
★ McCracken Memo ★

ATHENS, GREECE

JUNE/JULY 1994

"WILL YOU PL-E-E-E-ASE TELL ME A STORY?"

This is a question frequently heard around our house lately. Kendra is at the age where she loves to hear a good story. Unfortunately, when you've already told a couple hundred different stories, creativity begins to wane. Thankfully, God's creativity is limitless and the way He works in people's lives is always worth telling! Have we got some stories for you...!

George, from Ethiopia, has been suffering with AIDS for two years. Three weeks ago, he made a noose and was starting to stand on a stool to end his life. His three-year-old child walked in and asked, "Daddy, what are you doing?" George broke down and decided to find Daniel, a leader in the Eritrean fellowship that Scott has been discipling for over 3 years. Daniel was able to lead George to Jesus that night! He is already experiencing the changes that Jesus brings! He has said how he knows that he will die soon but he KNOWS that he will be in heaven with his heavenly Father. Physically, economically and politically, life has not changed for George, but now hope in Christ has made ALL the difference in his life now and for all eternity! As he sat in a Bible study two weeks ago, too weakened to stand, George said, "For the first time in my life I know that Jesus is ALIVE!"

Hillary, a model from California, was working in Greece last winter. She found her way to our International Believers Fellowship, full of questions about life, God, the Bible, etc., etc. We shared from the Word and encouraged her in her search for truth. She attended the Christmas Eve party in our home (at which Scott's father shared the Gospel) and left town a few days later. Today we received a letter from her. "I wanted to thank you for introducing me to the Lord! My life has completely changed and my relationship with the Lord is growing stronger day by day... I have committed myself to follow the will of the Lord Jesus... Mostly I felt guided to let you know that your ministries are wonderful and working! Keep your chin up and your eyes on the Lord!" We are thrilled to know of Hillary's decision to follow Jesus!

Two refugee friends approached us in the last month because they believed they were demonized. After hearing their backgrounds and what they were experiencing, we agreed. Praise God-- because of His power and love they have been set free! One of them was a man who has been engaged for several years, but was unwilling to marry and put his bride through his tortured existence. Now they have joyfully set a wedding date for September!

In our last letter we mentioned some dear friends who have been experiencing severe marital stress for several months. After reaching a couple of crisis points in the last month, they have finally agreed to meet with a Christian marriage counselor. We are encouraged by this small but crucial step in the right direction.

Those are a few of the stories that we wanted to share with you. "In this life you will have tribulations"... but because these people know where their hope lies, we can say with confidence, "...and they lived happily ever after!"

We value your partnership with us! Your prayers and giving are vital in helping to bring happy endings to so many sad stories. We pray that you will know God's joy and presence today. We love you!

Serving With You,
Scott, Vicki, Kendra, Cody & Kyle

PRAYER NEEDS AND PRAISES:

- Scott is now part of a leadership team, overseeing the refugee work in France as well as Athens. Pray for wisdom and energy to fulfill his growing responsibilities.
- Pray for a building to be used as a refugee center.
- As many of you know, Kyle was born with a portwine stain on half of his face. After much prayer and counsel, we have decided to pursue removal by laser surgery. Please pray for wisdom as we try to work out details from here and wait to see the Lord's financial provision. Although things may change after his medical consultation in September, we have been told that insurance probably will not cover it. More details to come.
- Praise the Lord for the birth of Heidi Heckenberg on June 28th-- our newest teammate!
- Praise for the health and well-being of our three children... and both of us!
- James from Sudan, mentioned in our last letter, has a new apartment that HELPING HANDS has helped to rent/furnish!
- The church in Albania that Gregory and his team have planted continues to grow in quantity and quality! They desperately need a larger place to meet. Also, Gregory's parents are currently attending a Discipleship Training School! We praise God for our dear brother Gregory!!

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?!