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We're bringing people together in Rockwood to ensure that no one is invisible and that everyone has access to food, freedom, and forgiveness.

This is part of the PREVENTION side of our anti-trafficking efforts, dovetailing nicely with our Integrated Community Transformation mission.

We envision Rockwood becoming a community where children are less

not want to traffick kids.

Introducing our 2nd Grandchild... Rhea Naomi Sirinides

Born on May 16th to Kendra and Steve Sirinides. Sister Phoebe is enamored with her little sister and all are well.



Rhea Naomi Sirinides



Phoebe (3 years old) and Rhea

MAY'S "GOD-SIGHTING": A FULL-CIRCLE STORY?

For the last 4 years Vicki and I have been part of a church IN which, and THROUGH which, God is working to share His love with a broken and hurting world. (See asischurch.com) However, beyond the homeless and hurting in our own neighborhood of Rockwood/SE Portland there has been NO awareness of, or interest in, missions beyond our "Jerusalem". Having spent 26 glorious years

(only 6 years old) which is largely made up of people just trying to survive another day (this is NOT a criticism, just an observation of reality). Of course, there ARE people coming to Christ, and even some beginning to grow and walk the path of discipleship, but the focus has still been very narrow and very "local".

One of my (Scott's) continuing "daydreams" has been to lead a small short-term team from our church overseas to either the refugee ministry we helped start in Austria (The Oasis...www.oasis-iteams.at/english/) or the one we helped start in Greece (Helping Hands...<http://helpinghands.gr/en>), but it has always seemed like a very far-away possibility. Whenever I have felt frustrated, I have sensed God saying, "Be patient, be patient...wait for it...wait for it..."

On Easter Sunday our 6-year-old church "merged" with another (130-year-old) church. In essence, the 2 became one but remained 2. One church, 2 campuses. Much more could be said but the point of this "God-sighting" is to relay how the new campus--Kern Park--brings a maturity in many ways to our church family, INCLUDING A STRONG COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING MISSIONS.

As Is Church/Rockwood (www.asis.church/rockwood-campus/) is a young church, strong in local ministry (but weak in overseas missions). As Is Church/Kern Park (www.asis.church/kern-park-campus/) is an older church strong in supporting overseas ministry (but weak in local outreach). Learning of their heritage of supporting missions encouraged me but did not excite me.

"Be patient, be patient...wait for it...wait for it..."

(We have not reached the REALLY GOOD PART of this story yet!)

Recently, I went over to the Kern Park campus to preach (we have a rotating team of preachers and rotating worship teams). Before the worship service, I attended an adult Sunday School class. While the teacher was standing in front of the class teaching, I noticed behind him to his left was a bulletin board on the wall with about 10 photos on it. I was too far away to see clearly what was in the photos

like?!? They are just PEOPLE like everyone else!! Why would you say they look like refugees?!?" Then I thought, "That building sort of looks like The Oasis in Austria." I replied to myself, "You can only see two vertical lines from here. How can you say it looks like The Oasis?!?"

After class, I went up to look at the photos and...sure enough...**all 10 photos were of refugees standing outside or inside The Oasis!!** I got chills and went to ask the campus pastor Denis Whittet about the pictures. He told me that Kern Park church had been supporting a missionary couple (Dan and Misti Lincoln) who have been serving at The Oasis for 16 years!! Furthermore, he told me the current Missions Team was disbanding that very week and was re-organizing with members from each campus, and asked if I would be willing to help with the new team. (Was that a rhetorical request?).

So in the weeks since that day, we have recruited two more members of the Rockwood campus (in addition to me) to join with the committee members of the Kern Park campus to form the As Is Church Missions Team. **We are currently in discussion with the leadership at The Oasis about bringing a short-term team to serve there some time next year!** Not only will this represent a "full-circle" kind of God-story for me but will also represent the first mission experience of its kind for either campus of As Is Church!

What are the odds?!?

Thank you for praying about God's guidance, provision, and glory in this continuing story.



The Oasis refugee ministry drop-in center in Austria



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** Family/Ministry Website (www.imccracken.net/)

** Team Ministry (<https://onecollective.org/community/rockwood-usa>)

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