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Dear Friends,

As the Lord has allowed us to see the beginning of another new year, we have also been blessed to see the beginning of some new lives in Christ! The three times that we've shown the "Jesus" video (in Arabic, Polish, and English) there has been positive response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ! A woman from Kenya, a few people from Poland, and a Muslim from Lebanon all committed their lives to Jesus following the evangelistic video presentations! Also, an Iranian Muslim who we've been witnessing to at the prison has decided to follow Jesus!

One of these people is a 28 year old man from Lebanon who grew up in a devout Muslim family. The next youngest in a family of eight children, Jamal always had an intense spiritual hunger and an interest in the teachings of Christianity. However, whenever he would mention this to friends and/or relatives he was harshly condemned and/or threatened. Never-the-less, his desire to know Truth only intensified as the emptiness in his inner man deepened. Having lived in countries where true Christianity is not exactly flourishing (Lebanon and Kuwait) his opportunities to learn more about Jesus were somewhat limited. While vacationing in Egypt, Jamal was shocked to learn about the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Unable to return to his home in Kuwait, Jamal came to Greece with only the belongings of a two-week vacation in his suitcase.

After arriving in Athens in October of 1990 his spiritual journey took him to St. Andrew's Protestant Church (where we attend). There he filled out a card indicating his desire to learn more about becoming a Christian. After talking with the pastor and another believer, Jamal said he knew that he was on the right path but wanted to learn more before making the commitment to Jesus.

On January 7, 1991 I had the opportunity to talk to him and to show him the "Jesus" video in his mother tongue (Arabic). Throughout the film Jamal reacted to parts that were meaningful to him and asked questions about parts he didn't understand. When it was over he was noticeably "moved" so I asked him if he sensed that God was speaking to his heart. He said, "Yes"; and as his eyes filled with tears he stumbled to explain in English what he believed that God was saying to him.

We talked about what it means to trust in Jesus, why eternal life is a free gift, and how to receive it. We talked about being born again, the power and revelation of the Spirit, and commitment. When we were finished talking to each other, we talked to God. Jamal committed his life to Jesus, and I prayed for his growth and protection. Before I left he said, "I could very possibly be killed for becoming a Christian. I did not do this without much thought. My family will probably cut me off but I do not want to be a "secret" Christian, hiding in the closet to pray and read my Bible. I want to help spread the Word of God openly to everyone." Two days later he said, "Even since Sunday my life has changed so much...it's very strange...it's hard to explain." When I pressed him to explain, he answered,

"It's like I'm more relaxed...my life seems more in order." "Like peace?" I asked. "Yes!" he exclaimed, "Peace of mind. Have you also passed this way before?"

Please continue to pray for Jamal's growth and protection as he continues to follow Jesus and witness to others.

Our first team-mate has finally joined us here! Lois Funk arrived two weeks ago (on January 16th). Please pray for her quick adjustment and that she will quickly find housing (which is very difficult now). Lord willing, we will have two men join us in late March. However, they need much prayer for their support needs to be met. Alex only has about 50% of his monthly support needs pledged and Jason only has about 15% of his monthly support needs pledged. Both of them still need most of their initial set-up needs met as well. They must have 100% of their support needs met before they can join us. PLEASE PRAY! The HARVEST IS RIPE HERE AND WE NEED LABORERS!!

As we see and hear of so many who are struggling to share the missions vision with a potential network of supporters we are further reminded and impressed about how generous and faithful YOU have been in allowing God to use your prayers and gifts in advancing His kingdom here. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. All praise to God for his work in and through His chosen ones!

We have seen the tragic situation in the Gulf used for the glory of God. Many people are seeking the Lord and asking many questions about the meaning of life and the end of the world. Church attendance has increased. Many are coming to Jesus! Thanks so much for your continued prayers and gifts. You are loved and appreciated very much! God bless you as you continue to live for Jesus!

In the Vine,

Scott and Vicki

Prayer Request Summary:

- *Growth/Protection of new believers
- *Continued presentations of "Jesus" video
- *Lois Funk's adjustment to Greece and the ministry
- *Lois Funk's housing
- *Alex and Jason's support needs/Laborers for the harvest