

Subj: **Athens ministry update**
 Date: 9/17/2004 7:31:59 AM Central Standard Time
 From:
 To:

Dear Praying Friends,

Although it has been a while since I have given you a good update, it doesn't mean that nothing is happening. On the contrary, MUCH has been happening for which we can praise God and continue to intercede that His will shall be accomplished among the nations. Following are only a few of the many reports I could share....

* Last Saturday an Afghan believer named N_ invited our Albanian teammate (Ilir) to sit with him and **help answer questions three Afghan men had about Jesus**. They had been coming to the ARC for some time and had seen and heard much that had impressed them, but they still has some issues to work through (ie, how can Jesus be God?). Ilir did his best to tell the story of God, starting from Genesis to explain how God wants to be in relationship with us through faith in Christ. **They understood and asked Ilir and N_ to pray with them that they might follow Christ**. Two other Farsi-speaking believers joined them as they prayed together and welcomed these men into the family of God, rejoicing together as heaven rejoiced over these entering the Kingdom. Please pray for these men, as well as for their families. All three are married and their families are with them in Athens. One of their wives was with them when the men prayed, but the others were not. As you may already know, **one of the keys to reaching Muslim families is to reach the father**.

* (Written by our Iranian Teammate Nader)...This morning while I was preparing myself for tonight's Monday Prayer Meeting, I saw the testimony of one of our believer in Persian Christian Fellowship. While I was reading, I was touched by his testimony how he came to the Lord. I found myself crying to the Lord because he came back to the world.

Six months ago, I spoke to him with love. We both agreed that he will not come to the fellowship for two months to think about his life because the way he lived his life as a converted Christian was not a good testimony to the Muslim people who were attending to the Fellowship. He came back to take drugs again and practice sexual immorality. I told him to think about his sin for two months and come back to the church with repentant heart but he did not showed up for many months. I was calling to him but he always made excuses.

This morning (Monday), I cried to the Lord for him after I read his testimony, to take care of him and protected him.

I was surprised that the Lord brought him tonight to the Prayer Meeting! I was not expecting him to come after many months. The Lord proved to me that He came to find the lost and showed me that He really loves this man. The Lord responded quickly to my prayer. **He came with repentant heart and confessed his sin**. He asked everybody to pray for him because he is ready now to clean his body. He will stay out of the city and away from friends. Somebody provided shelter for him. He wanted to stop from drug addiction and turn away from sin where he is bound. Please pray for him.

* We saw several former Muslims baptized at the beach this summer by the two leaders of the **Persian Christian Fellowship in Athens**. Nader has since passed on leadership of the PCF to Mohammad while Nader focuses on developing the vision of Persian ministry across Europe.

* The **Athens Intensive Ministry School (AIMS)** started this week with students from Afghanistan, Iran, and Eritrea. Although we were not able to raise all the funds we had hoped for, God has provided for these students to attend full-time for the next 6 months.

Thank you for prayerfully standing with us in this ministry to the nations. We NEED you!

TOP 3 PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Unity on our team
2. Wisdom to develop more relevant ministries to the increased number of refugee families coming
3. The (hopeful) development of new ministries (Medical Clinic and Living Room Ministry) in coming months

In the Vine and

Saturday, September 18, 2004 America Online: Macnmony