendra is in on her missions trip to Peru! We are praying for a meaningful experience for her; many thanks to all who have contributed financially and are praying for her! She begins her senior year in September. Cody and Kyle recently received their black belts in karate, after years of hard work! They improve daily on their guitars and want to play other instruments, as well. Scott and I are so thankful for our children- their love for one another and tender hearts toward the Lord are a continual source of blessing to us and others. The kids are anxious for their little sister to finally arrive, so we are all learning something about patience and God's timing! Please pray for me (Vic) in the coming year, as I try to balance teaching with the new baby, hospitality and the daily demands of life! We are BLESSED!

BETROTHED AT THE AGE OF 9!!! (written by our teammate Kallie)

Betrothed at the age of nine and given to a man mentally unstable and twenty years her senior!

Apart from the responsibility of an unstable husband, four sons were added to the life of this young mother.

About a year ago, the husband decided to send her with three sons to the west, hoping that, as the second eldest son was also plagued with severe mental instability, his wife could easily secure legal status somewhere in Europe. Then he was to follow.

She walked 7 days almost continually in order to pass over the mountains of Iran into Turkey and then hid 20 days in caves waiting for a connection who would direct them to the next part of the journey.

One night, together with several others they got into a few inflatable dinghies. None of them knew how to swim...

One of the flimsy boats got a puncture and drowned the people in it, while theirs made it to the coast. She and her three sons were in Greece...

Last weekend, during the outreach that was held by the fellowship where we worship together with the Iranian believers, she appeared with her two sons.

At the end of the time, she disclosed to our Iranian colleague Nader that during that week the Lord Jesus had appeared to her in her dream and that she wants to know Him!

She came on Tuesday to talk more, and Nader and Susan led her to Jesus! She met Him last Tuesday, but He met her long before!

A silent Companion, a silent Traveler, an unperceived Defender of these precious lives, till the hearts are quickened and are able to respond to Him by the grace given!

It thrills my heart to picture Him standing next to this precious woman from the day she was conceived, through a childhood that was hardly a childhood, through an unjust marriage, through the mountains of Turkey, pursuing her heart and guarding her life!!!

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

"The Nest " (shelter ministry) is about \$285/month away from re-opening. This strategic ministry would help house refugees like "Y" and other friends of ours who need a safe place to live.

The Laundry Ministry has begun! Thank God for the generous Greek businessman who donated the 3 washers and driers.

Nader has received his one-year resident permit (with 5 months left on it)! Ella is expected to receive hers soon!

A new couple joined our team: Paul (an American) and Emma (Irish) Wilson are a great addition in many ways!

In the next several months, we expect 5 different couples and one single woman to be joining our team!

Please pray for the many new believers who have come to Jesus in recent months.

Please continue to pray for our dear friend from Sudan, Mr. "Ali". He needs to know Jesus.

Pray for one of the few Somalian believers in the world who lives in Sweden, but is praying about moving to Athens to help us reach Somalians for Jesus.

Please pray for the many short-term teams coming to help us, and for our staff who help lead them.

Financial Investments can be made out to:

International Teams

And sent to:

International Teams

411 W. River Rd.

Elgin, IL 60123-1570

USA

(please enclose a note, designating for Scott & Vicki McCracken's account)

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Web pages:

www.ITRefMin.org (click "Teams", then click "Athens")

www.iteams.org

<http://refminathens.blogspot.com> (some refugee stories)

www.geocities.com/scripturecalligraphy (purchase beautiful art and support our teammates)

www.helpinghands.gr/en/default.htm

www.helpinghands.watchmyshow.info

Our ministry is striving to be a FULL-SERVICE station on this exit ramp of

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