
* MCCRACKEN MEMO *

ATHENS, GREECE

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1996

FROM SCOTT

Taha, a Kurdish Muslim, stood somewhat shyly off to the side as I wished those who were leaving the soup kitchen a good night. One of the Arabic brothers who sometimes helps translate came over to me and explained that Taha wanted to know how to become a Christian. After two Arabic brothers and myself spent some time questioning him and sharing the Gospel with him, Taha prayed with us to put his trust in Jesus as his Lord and Savior! Taha told us that although he had been in Greece for a year, he had only been to the soup kitchen 5 or 6 times but that one of those times (last May) was when we had shown the "Jesus" video in Kurdi. He explained that this was instrumental in motivating him to seek after Christ. And then with a very grateful smile he reminded us that we had given him a blanket back then and that he had appreciated that so much.

The following week, my Arabic friend told me "**...the rest of the story...**". After he had left that night with Taha, Taha told him some more of what had brought him back to the soup kitchen. Apparently, a few nights before he had had two dreams. In one dream he saw himself making the sign of the cross over himself like the Greek Orthodox Christians do. In the other dream he and his brother were in some rising water. There were people on the sides just watching, and although his brother was able to get out, Taha was stuck and nobody was able or willing to help him get out of the flood. Then Jesus came along and took him out. When he awoke from his dreams, he said, "I must go back to the soup kitchen and find out how to become a Christian."

Thank you for praying for men like Taha that we meet every week through this strategic ministry.

FROM VICKI

Yoanna is not only my Greek tutor who I meet with for a couple of hours every Friday, but she is also becoming my friend. A single mother of a teen-age girl, she has lately been having some serious struggles in her personal life which she has felt the freedom to share with me. This is not only deepening our friendship, but is also opening up many opportunities for me to share the Lord with her. She is hurting, honest, and hungry and the Holy Spirit is using these conditions to soften her heart. After I had the opportunity to pray for her over the phone last week, she has mentioned several times how meaningful that was to her and how nobody had ever done that for her before.

Next week, our church is having an "evangelistic tea" to which I have invited Yoanna (and three other women--Bessy, Susan, and Susanna). Thank you for praying for these women, especially Yoanna, and for me as I seek to share Jesus with them.

My **primary discipleship responsibilities** are with **Kendra, Cody**, and **Kyle** who fill my days with both challenges and joys. They are all doing well and growing fast. Kendra is enjoying school (2nd grade) and picking up on Greek much more quickly this year. She'll be losing another front tooth any day now. Cody is adjusting well to kindergarten. Although naturally shy and sensitive, he has met the challenges of the language difficulties with a good attitude and we are certain that by first grade he'll be as fluent as the rest. Kyle is mainly a happy camper (though he has his moments) no matter where he is or what is happening. We will probably try one or two more laser surgeries on his birthmark when we are in the States next summer. Thanks for all your prayers and questions concerning our children.

Please pray for me to be ever dependent on the Lord for His strength, patience, and wisdom concerning the training up of our precious gifts from Him.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

* We praise the Lord, and thank you, for the response we've had concerning **our vehicle replacement fund**. So far the Lord has brought in about **\$5,000 USD** of the \$7,000 we've been praying for. We trust that God will provide just what we need, just when we need it. Thank you for letting Him use you in so many sacrificial ways to help meet our needs. We are overwhelmed by your loving support and generous investments.

* **Spozhmai and Hoteki**, after staying with us for some time, have found a place of their own now! Praise the Lord for His provision for them in this way, but please continue to pray that He will open the doors for them to join their family in Germany.

* On **December 14th**, **HELPING HANDS** will sponsor a **benefit concert**, featuring almost all of the top Christian artists in Greece. This will be the first time EVER that they have all come together like this to do a concert for any reason. **Please pray for greater exposure to this ministry, greater unity in the Body, and some funds** to be raised for the refugee ministry.

* Recently, we had the opportunity to take food, clothing, and blankets to the camp where **1700 Kurdish refugees are living in tents**. About 100 of those people are young children and babies. We are planning to go again with medicine, food, toiletries, new toys, and evangelistic literature to present a **Christmas program on December 22nd**. Please keep this important and **strategic outreach** in your prayers as we hope to bring some international choirs, Greek Christians, and an Arabic evangelist to share the true meaning of Christmas with very needy and open Muslim refugees.

* I (Scott) will be going through a radical **schedule adjustment** in the new year as the Lord is leading me to focus on fewer things so that the **main things** will really be the main things, instead of just one of many things. Although in theory I have believed for a long time that the Lord wants me to focus on doing a few things well instead of many things only so-so, I'm finally taking steps to make the theory reality. In order to do this I will need to let go of many other things I've been doing and this will not be easy for me, and will be difficult for some others to understand. Please pray for me to be **focused, disciplined, and consistent**.

* **Yellena** is a young Christian woman from Serbia who came to the Lord and is being discipled through our ministry here. Recently, in spite of overwhelmingly hopeless odds, it seems that doors are being opened that may possibly allow her the opportunity to immigrate to the States. However, she needs someone (an individual, group, church, Sunday School class, etc.) **who would be willing to sponsor her**. This would mean helping her adjust to her new country by helping her find a job, a place to live, filling out papers, and generally taking responsibility for her until she can stand on her own. She speaks English, is very intelligent, hard-working, and a dear sister in Christ. **Please pray** for her, and if you (or someone you know) might be interested in helping sponsor her, **please contact us immediately**.

WE LOVE AND APPRECIATE YOU ALL SO MUCH! YOU ARE SUCH A VALUABLE PART OF OUR TEAM. WE HOPE AND PRAY THAT YOU WILL HAVE A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON AND THAT THE NEW YEAR WILL DRAW YOU EVER CLOSER TO OUR PRECIOUS LORD.

Love,

The McCracken Family

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