



From Darkness To Light ...

In recent months we have seen God bring several people from nations around the world to Himself - Iranians, Kurds, Algerians and Ukrainians. We thank God for the way he has used the Tea Bar, Language Classes, and Soup Kitchen, as well as the many volunteers from countries around the world (Greek, Albanian, Korean, Filipino, Kurdish, and Ukrainian) to help these precious souls find eternal life through Jesus our Lord.

One of these men, a Kurdish artist, recently showed us some pictures he has painted. One of them was a symbolic abstract. When asked to explain its meaning, he replied, «The cross represents the death of Jesus and the black cape connected to it represents the sin of the world.



The holes in the cape represent those who believe in Jesus and have their sins taken away. The round white circle at the head of the cross represents the purity of Christ, the candle at the top is because Jesus is the light of the world. The blood dripping from the bottom and the ends of the crossbeam are causing those at the bottom to experience «new birth» as they are born again into God's family. The book represents the Bible, God's Word, and the different shapes at the bottom of the painting represent the different areas of



people's lives because God's salvation affects all areas of our life.» When he was finished explaining, we asked this «Muslim» man who has been coming to our programs for months now if he believed what he had painted. His answer, «I not only know it in my head, but I also believe it in my heart.»

Honorable Mentions

In the spirit of Philippians 3:17, we occasionally give space in the Filoxenia to public encourage specific churches, groups, or organizations that we observe God is using to serve the refugees and international minorities in this city. In this issue we want to encourage the Christian community to look at, and learn from, the examples of...

THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF NIKAIÁ

This Greek church, became aware of the plight of the Kurdish refugees only a few months ago. But since that time, they responded IMMEDIATELY in many helpful and practical ways. Within one week of learning of the former camp situation in Pendeli, these believers brought a trailer and car loads of food to the Kurdish refugees. Since that time they have donated clothing, visited other refugee camps in Agios Stefanos and Loutraki, they have brought needed supplies and the Gospel message to the camps, and they have invited one of the Kurdish refugees to speak at their church. They have made continual inquiries about how they can help and have provided opportunities for ministry to the refugee children. Please remember to pray for this body of believers as they do their best to discern their part in the advancement of God's kingdom among the nations.

THE YOUTH GROUP FROM

THE ORTHODOX «METAMORPHOSIS» BROTHERHOOD

This Greek youth group from Salonica, upon learning of the refugee situation in Athens, collected from their church HUGE amounts of food and clothing, and at their own expense rented a bus which they drove ALL NIGHT long in order to personally deliver their collected goods and help us serve at the soup kitchen. In addition, they sang and shared an evangelistic message, helped clean up, did some painting, shared the Gospel one-on-one with some Muslims, and helped a young and pregnant couple from Iraq find temporary shelter. Few believers have been as special a blessing to us and this ministry as this youth group who demonstrated the love of Christ to the foreigners in very practical and sacrificial ways.

Kurdish Christian Fellowship ...

Because several Kurdish Muslims have come to Christ in recent days, a Kurdish Fellowship has been established. Due to threats of violence and even death from some fanatic Muslims, the details of this fellowship are being kept confidential for security reasons. However, we can rejoice in the fact that these new believers are experiencing the joys of corporate worship, the intimacy of praying and fellowshiping together, and the encouragement that comes from God's Word as they study the Bible and seek Him together. Please pray for their growth and protection (spiritually and physically).

Friends In Need ...

several of our friends are in desperate need of work (both temporary and long-term). Please ask the Lord to show you how you may be able to help them in this very practical demonstration of Christ's love ...

KURDISH refugees, Christians, hard-working, honest men with integrity, seeking work in plumbing, electrical and painting. Call 52.36.812

KURDISH english professor with high references from H.H., seeks work in this field or any other work. Call 52.36.812.

YOUNG LADY Christian, Greek, offers services in child care, baby sitting and piano lessons. With H.H. references. Call 52.36.812 and 65.15.469.

YOUNG MAN very hardworking, Christian, honest with integrity, speaks fluent Greek, with high references from H.H., seeking any work. Call 52.36.812.

How You Can Help ...

You can help us in a number of ways, including:

- Donating clothing, furniture, or appliances in good condition
- Helping serve, do a drama, or share a testimony at our Tea Bar
- Providing tea or snacks for our Tea Bar
- Sponsoring a soup kitchen or Tea Bar
- Helping in our food collection program
- Making pick-ups/deliveries as a driver
- Providing work for the jobless
- Making financial contributions: Ergo Bank #8192003/50 or National Bank of Greece #100 94 62 79 15 AB (3 names)

If you would like to get involved in any of these ways or if you would like to contact us for any other reason, you may contact us at 523-6812 or you may write to us at:

HELPING HANDS, 47 Menandrou, 5th floor, 10437 Athens
e-mail: 113163.341@compuserve.com

Shelter Update ...

In our last newsletter, we mentioned that we were in the process of acquiring a facility that we could use to temporarily shelter the homeless refugees. Unfortunately, the deal we were pursuing fell through. However, we will not give up praying, seeking, and waiting for God's perfect provision in God's perfect timing. God is still burning in our hearts the vision of a large multi-purpose facility that will be used to help meet physical and spiritual needs of the refugees and international minorities in Athens. Please remember to keep this a matter of prayer.



ROM KENOLY ...

WILL BE COMING TO DO A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR HELPING HANDS EARLY IN 1999. PLEASE PLAN NOW TO BE A PART OF THIS VERY SPECIAL EVENING OF NEEDS AND WORSHIP!