

Dear Praying Friends,

There is much to praise God for and intercede about these days from the ministry in Athens!

Here are a few examples (taken from teammates' letters and reports at the weekly Team Meeting)...

"I'm excited! God is changing lives here in Athens. **We are already planning ten baptisms in the next few weeks!** God is drawing people to Himself through Christ Jesus. That alone is exciting. But what really gets my heart pumping is how God is doing this: **God is using refugees to reach refugees.**

Iranians reaching Iranians with the Gospel; Afghans leading Afghans to faith; Arabs sharing Christ with other Arabs. Please, join us in praising God for His work here!"

"Our team mate Nader was sharing that recently an Iranian friend who lives in England was visiting and was telling about a man who is very influential in the Iranian church there. Nader thought he sounded familiar so Amir showed him a picture. Nader excitedly said "I know this guy, I baptized him here in Athens!" We know of several fellowships in other countries headed up by believers who came to faith here at Helping Hands. However, it does seem that recently we are seeing more and more refugees sharing their faith here."

"One new believer "M" is one of the women who came to our house for the first women's tea we had here. **She accepted the Lord and since then she can be seen almost any time we are gathered, sitting at a table surrounded by women with her Farsi Bible open. Her husband is a new believer as well.**

Please pray for their spiritual growth and also that they can find work as they are struggling financially."

"In one of our last updates I shared about **"N" the woman who had accepted the Lord and was afraid to let anyone know because her husband had beaten her for bringing home a bible. God is doing amazing things. Her husband came to Persian Christian Fellowship and one of the refugee believers befriended him and began to share. He now attends regularly and can often be seen deep in conversation with Nader or other refugee believers. He is very close to accepting the Lord. Thank you for praying!"**

"Kent has started working with a new ministry in our team. We have divided "The Nest" (a house where we shelter homeless refugees) into two parts. One part is dorm-style and still houses single men - giving them a place to sleep at night. The new part we are calling "The Timothy House"...

The heart of the Timothy House flows from 2 Tim. 2:2 -- to (1) entrust the Gospel (2) to reliable men (3) who will be qualified to teach others. The residents of the house will have a structured program of Bible study and ministry training. The Timothy House officially kicked-off last week as a four month pilot project. I am excited to pour into the lives and ministries of the house's first two residents: an Iranian with a pastoral heart and an Afghan with gifting and zeal for evangelism. Please pray for these two young men."

"H" the man who accepted the Lord is back in Athens and Kent met with him and three others on Thurs. Kent is also going to be starting English with "KH", a strong believer who shares his faith openly and is a great help to the team.

An Arabic guy contacted Gary at the Farsi event and said he wanted to be like him and know Jesus. He went to church with Gary today and heard a good message on grace. Gary is also interacting with a guy who is an addict who is becoming more and more open to the Gospel.

"N", "M" and another lady are studying the Bible with Kallie.

"H" from Algeria came to Tea House on Monday and Yousef translated. He wants to believe, so they are going to study the Bible together.

Kallie is also praying for and talking with an Iranian man who was previously very closed but after an improved medical issue is becoming more open

Thank you for standing with us as we strive to reach the nations through Athens! We appreciate you.

Grateful,

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<http://elliebomccracken.blogspot.com/> (adoption blog)

<http://www.vimeo.com/1207537> (VIDEO)

<http://refminathens.blogspot.com> (some refugee stories)

www.ITRefMin.org (click "Teams", then click "Athens")