



**International Teams**  
<http://refminathens.blogspot.com>

ELLIE PICS...

<http://elliebomccracken.blogspot.com>

# McCracken Memo

**Refugee Ministries**

**Athens, GREECE**

**Summer 2008**

*Reaching the nations through Italy, Greece, the Middle East, and Beyond...*

As of January, Scott's new responsibilities include overseeing the Team Leaders of I.T.'s **refugee ministries in Greece, Italy, and a city in the Middle East**. We would like to introduce you to these special people:

**ROME—Tim and Rachel Uthmann, and Joy Vania**  
 The Uthmanns arrived in Rome September 2007 and



immediately linked up with an Italian Baptist church that has a heart for refugees. They have been focusing on language acquisition, finding an apartment, getting residence permits, building relationships in the church, and seeking God about what refugee ministry will look like in Rome.

They have also just become proud adoptive parents of a beautiful baby girl! You can see some **gorgeous** photos of her at: <http://roaminginsearchofhope.wordpress.com/>

**THE MIDDLE EAST—Armando, Jennifer, Joshua, and Jadon ...**



have begun pioneering a refugee ministry team in a very strategic Middle Eastern country along the "Refugee Highway". They have done the hard work of laying a strong



Ellie in her chair



In her standing frame

## THANK GOD FOR...

- Financial Provision for Ellie's Needs
- Good Health
- The Morleys join the Athens Team July 11th!!!!
- Provision and safety during Kendra's trip

## PRAYER REQUESTS...

- Wisdom and provision for Kendra's plans in the fall
- Mr. Ali from Sudan needs to know Jesus
- Healing for Ellie
- Wisdom for Scott in counseling situation

*...reaching the nations along the Refugee Highway...*

foundation of language acquisition and are forging bonds with a local national church. They have also been forming friendships with local nationals, and are in the process of recruiting other team members to join them.

**ATHENS—Kenn and Lisa Dirrim...**



The Dirrim's joined the Athens RefMin team in July 2007, and became the new Team Leaders on the Leadership Team with Nikos Stefanidis and Themis Sirinides in January 2008.

## Possible FUTURE Ministry...?

A door of opportunity is opening for **Nader & Ella Mohajer to partner with a church in Norway doing ministry among Persian refugees!** Evangelism, church-planting, pastoring and discipleship training would be their primary focus. After meeting with the leadership there, spending much time in prayer, and trying very hard to hear God's voice, all the lights seem to be green...except for one (finances). (Additionally, living and working in Norway will eventually provide the Mohajers with a **long-term legal status** that they have not been able to acquire in Greece. Anyone who has never been "country-less" cannot imagine the emotional and practical burdens and difficulties this brings to even the simplest matters of everyday life). **Because the Mohajers have neither a "sending church" from their home countries (Iran and the Philippines), nor a "supporting church" here in Athens** (they have been pastoring the Persian Christian Fellowship--made up of mostly Muslim seekers and refugees who are new believers), we are trying to discern if God wants to use Christians in the west to help. They need **\$1,500 USD MORE** (per month) in order to be able to live and minister in Norway. If you break it down to 20 people/churches/small groups investing \$75 a month, it is not unimaginable, especially if God is the one guiding and providing, right?! Or 40 giving just over \$37 a month! Whether it is more or less than \$75 a month is not important. **ANY AMOUNT will be helpful!** And if you are already supporting them monthly, would you pray that God will raise up others and MAYBE use you to help recruit them (friends, Sunday School class, co-workers, missions committee, etc.)? Checks may be written to **International Teams**. Enclose a note designating "for Nader & Ella Mohajer".



Nader and Ella  
at the A.R.C.

## Family Update...

- **Kendra (18)** has served, since January, in Austria, Costa Rica, Colorado, and the Philippines. She is currently ministering to refugees in Australia, and then will minister to AIDS orphans in Zambia and Somali refugees in Kenya before returning to Athens. You can read more (and see photos) at: <http://visiontrip08.blogspot.com>
- **Cody (16)** is finishing 10th grade, having done really well and proving that he didn't get his brains from his dad (he's really smart); **Kyle (14)** is finishing 8th grade, having done really well and proving that he is also smarter than he thought he was. Both boys are very musically talented, active in the church youth group, and will spend almost 6 weeks at camp this summer.
- **Will (almost 10)** is finishing 4th grade, having done very well and remaining very kind and sensitive. He has decided to follow Jesus, and will be baptized this summer.
- **Ellie** is growing, improving incrementally with therapy sessions outside the home four times a week. She has brought us all more joy than we thought possible and is doing better with people outside the family. Read more at the website on the front page.
- **Vicki** has had her hands full teaching home-school, especially since she lost her co-leader and has taken the bulk of the planning and organizing on her own. She still is my best friend and looking hot after 20 years of marriage!



## "Self-Evangelism" from the Koran?

An Afghani man approached Nader to ask a question. "Excuse me. I have a question. I was reading the Koran last night .."  
"I'm sorry, I can't answer a question about the Koran. I don't know it." replied Nader.  
"But this is a big question that I must ask you."  
Nader replied again, "I'm sorry. I don't know the Koran. You should ask a (Muslim holy man)."  
The Afghani man asked again, "Please, I must ask you this question." Nader said, "OK, ask." The man said, "Last night, I was reading the Koran and it said Jesus was the spirit of God." Nader said, "Yes?" The man continued, "...and that Mohammed is His prophet." " Hmm. "  
"But is not the Spirit of God more valuable than the prophet

of God?"  
"Yes, this is true." said Nader  
"So, if Jesus is more valuable, then why am I following His prophet? Why am I a Muslim? Why do I not follow the Spirit of God?"  
To which, Nader replied, "I don't know. You tell me. Why are you a Muslim?" And the Afghani man said, "I don't know. Can my brother and I come talk to you more about this today?" And Nader said, "Yes, bring your brother today at 4:00pm and we will talk more about Jesus."  
**So, although Jesus isn't the Holy Spirit, we see that the Holy Spirit can point anyone to Jesus, from anywhere they look, if they have a seeking heart**

In Dec., we lost ALL of our 1000+ e-mail addresses! **If you would like to be added, or re-added, to our "Knee-mail" update list, please let us know at:**

**[Scott.McCracken@iteams.org](mailto:Scott.McCracken@iteams.org)**

Financial Investments can be made by writing a check to **International Teams**, and sending to: International Teams, 411 W. River Rd., Elgin, IL 60123  
Please enclose a note indicating your designation (i.e., for Scott & Vicki McCracken's account).

Thank you for your partnership in reaching the nations through Athens **and beyond!**