

McCRACKEN MEMO

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SUPPORT UPDATE

The following message was sent to all on our e-mail list on July 10th...

For the first furlough in 16 years we are finding it necessary to take the initiative in mentioning our personal financial difficulties. We know that the world economy is suffering and that many are facing even more difficult situations than we are. We do not write a message like this without sensitivity to the economic struggles of many who are reading this.

However, a call from our advisor at International Teams this morning reminded us that **our account at I.T. has been in a deficit for the last 5 months** and something really NEEDS to dramatically change.

We have already made some **significant cuts and adjustments in the last 6 months** (i.e., weekly dates with children have been discontinued, hospitality ministry has been greatly reduced, individual ministry expenses have been seriously curtailed, dates with wife have been massively minimized, entertainment expenses and almost all of the "little extras" have been cut out, etc.).

In spite of all this, the (up to) 30% reduction of the value of the US dollar against the Euro, the rise in the cost of living in Greece, improved financial systems at I.T., and some supporters reducing or discontinuing significant monthly support has made it **necessary for us to raise our monthly support again by \$950/month**. This would be a huge amount for one person or even one church, but if only 95 people gave \$10/month, that would cover it for us.

Or if 50 people gave \$20/month that would more than cover it. In any case, nothing is too difficult for the One who called us. **He is our Source.**

It is humbling and difficult and a bit embarrassing to write a note like this, but those of you who know me know that I can always use a little (or a lot) of humbling. ☺

We are not asking those who are already giving to give more, but we are asking those who are not giving to pray about it. And we are asking those who are already giving to pray about who they can recruit to be a part of our support team (maybe someone from your job or neighborhood, or church, or home group, or a relative, etc.).

Thanks for being an important part of our team, and thanks for letting God use you in important and eternally significant ways to help advance His kingdom among the nations.

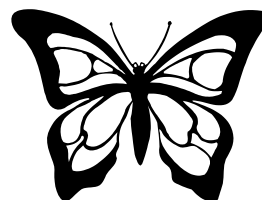
Dependent on Him,

Scott and Vicki McCracken

So far we have heard from several friends who responded in ways that brought in \$160/month more for us, so that means that **we still need another \$790/month**. Please continue to make this a matter of prayer.



CHANGED LIVES



Following are a few excerpts from ministry updates that we have received from teammates in Athens this summer...

A Kurdish woman with her husband and son, is a great believer and worshiper. She's also a **New Life Training Center** trainee. She witnessed to another Kurdish woman during the Tea House ministry. We prayed for her and **she received Jesus!** She has had problems with her throat like asthma for almost one month. When she came to the **Persian Fellowship** on this past Sunday, she prayed by herself asking God to heal her. When she left the fellowship, she said she felt better and when she woke up, **she was totally healed!** It was difficult for her husband to believe in the Lord, **but after the healing he gave her permission to follow Jesus!**

There was a **Muslim** whom I met in the Tea House and talked with in **the Seeker's Class**. He asked about other Christian religions like Catholic and Orthodox. He said, "I am not talking about something simple like changing my socks. **I want to know what I need to know, so that I can tell to my children why I change my religion.**" After he heard the truth, he said that he and his wife were ready to receive Jesus but he was thinking of their situation. He has no job and they are facing financial problems. He was thinking to send back his wife and two children to Iran and survive for himself until he got the chance to go to another country and invite his family. **Let's pray for them that God will fulfill His plan and purpose for this family.**



There was another **Kurdish woman with two braces to help her walk**. She came in the **Persian Christian Fellowship** today with her husband. She prayed for herself for healing. After the service, I invited those who had needs for prayer to the prayer room. This Kurdish woman came with her husband. After I prayed for her, she told me that she believed that Jesus raised the dead and that her sickness is nothing. I said, "Your faith will make you well." She

stood and gave her two braces to her husband. Her husband, in one corner of the room cried, seeing his wife walking without braces. She left the room with her husband carrying her braces! Praise the Lord!



Last prayer night, a **young Afghan man** who recently received Jesus, said he **wants to go back to Afghanistan to share the Good News with his fellow Afghans**. Pray for this young Afghan man for his service in the Kingdom.



Today we had a **group of 16 people** come in to help and check out the ministry. Within the group **were a Greek couple and their daughter** who have lived in the States for many years, but were back this summer as a part of a group from their church **doing short-term ministry** in Athens. The father was praying that God would show him someone to share the Gospel with while he was at our refugee center.

Well, today the **guy who delivers our eggs** to us every week came to help serve today since he is on vacation. He is an **Albanian guy named John**. Our teammate Ilir, who is also Albanian, has shared with him many times, and God has done some big things in John's life over the last few months. People who have known him for a long time wonder if he is the same guy, as he has changed many habits in his lifestyle. As most Albanians here, **John speaks Greek well**. He immediately got connected with Leonidis, the Greek man on the short-term team. They talked for a few hours, and at the end **John made a decision to follow Christ!** This is huge! We have been praying for John for as long as I have been in Athens, and I think that I have even asked you to pray as well. Please praise God with us for a new son in His kingdom. Also, please **pray for John as he begins this new life**. Life is very hard for Albanians in Greece as they experience a lot of racism from Greeks.

Thank you so much for your part in our ministry. There wouldn't be a ministry in Athens if there wasn't a team out of it. We appreciate you.