

# McCracken Memo

Athens, Greece

January 2006

## Where Are They Now?

Occasionally we feature a section that glorifies God by sharing how He is continuing to work in the lives of those who came to Him as refugees in years past. Here are a few examples...

**Omid**--came to the Lord as a very young orphaned refugee from **Afghanistan**; although struggling in many ways (emotionally and spiritually) he is currently residing in Holland and helping lead other Muslims to Jesus

**Jack and Candy**--came to the Lord as a refugee couple from **China**; currently they are operating a Christian supply ministry in mainland China. Here is an excerpt from a recent letter from Jack: "...my mom was diagnosed with three-phase cancer mainly on stomach last month...she is 78 years old ...the surgery was successful. The amazing and happy thing is that...two days before she went through the surgery, she accepted **Jesus Christ as her savior!**

We are busy supplying our products to Christian bookstores in China. I personally got involved with setting up very first Christian bookstore in China five years ago. Now there are at least 80 already. God is working

on this land!

**Gregor**--came to the Lord as a refugee from **Albania**; currently he and his wife Kela and 3 boys are doing **church-planting among Muslims in Kosovo**. Gregor is also one of the leaders of the **Albanian Church Planters Mission**, mobilizing the Albanian church to reach the nations with the Gospel. Here is an excerpt from a recent letter: "...We were encouraged and quite surprised by the turnout at the Christmas Evangelism Event. We were expecting about 250 - 300 people, but we had more than 500...There were no more seats. Many were standing around the room. Some had to be turned away at the door...At the end we had a time for answering questions people wrote down at their tables...more than half of them were thank-you notes instead of questions.

**Dilshad**--came to the Lord as a **Kurdish Iraqi**; God used him in our ministry in Athens to help us evangelize and disciple Kurdish refugees. Although he has had some serious struggles, he is currently living for the Lord and has led many refugees into the Family of God in Holland

**Anne**--a beautiful **Kenyan** woman who

was one of the first people to come to the Lord through this ministry in Athens about 15 years ago. A single mother of four gorgeous children (who are all walking with the Lord right now), she is passionate for Jesus and leading many others to Him. I was very moved recently when her 18 year old daughter showed up at Helping Hands, saying that she wanted to start serving with us because she was so grateful for what God has done in her life that she wants to serve Him by sharing His love with others.

**Daniel Hedy**--a refugee from **Eritrea** with whom we had a close discipleship relationship for several years in Athens; currently he and his family are living in Washington, D.C. where he is **pastoring an Eritrean church**.

**Mohsen**--a refugee from **Iran** who came to the Lord in Athens and attended our AIMS ministry school last year. He is currently attending Bible School at the Greek Bible Institute (a ministry of Greater Europe Mission), and leading a fellowship of Persian believers in connected with the IMB refugee ministry in Athens (Oasis).

## Teammate Update

**Sahar and Arno** ...after many rejections, discouragements, and unbelievable disappointments God miraculously provided for Sahar to be accepted by the Dutch government. As of this writing, she and her husband Arno are in Holland signing all the relevant

papers! Although their long-term plans are not yet fully decided, they are able to travel freely and do not need to worry about the legality of residing either in Greece or Holland. **THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PRAYING FOR THEM!**

**Nader and Ella**...at just the time Nader was required to leave Greece, the government enacted a new law that enabled

Nader AND Ella to apply for one-year residency permits. They were able to turn in all the required documentation and pay all the fees. Now they are waiting and it looks fairly certain that they should receive this permission to stay in Greece for at least another year. Praise God for this short-term solution, and please continue to pray for a more long-term solution for them!



Gregor's Family in Kosovo

## International Teams/ Athens Refugee Ministries

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR STANDING WITH US IN PRAYER. WE APPRECIATE YOU AND THE PART YOU PLAY IN OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING GOD TO USE YOU AS A BLESSING TO US AND TO THE NATIONS.**

Financial investments should be made out to:  
International Teams

and sent to:

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

"Emotional" and "relational" investments may be sent to:

Scott & Vicki McCracken  
Panagiotou 3  
Papagou 15669  
Athens, Greece

[scott.mccracken@iteams.org](mailto:scott.mccracken@iteams.org)

[www.ITRefMin.org](http://www.ITRefMin.org) (click "Teams", then click "Athens")

## Christmas Outreach...

We had our **Children's Christmas Outreach** on the 3rd of December. We had invited the Child Evangelism Fellowship of Greece to come and do a presentation of the Gospel that was geared towards children. They did a good job considering that we had about **175 kids**, plus their mothers, and a few fathers. It was a busy busy night, and at the end of it the children (and some of their parents) we were able to **hear the Gospel** and we gave the kids each a **gift** containing school supplies, a warm scarf, cap, and mittens. On December 9th, we hosted an **appreciation dinner for about 60 of our local volunteers**. It was encouraging to see how many more Greeks were part of our ministry team this year. Thanks to Integrity Music and Wyn Amerlan, we were able to give each volunteer a few worship CD's and a 2006/2007

agenda. Our "Volunteer of the Year" was our dear brother Eddy from Cameroon.

Then on December 17th we had a **Christmas party** for the refugees who don't have families here in Athens. There were 3 Greek Evangelical churches that sent groups who paid for the food, cooked, sang, served the food, and helped clean up



afterward. There were two **testimonies** (one in English and Farsi, the other in Greek and Arabic). Also, Nader and Scott did a short skit that told the Gospel very simply and powerfully. At the end of the night we were able to give out **gift packages** full of toiletries, as well as a **sleeping bag** to each person. It was a wonderful night and everyone enjoyed the decorations, the food, and the program.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who prayerfully and/or financially invested in our efforts to share the true meaning of Christmas with the nations in Athens.

## Kendra's Mission Trip to Peru

As of this writing, generous people like you have provided over half of what Kendra needs to go on the Brio missions trip to Peru this summer. If you would like more details about this, please e-mail us or visit the web site [www.bigworld.org](http://www.bigworld.org) for more information.

ONE IMPORTANT CORRECTION WE MUST MENTION regarding the previous information we sent out by e-mail. Big World Ventures has just told us that it will NOT be necessary for people to send their checks to us in Greece. ANYONE INTERESTED IN MAKING A FINANCIAL INVESTMENT IN KENDRA'S MISSION TRIP can make the check out to: Big World Ventures, with an ENCLOSED NOTE indicating that the investment is designated for Kendra McCracken. Please

DO NOT write Kendra's name anywhere on the check. Checks can be sent DIRECTLY to: Big World Ventures, P.O. 703203, Tulsa, OK 74170-3203. Thank you to all who are prayerfully and/or financially investing in this life-changing opportunity for her. Kendra wrote, "Ministry activities will include drama, visiting orphanages, soup kitchen, visits to schools, work projects, and evangelizing.

You might be wondering, "Why on earth should a missionary kid already living on the mission field in Greece go all the way to Peru on a missions trip?"

Roughly 850 people go on this trip every year.

You might be wondering, "Why on earth should a missionary kid (MK) already living on the mission field in Greece go all the way to Peru on a missions trip?" Many people think of MK's as already being out of their "comfort zone". However, we tend to make our current situation into another comfort zone. One of the main reasons I'd like to go on this trip is to help me get out of that comfort zone again. I realize that a true life change isn't limited to two weeks, but I hope and pray that it will be the start of something that I'll continue to have once the trip is over. I'd also really like to brush up on my skills at sharing my faith. I'm not a very open person when it comes to what I believe, so I believe this trip will help me in that area.

## Mark Powell

And last, but not least, an update on my brother-in-law, Mark Powell, for whom many of you have been praying in his battle against cancer. In **May of 2005**, he reported, "We visited the oncologist for our 'after surgery consultation' last week and he said, "NO NEED TO DO THE LAST ROUND OF CHEMO. YOUR PATHOLOGY REPORT IS TOTALLY CLEAR. THE CHEMO AND RADIATION TREATMENTS TOTALLY KILLED THE CANCER."

However, in **November 2005**, he wrote, "Just got word back from my CT and Pet

Scans that there seems to be **more cancer** in a lymph node in my chest...the consensus is more radiation and chemo. All of the doctors felt that this is a systemic issue so just taking out the lymph node would not handle the entire cause."

Today, I received a message from him **filled with HOPE** in the Lord and gratitude for the Lord's people. Please continue to pray for him and his family as they continue together in this battle.



Chad, Chelsea, Corey, Dana, Mark