Subj: Praying for "M"

Date: 2/8/2006 10:55:03 PM Central Standard Time

From: scott.mccracken@iteams.org
To: scott.mccracken@iteams.org

Although he keeps calling me his "best friend in Greece", the truth is that we hardly know each other. "M" is a young refugee from Iraq, a very unique individual whose brothers were killed by terrorists in his country. Though a professing Shiite Muslim, he also claims not only to believe in and love Jesus, he boldly proclaims that He is not only the Son of God but also God Himself. (As you can imagine, I have not wasted any time trying to teach him the Koran or what true Muslims REALLY believe). :) Currently, he does not seem to understand the significant differences between true Islam and true Christianity, so we want to focus on simply communicating as much of Jesus to him as we can.

Although his English is not great (and my Arabic is non-existent), we seem to communicate well with each other, and he has been attending Bible studies at the ARC, reading his New Testament, and also reading "More Than A Carpenter" by Josh McDowell. (I must also add that his insights at the Bible studies far surpass those of most Christians I know).

Yesterday, when he came to Tea House (after missing a few days), he profusely apologized for the time he had missed with me, explaining that he was involved in the frustratingly overwhelming task related to becoming "legal" in Greece. He also related the following to me:

"Last time you prayed for me, I'm in darkness but I catched the light...I had two big mountains on my shoulders but they fell off. I never forget it. It keeps me going in hard days."

Later, as he kept calling me his "best friend in Greece". I started to talk to him about how Jesus wants to be his best friend, and about how I discovered this truth as a young boy. His eyes teared up, and he said that this is what he wants but Jesus is so much "higher" than him he didn't know how it could be. I explained that it is not about him becoming Jesus' best friend as much as it is letting Jesus become our best friend. Something seemed to "click" with him at that moment. He apologized for getting emotional and said that his heart used to be so hard but in recent times is becoming soft. I told him how much God loves a tender heart and responds to those whose hearts are sensitive (and got a little emotional myself).

Thank you for praying for "M" as he continues to learn what it means to be a child of God and a follower of Jesus.

Please also pray for "K", a Muslim from Iran who has been attended Bible studies lately (at other ministries as well as ours), and who told me a couple days ago, "My thinking is starting to change but I need to study more."

Please also pray for the handful of Muslims (Iranian and Afghan who have come to the Lord through the Persian Christian Fellowship in the last few weeks).

Thank you for standing with us through your prayers.

Grateful.

Scott & Vicki McCracken