

Subj: **Overdue prayer update**
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Dear Praying Friends,

A thousand apologies for the delayed "knee-mail" update. I have been swamped with things lately and just haven't had the time to write about all God is doing lately in Athens. As it is, I am simply copying and pasting some things from Nader and Ella's recent updates to give you a small glimpse. More later. THANK YOU for praying. We NEED you!

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March 14th...

An 18 year old Afghan came to receive Jesus. He ran away from his country for his life. He said that he has received Jesus from his heart and now he wanted to confess in front of people that he wanted to follow Jesus. More than half of the people attending the fellowship were Afghans. It was a good testimony for them that he was not afraid to be persecuted by his fellow countrymen. He confessed Jesus as his personal Savior after a month attending the fellowship and the New Believers Study at the ARC.

Every Sunday, we have new people coming to join with our fellowship. We are glad to see new faces every time we worship God. We enjoy the fellowship in sitting together, sharing the food and eating together with gladness to see our brother and families in the Lord. It is a great and awesome sight in the eyes of people who came to fellowship with us.

After the service, when everybody was gone, I received a phone call from a brother. One of our Afghan believer who is growing in the Lord was stabbed slightly in the abdomen. He did not recognize the two persons who came to him in the dark after his departure from the fellowship. With two of my teammates from IT, we brought him to the hospital for treatment. This was the third attack of our Afghan believers in recent months.

March 16th...

I was handing bags of food to the refugees at Tea House when one Kurdish guy "N" came and told me that he wanted to talk to me.

I said, "Tell me."

"N" said, "I usually come to this place to get a bag of food. I saw something which was a big question to me. I've seen love among Christians. Are you giving food to the refugees because of love or because this belongs to the UN? If I am wrong please correct me because I have seen love in giving us food."

I told him, "This is why Jesus died for us, because of His love for us. Now you found the truth. God opened your eyes to see the demonstration of His love. You are absolutely right. Start to read the Bible."

"I've got one," he said.

"If you want to ask me more, don't hesitate to come and we'll talk more about Him."

"It's not only me, we are many Kurdish," he said. "Every night we are talking about Christianity and I also attended the Persian Fellowship here."

March 21st (Persian New Year)...

This Sunday morning, one Greek Church invited us to fellowship with them and some of our believers gave their testimonies how they came to know the Lord. Also we testified about the works of the Lord through Helping Hands in refugee ministry. We had a good fellowship with the Greek people and we have more invitations from many Greek Churches to fellowship with them.

In the Persian Christian Fellowship, we celebrated Persian New Year. About 77 people attended the fellowship. We gave gifts to the refugees and to the children. We had also a gift from the Lord. The Lord sent another soul to be saved. He is from Afghanistan and he confessed in front of the people Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

April 1st...

The Persian Christian Fellowship started to partner with the Filipino Fellowship two months ago. The Filipino pastor trained the Iranians to play instruments for worship. We then opened the Music Ministry for the Iranian believers every Friday.

Every Monday, we also open our house for worship and prayer for the Filipino group to build up and win new souls for the Lord. My wife Ella introduced the NLTC program to them to prepare for the training.

An Iranian couple, "S and M" with 2 children, who came for their first visit to the fellowship with us on Sunday, received the Lord on the next day.

Prayer requests:

- For the outreach to build relationship with local churches.
- For the new believers.
- For the 6 candidates for baptism.

April 21st...

Last weekend, we went to our third retreat for Persian couples. They were given a series of teaching from the "Secrets of a Successful Marriage" Persian video series. One couple from IT/Athens helped lead discussions about the video topics and gave practical insights that helped these former Muslims change their mindsets concerning what a good and godly marriage really is.

Prayer request:

- **Pray for these families, especially for Sedighe, after cleaning up before we left the retreat center, she slipped and hit her head on the step badly and was rushed to the hospital by the ambulance. Our teammates, Ilir and Scott, assisted them in the hospital. She got few stitches and now she found out that her left eye can hardly see. Let's pray for her complete healing that God will show her His power.**

Last week, we were visited by a well-known Iranian film-maker, "M", who left Iran to tour through Europe. In her journey, she stopped in Greece and happened to meet one of our Iranian brothers who invited her to come to HELPING HANDS.

During the Tea House Ministry, Scott and I were portraying the crucifixion of Jesus in a drama, and nobody knew that she was already there. After the drama, Scott invited the people to come to Jesus and she came. I didn't know her but I saw her hunger to know Jesus.

When my Iranian brother came to meet her for their appointment, she said, "I talked to Nader

already.” Only at that time did I realize who she was. She cancelled her flight that night and stayed three more days to know more about Jesus. Scott, my team leader, gave her a lot of information and she attended the Persian Christian Fellowship. Seeing the Truth of Jesus, her burden was for her nation that it may become different someday. She returned back to Iran with the Bible and a lot of teaching materials for Christianity, the Jesus film in Farsi, and audio cassettes. We are continuing our communication by e-mails and chatting on the internet.

Prayer request:

Pray for "M" for her heart for her people and for her nation to be changed.

OUTREACH:

As we partner with the Filipino Church, my wife Ella, is now involved in reaching out to other Filipinos working in Athens. They have been visiting houses and inviting other Filipinos to come for Bible Study. She works with the Filipino pastor, sharing the Good News with the lost. She was recently happy to see two souls receive Jesus after she shared her faith.

She was more than happy that a few months ago, her mother accepted Jesus through a phone conversation, and 1st of April, the day after the NLTC, her brother received Jesus as she led him to pray for acceptance through phone.

April 29th...

It was raining on this day of baptism when we were gathered at one of the beaches in Athens. We prayed and asked God if He's willing to stop the rain, let it be done for that time. After half hour of getting ready for the baptism, it was still raining when we were worshiping the Lord singing together the Persian worship songs, but the Lord stopped the rain during the baptism.

We had three people get baptized today. One Afghan young lad and two Iranians (one man and one woman). Each of them gave testimonies of their life as a Muslim converted to Christianity before many witnesses from our team, the members of the Persian Christian Fellowship and the short-term team from the Peninsula Community Chapel in the U.S. There was joy in everyone's faces as these new souls were baptized into the Kingdom of God.

After the baptism ceremony, we shared the food prepared by the Persian Fellowship with the help of the short-term team led by Tom Kenney

We are passing this update to all of you who are concern for the new souls who were converted to Christianity to kindly keep them in prayer because there are many persecution and attacks on this little ones.

We still have 7 more souls candidate for the next baptism. For those who will be baptized from among them, I ask you to pray for their understanding and growth in the Spirit, as well as their boldness and protection from those who would want to harm them.

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE REALLY APPRECIATE AND NEED YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR US. THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US IN THE HEAVENLIES!