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“Revealing Jesus to refugees by demonstrating and proclaiming the Gospel across Greece”



Athens July 2016

Dear partners in the wonderful ministry among the refugees,

We are so thankful to God for each one of you for praying and supporting us as we share the gospel among the Muslim refugees in Athens and in other cities.

I want to encourage you to continue praying that the Lord will open the hearts of many more refugees as they hear about Him at our center and through our programs.

For your encouragement I like to share with you some true stories of refugees accepting Jesus in their hearts and following Him faithfully. First of all I like to share with you a story of a refugee that **happen in front of the whole team during our prayer time** , couple months ago.

“L” one of our team members writes:... A tall thin Afghan man stayed after Tea House to help us clean last week. After we finish cleaning these days, we sit around and talk about where we saw God at work and then we pray. **He stayed for this too.** As did another Afghan woman, who is clearly not a believer and I think maybe stayed just to see what he would do. We (the staff, interns, volunteers....) prayed for a while, **then he opened his mouth and prayed in Dari.** He blessed God for **the man (by name) who told him about Jesus.** He prayed blessings on the country of Greece. **He prayed that every refugee who passes through Greece would have a chance like he did to hear about Jesus.** He prayed for peace and the end of war in Afghanistan, in Iran and Syria. **He prayed boldly in the name of Jesus.** Tears ran down my face.

This same man told his wife when he left her alone in the hospital the first night with their new baby, **that she will never be alone because now Jesus was with her.**

This man’s son told us that when they came over in the boat from Turkey, his very pregnant mom and 2 kids were washed into the winter sea. None of them could swim, **but God saved them all.**

This new baby was a miracle from Jesus, **so they named him Massi** which means Christ or messiah (Jesus here is Issah Massi).

Praise the Lord and pray for this family to grow in their faith and share their faith.

Sumer Men’s camp

In the beginning of June we partnered with other ministries (Hellenic Missions & Oasis) and other STT groups from different countries and organized a men’ camp. We invited 44 men who agreed to follow our conditions which is that every day they will participated on 2-4 hours of Bible teaching

Some of the participants accepted the Lord before the camp others accepted Jesus at the camp and the last day 12 refugees were baptized.

In short here is some of the ways God worked to save 12 men.

We had a group of 4 Afghan brothers: 24yrs, 22yrs, 20yrs, and 15 yrs old, plus their 12 yrs old, cousin...

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The brothers accepted Christ en route to Greece from Iran. God brought believers along the way to love them and share the truth with them. In Turkey some Korean believers brought them to a church. **It was the love that they saw in Christianity that drew them.**

Their 12-yr-old cousin was afraid to come to Europe because he was told that "they'll make you a Christian in Europe". **But at the camp he was convinced that Jesus is the Son of God and gladly gave his life to Him.**

We had a group of 5 Iranians. We called them the “cool Iranians”...

These were five friends in their 20's. **Only one was a believer** when they came to the camp. **Even though the other four clearly came to have a good time,** God had different plans for them. **One of them had a dream on two consecutive nights where he saw God's hand reaching out to him.** Another, who had had a very rough life and was resistant at first, was slowly drawn to Christ. **All four gave their lives to Jesus** and gave their testimony before the entire camp.

“N” a Pashtun from Afghanistan, a 44 year old...

Is a person who really resisted to the gospel but at the same time was continuing to ask questions. **God pursued this man,** connecting him with individuals (a Norwegian, an American, a Greek, an Afghan and a Romanian-- and maybe more!) both in HH and in HM to share with him and pray with him. This started on April 22nd. He had already asked Jesus into his life by the time he came to camp and was eager to be baptized.

“HR”, an Iranian, 29 yrs old...also had asked Christ into his life before he came to camp. **He said he didn't know how he got to this place,.. but it was a Power which brought him here.** It was the power of God.

At the last day of the camp, 12 refugees were baptized. Before the baptism... **they gave their testimony and explained to the rest of the Muslim refugees,** who were there listening, why they followed Jesus and what it means for them to be identified with Jesus Christ who died on the cross for their sins.

What a testimony!

What courage!

And the glory belongs to our God who is building His church and using people like you, like us, like me. Ordinary people who are willing to obey and to share their faith with those who are seeking...

Thank you for standing with us...

Please continue praying for the new believers that the Lord will help them grow and give them wisdom and courage to share their faith with their countrymen.

Pray for our team:

- For protection...Health and their financial support.

Pray for the financial needs of the ministry:

- For the cost of the summer programs
- For replacing our “oven” of our kitchen. It costs €6,000 (\$ 7,000) and we have so far only \$1.000 promised.
- For the Lord to provide the funds for the winter to be able to buy, sleeping bags, shoes, gloves, jackets, etc.

Please pray and may the almighty bless you even more to bless others...

Leaving you in God's protective and caring hands
With prayer and appreciation

Nikos Stefanidis

