

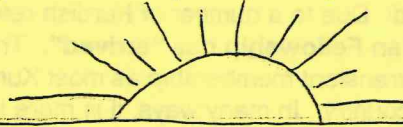
# \* MCCRACKEN MEMO \*

Athens, Greece

January/February/March 1998

Most of our news in this letter may be summed up in two categories: **Departures and Arrivals**

## Departures:



\* After over four years of faithful, dedicated, and significant service helping us build this ministry, **the Heckenberg family moved on** to follow God's leading where they are serving at the home office outside of Chicago. Although they are already sorely missed, we thank God for the way He used them in our lives and ministry in the years they were here.

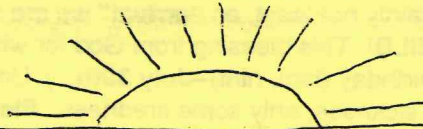
\* **Daniel Hedy**, the leader of the Eritrean Fellowship here, left recently to attend **Bible School in America (Maine)**. Although his wife and baby son are still here, they are trusting that God will open the doors (financially) for them to join him in the near future. If anyone feels led to help Daniel and his family financially, please let us know and we'll tell you how. **Please pray** for his studies, financial need, and for the temporary time of separation they are all experiencing.

\* **Daood**, an Iraqi brother in Christ, was finally able to immigrate to **Canada** after YEARS of rejection from America (where his parents and several siblings live), and even after previous rejections from Canada. But God did a miracle and opened the doors. He is living in Chittawa and he thanks everyone who has been praying for him in response to the requests we've made in past letters.

\* At a recent soup kitchen, a Kurdish man who we never met before went up to Scott and told him that two years ago he came to know Jesus through our soup kitchen ministry and then he moved on to Germany where he has continued to be in fellowship with believers and grow in his faith. He was only in Athens for a few days before returning to Germany, but he wanted to thank us for helping him find Jesus and encourage us to continue on. **Nazir** shared his testimony that very day at the soup kitchen with the many Kurds who listened with great interest!

\* In our last letter we mentioned that we were in the process of pursuing a **shelter facility**. It was with GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT that the deal which seemed so sure **fell through**. However, we continue to pray, seek, and wait for God's perfect place in God's perfect time. Though the opportunity to purchase that specific facility "departed", the vision for such a place has remained.

## Arrivals:



\* In the last two months, we have been privileged to receive on our team **the Grieshaber family** (Mike and Cindy, Micah, Matthew, and John) and **two single women (Kate Amerian and Kristin Lane)**. This brings the current total to 12 adults and 7 1/2 children).

\* Speaking of new team members, we are in the process of bringing on to our team **two refugee men (Albanian and Kurdish) who would be Associate Team Members**. We have recognized God's anointing on their lives as they have already been very actively involved in ministry with us (unofficially) for some time now. We are trying to raise approximately **\$700/month** for each of these men so that they can work full-time with us and have their living and ministry costs covered. If you feel led to contribute toward their support, please send your tax-deductible gift to International Teams and clearly indicate (by note or in the memo section of check) that it is for the **GREECE NATIONAL WORKERS**.

\* In the last couple of months, several refugees from **Kurdistan, Iran, and the Ukraine** have "arrived" in the family of God by being **born again** into His kingdom! **Please pray** for these new believers as they experience many hardships (i.e., unemployment, temptations from the enemy, **threats of violence and even death** from fanatic Muslims and **family members**, immigration difficulties, etc.).

\* Praise the Lord! Due to a number of Kurdish refugees turning to Jesus in recent days, a **Kurdish Christian Fellowship has "arrived"**. This small church, made up of former Muslims, also has a very transient membership as most Kurds are just passing through Greece on their way to another country. In many ways, it is more like a "**boot camp**" where we provide intensive basic training and then send them out to war.

Due to the gracious and generous donations of many in the U.S.A. who have invested in the ministry to Kurds in Athens, we have just been able to **rent an apartment** where the (mostly homeless) members of this Kurdish fellowship will not only have shelter, but they will have the opportunity to experience New Testament discipleship in the context of New Testament community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! We hope to have it ready within the week to accommodate 10-12 men. **Please pray** for the **spiritual growth** of these men in unity, love, and commitment. **Please pray** for the existence and location of this place to remain **confidential**. **Please pray for their protection**.

Also, **please pray** for **Dilshad**. This young Kurdish believer is a real evangelist and talks to anything that moves about the love of Jesus. He goes to one of the refugee camps 6 mornings a week to tell Kurds about Christ. He comes to Tea Bar 3 nights a week and Soup Kitchen every Saturday to help us witness for Christ. He is active in the Kurdish Christian Fellowship and now he will be the **house leader** at this new place of shelter and community. **Please pray** for his **protection, wisdom, strength, and the continual filling of God's Spirit**. And **please pray** for his **financial and material needs** to be met.

\* In January, Scott moved from a "solo leadership" role into a "**dual leadership**" role with team mate Caleb Burton. The arrival of Caleb and Shelly Burton to our team last May (after we had been praying for 6 years that they would join us) made this sharing of leadership possible at a crucial time. In a nutshell, Caleb will be the **Team "Inreach" Leader** while Scott will be the **Team "Outreach" Leader**. Caleb will focus on developing the team **missionaries**, while Scott will focus on developing team **ministries**. The "arrival" of this new leadership paradigm has already made significant and strategic impact upon us and our team. **Please pray** for continuing and deepening **unity** among Scott and Caleb as well as **unity** among the team as we grow in size and diversity of cultures, gifts, and personalities.

\* And last, but certainly not least, an "**arrival**" we are most looking forward to is **THE BIRTH OF OUR FOURTH CHILD!** This blessing from God for which we prayed is due to make his/her arrival on Scott's birthday (hint, hint)—**July 30th**. :) Until now, Vicki has had her smoothest pregnancy yet—no sickness, only some tiredness. **Please pray** for a continued smooth and **healthy pregnancy/delivery**. Also, **please pray** that we can be **effective witnesses** to our Greek doctor (who is also the doctor of a few other missionary friends of ours).

Thank you so much for the investments you have made to help us advance the Kingdom of God among the nations. We appreciate so much the vital part you play on our team!

**Mailing Address**

**Scott & Vicki McCracken**  
**Panagiotou 3 Papagou**  
**15669 Athens, Greece**

**Financial Address**

**International Teams**  
**PO Box 203**  
**Prospect Heights, IL 60070 U.S.A.**

**e-mail address: scottmccracken@compuserve.com**