

McCRACKEN MEMO

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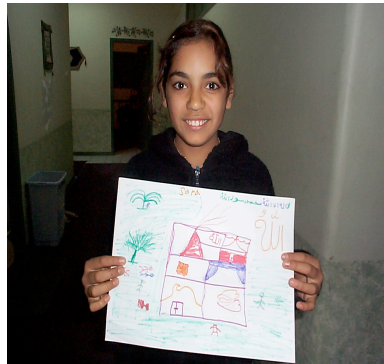
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SCOTT'S SIDE

What did the Lord do in 2002? **MANY** great things, a few of which include...

- **Bigger/Diversified team...**we currently have 12 full-time adults (including 2 Iranians, one Filipina, and one Albanian) 2 part-time adults (Canadians), 9 children, and some other non-IT partners in ministry. We are also in serious discussion with a Brit (married to a Greek) about joining us full-time.
- An estimated **100,000** refugees came through the doors of the **Athens Refugee Center** between November 2001 and November 2002. Most of them heard the Gospel for the first time in their lives.
- God has given our **HELPING HANDS** ministry a **Greek Director** and a committed and proactive **Greek Board of Directors**.
- In 2002 we were able to organize several Intensive Ministry Retreats. **Seekers Weekends** were our evangelistic retreats, and the **Timothy Projects** were our discipleship weekends.
- This past year brought a **record number of short-termers** (teams and individuals) to work with us in bringing the Gospel to the nations through Athens. We plan this year to host an even greater number.
- Our first strategic outreach **ministry for women and children** was started in the Fall. Several have already come to Christ through it. (See photos on right)

Ministry to Women & Children



"I LIVE IN THE PARK BUT DREAM OF LIVING IN A HOUSE SOME DAY."



Food is always a highlight. We even found women putting spaghetti in their purses!



Bible story time is when lives are changed as they hear about how God gives them hope in their desperate situations.

VICKI'S VIEW

Well, we are celebrating Epiphany today. The kids are enjoying the last of their Christmas break and all the stores are closed. Last year at this time, we were up to our knees in snow! Today the sun is shining and our balcony doors are open.

A quick update on the family:

***Kendra** is an eighth grader and up to about 5' 6". "Yesterday" we had a precocious toddler, and today we have a lovely young woman who is maturing in every way. She loves to read, hang out with her friends and listen to music – a typical teenager!*

***Cody** (5th grade) and **Kyle** (3rd grade) recently took part in their first karate tournament and both took home medals. Our boys are a wonderful combination of sword-wielding warriors with tender, kind hearts!*

***Will** (4 yrs.) gets the "Mr. Friendly to everybody and his dog" award! He is a joy! After a rocky start, he now enjoys school and has an ear for Greek. He is also beginning to read in English.*

*We are still waiting for word on our little **Vietnamese baby!** We hope to have good news by the next time we write. Please keep praying!*

***I would appreciate your prayers for January 20-21st.** I will be teaching at a women's retreat for new believers. These precious women were raised in Islam and are so hungry for truth about Jesus. I long for my words to be God's words of love for them.*

*As we look back on another year, we once again see God's loving faithfulness and provision. He has sustained us and blessed us; not because of our efforts or accomplishments, but because we are His children and His grace is never-ending. **One of His greatest gifts to us is YOU!!** Thank you for your love and prayers- we need them and appreciate them! **HAVE A BLESSED YEAR!***

Updates &Answers toPrayer:

(In our Prayer Letters of 2002, we asked you to pray for the following):

- **THE REFUGE...** this is the new facility we hope to build, which will house up to 100 homeless refugees, as well as all of the ministries of *Helping Hands*. So far, about \$30,000 of the one million

we are trying to raise has been invested.

- *Sahar*, one of our Iranian team members, is still trying to raise the full monthly support she needs. Also, her initial application for asylum was denied and she has submitted an appeal.
- *Nader & Ella*, our Iranian and Filipina teamies are still trying to raise their full monthly support

while still pursuing solutions to their residency problems.

- *Zacharias*, the Greek director of *Helping Hands*, has been a big help in many ways, especially in creating contacts within the Greek community.
- **Greater involvement of Greek churches IS HAPPENING!**
- **Financial provision continues**

but God certainly keeps us “living on the edge” and dependent on Him every day!

- *A more intensive ministry focus, in connection with short-term teams, has been happening with successful results!*

Where Are They Now?

- **Jack and Candy (from China)**...after coming to Lord through our ministry in Austria they later joined a mission in Hong Kong where they worked for over 7 years. Recently, they moved back to mainland China where they are independently running a ministry service agency.
- **Helen (from former Czechoslovakia)**—after trusting Jesus as a teenager in Austria, she immigrated

to Canada where she lives now with her husband and children, working as an office coordinator at a Christian TV station and writing articles for Christian publications.

- **James (from Nigeria) & Yellena (from former Yugoslavia)**...currently living in Texas, working full-time jobs and raising a beautiful daughter, they are growing in Christ and also involved in helping plant a new Nigerian church.
- **Maham & Sahar (from Iran)**...they came to the Lord on the “refugee highway” and ended up in Seattle, WA where they are working, building a house, and active in a local Iranian church trying to organize a short-term team to come to Athens.
- **Reza (from Afghanistan)**...finding Jesus in Athens he later moved on to England where he has been denied asylum and faces much opposition from other Afghans for his attempts to share his faith in Jesus.
- **Gregor (from Albania)**...after meeting Jesus in Athens, the Lord led him back to Albania where he currently pastors a church with his wife and 2 young sons. They are also involved in ministry to Kosovo, and are praying about moving there to do church-planting full-time.
- **John (from Iran)**...one of the original leaders of the Persian Christian Fellowship/Athens he is now in

California where he has helped plant a new Iranian church, and is involved in a Christian television program for Iranians. His dream is to return overseas as a missionary, hopefully to Athens.

PRAYER REQUEST



More funds for **The Refuge**



A **Kurdish Teammate**



The McCrackens' adoption



Teammates' \$ Support



Partnership with Campus Crusade's **New Life Training Center** (beginning this month)—an intensive discipleship training program



All on our team (many dealing with residency problems)

Financial Contributions: Write checks to **International Teams**, and specify for the McCrackens account,

OR for “The Refuge” account,

OR for the “HELPING HANDS” account,

OR Nader & Ella Mohajer’s account.

OR Sahar Kamrani Fard’s account

Thank you.

Send to: International Teams
411 W. River Rd.
Elgin, IL 60123-1570 USA

OR to:

IT/UK
PO Box 11
Brecon, Powys
United Kingdom

If you would like to be placed on our “Kneemail” prayer updates, please contact us at :

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