

McCRACKEN MEMO

Panagiotou 3 Papagou 15669 Athens, Greece

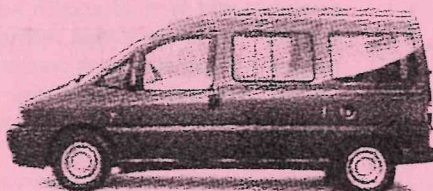
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PRAISE REPORTS...

A thousand apologies for the delay of our prayer letter. We mistakenly thought we had sent one for Jan-Mar 2000, and just realized that we didn't. Now, there is way too much good news to report in one letter. SORRY!

Here are some recent answers to prayer:

- Many refugees are trusting in Christ, mostly Muslims! Many are being baptized!
- Some new believers are staying in Athens for awhile and growing in Christ!
- We are now renting 3 "Nests" with the potential of housing up to 25 homeless refugees!
- An Iranian fellowship has been birthed. The first night they met (last week), 40 attended and one gave his life to Jesus!
- The A.R.C. is being used 7 days a week and all its monthly needs have been met!
- There are one or two women who may join our team in the near future and help with secretarial work!
- We had a special team from Rose Drive Friends Church come help us for 2 weeks and it was a GREAT blessing in many ways!



THE NEW MCCRACKENMOBILE ?

This is the third and final time we will mention our need for a new car.

We are **SO GRATEFUL TO ALL WHO HAVE GIVEN so sacrificially.**

It seems that the Lord has provided enough for us to buy a *Fiat Scudo*. This is the least costly van we have been able to find in Greece, and when we combine all of the money that came in for our new car fund (over \$7,000), and other money we have been saving, we have just enough for this particular van.

We are humbled and thankful for how the Lord has provided through you in this way. God bless you for your generosity!

OPPORTUNITY FOR A MIRACLE...

THE REFUGE

Most of the refugees we minister to are homeless. Due to legal and logistical reasons, we are not able to offer anyone shelter at the ARC.

Imagine for a moment a place that offers a clean warm bed for people who are used to sleeping in the streets, a place where people are INVITED in and treated with love and dignity instead of being chased away and treated like a bothersome animal, a place where people (most of whom are Muslim and have NEVER heard the Gospel before) can hear and see and feel the Gospel EVERY DAY of the week, a place where those who come to know Jesus can grow in Him as they have opportunity to interact with other believers in prayer and Bible study EVERY DAY of the week.

In this way, we are not only talking about a "reception center", but also a "sending center" as people will stay only temporarily and then move on to other places.

Please pray for us as we seek to find God's place and God's time for this strategic ministry that will meet basic temporary needs in ways that will have eternal impact.

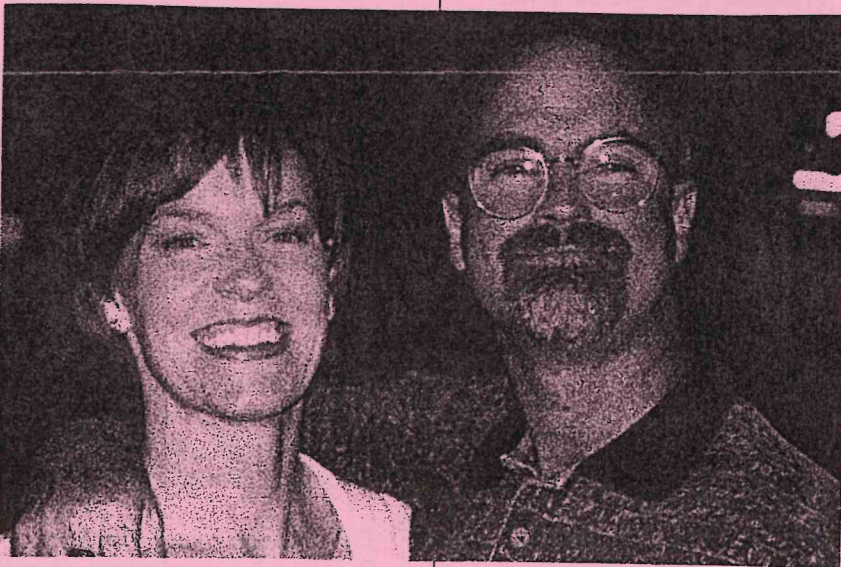
The Refuge ("To Katafeegeeo" in Greek) will offer physical as well

as spiritual refuge while leading refugees to their Ultimate Refuge whose name is Jesus.

We have found a building which seems perfect that we are currently praying about:

- Owned by a Greek Christian ministry that is heavily in debt and needs to sell
- Has a finished basement and three floors, and **could potentially house up to 100 refugees**
- Was completely renovated in 1989 and is in GREAT condition (the only thing we would need to do is put in a couple of showers, appliances, and beds)
- Is in a great location
- **The building itself costs \$250,000 USD, with \$70,000 being required on the day the contract is signed and the rest being paid off over two years.**

We are trying to raise \$320,000 to cover all costs (taxes and fees, beds, appliances, etc.) of this strategic and impacting ministry.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Two weeks after turning to Jesus at the **ARC** one Kurdish refugee was on his way to Italy, and experienced his **"ultimate baptism" when he drowned and went to be with the Lord.** Please pray for his family to come to the Lord through this.
- *Leila's back was in a lot of pain so she went to get x-rays. She even brought them to church with her and one of the Greek women read the diagnosis which was in Greek. She told us it was very bad. But we prayed for Leila and the pastor anointed her with oil and those who were near her laid hands on her and we prayed for healing. At the Kurdish New Year celebration the following Wednesday, Leila was beaming, and so happy and said her back was good now! Our teammate Debbie told her that Jesus healed her and encouraged her to go to the front to tell the 250 Iranian, Afghani, and Kurdish people (Muslims) that were there. She agreed and told the people her back had been very bad and when she went to the church the people prayed for her. She said that Jesus healed her back!*

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Please pray for Leila and her husband Ali as they are both homeless and facing marital difficulties. Additionally, they just received news of the death of a close family member back in Iraq. Leila is interested in spiritual matters but Ali is not.

- My co-leader, Caleb Burton and his wife Shelly, are leaving Athens after 3 years of wonderful, helpful, blessed service to me and our team. Caleb will be going to seminary and pursuing the pastorate in the USA. I and the team will miss him greatly, and I will need lots of prayer without him here.
- A miraculous outpouring of financial investments for **The Refuge**
- **Spiritual growth** for the many new believers
- **More MEN** to join our ministry in Athens
- **Special teams** we will have working with us this summer
- **Special outreaches** we will have this summer targeted for Russians and Ukrainians, Kurds, and Persian speaking refugees
- **Increase of volunteers and financial investors in Greece**

God bless you all and thank you for serving Him together with us! Thank you so much for all of your prayers and investments on our behalf.

We love and appreciate you.

Financial Contributions: Write checks to International Teams, and specify for the McCrackens account,

OR for "The Refuge" account.

Send to:

International Teams
411 W. River Rd.
Elgin, IL 60123-1570 USA