

\* **McCracken Memo** \***Back “Home”...**

*Though we had a wonderful time with family and some of our friends and supporters this summer, we are glad to be back to our life and ministry in Athens. Scott spent his first week back in Europe at a leadership conference in Hungary. Then, he spent his first week back in Athens living on the streets with the homeless refugees, gaining a helpful education while being used by God. The children are back in school and doing well. We have re-started the adoption process and hope to have a baby girl from Vietnam some time in the next year. God is on the move, both in our personal lives and ministry.*

**AFGHANISTAN...**

With the tragic events of recent days, Afghanistan has been in the news quite a bit. Most of you know that we have the privilege of ministering to Afghan refugees here in Athens, who have increased in number recently. As you can imagine, they have lived in deep spiritual darkness for many years. However, we have been touched by how so many refugees (including Afghans) have expressed sorrow and condolences for the attack on America. Following are some excerpts from letters that some of our team members recently wrote

(BEFORE Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>)...

**Rachel writes:** *Tonight I simply cannot believe the things my eyes have seen and my ears have heard.*

*My heart is broken for the people of Afghanistan...a place absolutely shattered by years of war, civil conflict, landmines, drought, famine, illiteracy, and now ruled with the iron fist of the world's most severe Muslim government. In Afghanistan right now people are eating grass to survive and women are locked away; meanwhile Christian aid workers are being tried for proselytizing. Today in my English class I had about 15 new students from Afghanistan. They're new to Greece, most within the last month... and I quickly learned that many not only did not know a word of English, but were also not even literate in their native language.*

*One student who didn't look any older than 20 really caught my eye in this crowd. I could see his physical wounds: one eye clouded white, with big scars and gouges on his neck and stomach, bullet wounds, a festering sore on his mouth...and beyond that I can only guess the atrocities he's witnessed and survived. Smiling and joking, his childlike way betrayed a mental coherence that seemed to come and go. He asked me to help him write a letter to an ambassador here because he is desperate for help. After one month of living in a city park and being harassed by police, in his broken English he began that letter to the ambassador, "**I have no salvation without you.**" Oh, those words pierce my heart! He doesn't understand that the ambassador cannot save him—he needs Jesus for his spiritual salvation...and for his physical? I can only plead with God to have mercy and bless this man.*

**Ilir writes:** *Wednesday night at Tea Bar, when we saw how many Afghans were present, we played the Jesus film in their language. As I was walking around, serving and shaking hands, my heart was so touched as I noticed how they watched the film with open mouths, sitting on the edge of their chairs, totally captivated by the character of Christ. We announced that anyone who wanted to know more about Jesus could come to a class following the film. As soon as the video ended a group of 10-15 people entered the "Seekers Class". Scott, our team leader, led the class that evening. While I was coordinating the clean-up in the kitchen, I noticed another group of Afghan men playing*