

March 31, 2012

Dear Friends,

Thus far, tickets have been purchased for 4 of the 6 of us who need to travel to the States this summer. Vicki, Ellie, William, and I will arrive, Lord willing, on June 1st and return to Athens on September 15th. Cody and Kyle will come later, Lord willing, with one-way tickets as they plan to go to college in Oregon after the summer.

Between speaking engagements and the traditional family camping trip in Oregon, our OPEN dates for Sunday engagements are currently:

June 3rd, July 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd (all while we are in the SOUTHEAST, based in Mobile, Alabama), and...August 26th, September 2nd, September 9th (while we are in the NORTHWEST, based in Eugene, OR)

Of course there are many other open WEEKDAYS for any possible home meetings or mid-week church services.

What we are really hoping and asking (i.e., BEGGING) for are for people we know to introduce us to NEW people, groups, churches, etc. with whom we might be able to share what God is doing among the nations in Athens. We are still waiting to hear from about 3 specific churches regarding dates, and only ONE of the churches with whom we already have relationship have contacted us with SPECIFIC DATES.

We are looking forward to seeing as many of our long-time friends and relatives as we can, as well as hopeful about making new relationships. It will be very difficult to leave Athens for the summer as God is doing many exciting things here, which I hope to mention in the next knee-mail (along with some family updates, which I apologize for not sending out yet).

In closing, please pray for us:

- \* Hearts that hear God when He is speaking
  
- \* Money for airline tickets (generous friends have sent some funds which have put us at about 1/6 of the total we need)
  
- \* Ellie had another seizure last week but has recovered; she has many needs about which we are trying to understand God's best way of meeting them
  
- \* Several new believers who are meeting with Scott for discipleship

\* The 10-week Leadership Course that Scott is currently teaching (students from Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, USA, Philippines, etc.)

\* Dr. Joseph's family to be kept safe until they can join him here. They recently had to be relocated as some Taliban sympathizers had discovered where they were staying. the children both have experienced an allergic reaction to the new living quarters and everyone is quite anxious to be reunited after being separated now for over 3 years!! Thank you for praying for Dr. Joseph's continued growth in Christ as well.

THANKS AGAIN FOR STANDING WITH US! WE NEED YOU AND APPRECIATE YOU!!

Grateful for you,

Scott and Vicki

(below is a wonderful testimony written by Helping Hands staff member Kallie Skaife)

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Scott & Vicki McCracken  
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[Video Promo for book  
"Kingdom Beyond Borders"  
Family/Ministry Website  
Ellie's Blog  
Refugee Testimonies](#)

JOIN THE BLASTOFF NETWORK:

<http://my.blastoffnetwork.com/scottmccracken>

(If you are a U.S. resident and ever shop online, if you order from any the 600 stores here, you get a discount AND make money for us. If you get others to do the same, you will make money as well).

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A Baptism

31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

Dear Family and Friends,

*“How would you like me to pray for you?”*

*“To draw close to God. I want to hear Him speak as He has spoken to others.”*

An Afghan lady of 27, scars on her body, painful memories that need healing, but God's love has captivated her.

Three weeks ago during the Sunday worship she responded to a public invitation and asked Jesus to become her Saviour.

How she wept and hugged everyone. She was born, in front of us all.

I call her \*Lily because she is a woman with a fragrant spirit. A lily in God's garden!

She arrived in Greece with her family only a few weeks ago. She met David, (the one I call "a swan of God"), and he introduced her to the scripture.

Twice she found herself waiting at an airport queue, with ticket in hand, to go further north into Europe and meet other family members and twice she turned around and came back.

*"I cannot leave until I learn more about Jesus and I am baptised."*

Last week was one of these times.

She stepped deliberately out of the queue of a city airport outside the capital, took the night bus, and arrived back in Athens at 4am.

She waited for the dawn.

It was Sunday morning, the day of her baptism!

She went through the waters and then stood before the Lord like a dry sponge soaking into God's reality, eyes shut, without words, so moved that she was unable for a few sacred minutes to step out of the cold waters!

The occasion has been imprinted on my heart as one of the most precious of my memories.

David, Lily and I spend Saturday mornings looking together into God's word, introducing and discovering the Almighty and His names.

... "I AM . . . ."

... "I AM the resurrection and the life . . . ."

Lily reads the story of Lazarus as it is written in John and each word stirs her spirit and her tears flow freely and adorn her words.

It is the first time I hear this chapter being read as an act of worship!

She is not just reading it; she is not just hearing it for the first time; she is there and her heart is His.

We are privileged spectators of God forming His jewels.

Pray for this lily, that she will grow and live all that God has ordained for her.

Thank you for standing with us,

Kallie (and Jimmy)

\* a pseudonym.

P.S. This utterly moving baptism ended in a hilarious note. For as the baptism was taking place at the end of the morning service, a very needy person who had attended the service, took the trousers of the elder that went into the waters with Lily, hoping, one suspects, that there might have been a purse in one of the pockets, and left. None present could lend him their own trousers, and the dear elder ended up going to the near-by car park to pick up his car wearing his jacket round his nobly knees!

