

Subj: **Anna, Josi, Missing Girl, and Iran**
 Date: 6/5/2006 1:52:13 A.M. Central Standard Time
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The following was written by our teammate, Kallie Skaife.
 Thanks for standing with us through your prayers,
 Scott & Vicki McCracken

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News from the Skaife's, Athens. 2nd June 06

ANNA.

.....Anna is a Bulgarian lady in her late forties.

.....Years ago she came to Greece seeking a better life and ended up marrying a Greek man but her good fortune was short lived, as short lived as was the husband!

Somehow she came to us at Helping Hands and we got to know her. Throughout the winter she kept complaining about her laboured breathing and together with urging her to see a doctor we shared Jesus with her and prayed about her healing.

.....Her condition continuing, and the doctors investigating for asthma, an advanced, remissive cancer was discovered. A doctor offered to operate, free of charge, and removed some of it, but when it came to chemotherapy, she found out that it will only be given her if she pays for it. The prices for the drugs needed are exorbitant and the finding of such amounts of money proved to be a Herculean task.

.....When she went for the third chemotherapy the doctor announced to her that she does not really need it, as her life expectancy was prognosed to be very short!

On hearing this she decided to take the first coach to Bulgaria to be with her children and phoned me one Sunday morning in May to say that she was leaving for good.

.....My heart sunk...

This morning was the third unsuccessful attempt to meet outside Helping Hands and go together to the Sunday worship, and ask for prayer.

.....'Oh Lord, please follow her and meet her...'

.....The week that followed was particularly hectic and taxing in all ways, so much so, that I desperately looked forward to the coming weekend for some quietness. But the weekend brought with it unexpected visits of close relatives and two friends from Holland, all at once and it seemed that the only way to cope with the arrivals was to miss the morning service.

The decision taken, 8.30 in the morning, the phone rang....

.....'I am back from Bulgaria and I want to come with you to the morning worship'.

.....It was Anna!

.....God had turned her back, and this was her appointed day!

I rushed downtown to meet her.

And yes, she was one of the first ones to go forward to give her life to Jesus, when the call was made! Twelve more stood beside her that bright morning!

.....Pray for Anna, that God will now fulfil all that has arisen in His heart concerning her and pray that she may 'not die, but live and declare the deeds of the Lord'.

JOSI.

.....Those who pray for dear Josi will be glad to know that although she is still very thin, she is recovering well, she is mellowing and is beginning to trust people. There are increasing signs showing her willingness to cut ties with her old way of life. The defences with which she has barricaded herself until now are being slowly taken away by the love with which she is being loved by all..

.....She thanks every one of you who pray for her or have sent her a verse

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or other tokens of your care.

.....Mary Jo is enrolled in the primary school that is near the home of the family that has given them shelter. [The headmaster on seeing her said 'although it is very late in the year to add one more child to an already full class, I will take her, because I always wanted to have a coloured child in my school for the sake of the other children!']

.....She is thrice happy, has adopted the hosting family as her own, and recently asked the mother of the house, during a conversation about heaven, 'can it be as good as this home?'

.....A holy foundation is being laid in these two lives!

.....Pray for their salvation, pray for the next step, and pray for this truly special family who made available their home, their time, their hearts, their family life to Jesus so that He can love tangibly these two women!

.....When one lends to the Lord, how much is His interest rate that is added to the amount loaned to Him when He returns it!

THE MISSING GIRL.

.....The 18-year-old Iranian girl that has gone missing is still nowhere to be found, to the great distress of her family. Father and her older sister still go out, every night, in the streets of Athens and search for her. All those who are burdened to pray for her, feel that she is alive and are continuing to ask the Lord to save her soul and keep her life.

.....And if you are asking about us, we are still in one piece, and that by the grace of God only. Our health has not been very good this year, our frame is proving inadequate, at times for all that is going on around here, one cannot keep up with Him! Seeing Him pouring His precious self in so many inexhaustible ways, makes our hearts reach for more than we can grasp, and we long, at times, that we had more than one life to give Him!

IRAN

.....For those of you who pray for Iran, you will find current matters for prayer at www.prayforiran.com <<http://www.prayforiran.com/>>. 120 Iranian leaders from all over the world have felt in their heart that there is a spiritual urgency concerning Iran and are calling a 40 day prayer and fast, all round the clock. It started on the 25th of May.

.....We carry the pain of Iran on our hearts continually and with it a pressing assurance that the nation is on the brink of an unprecedented spiritual birth.

Some of the prayer that has been rising in our hearts is that God will confuse and make this evil government fall by itself so that the people of Iran will not suffer any unnecessary bloodshed.

.....Pray that God will burst the abscess of Iran by the sword of His mouth, in His way and in His time.

.....Pray for all those that the Lord wishes to send into Iran, when its bonds will be broken, that they will allow God to make them ready and willing to go back and gather the harvest. They are known to God right now, every single one of them.

.....We have been given a lot of prayer for Iran in our Wednesday morning prayer group and recently three unexpected intercessors were added. We thank God for them.

.....One of them happens to be a leading actress of Greece who has recently gloriously come to the Lord, and has been given a heart for the refugees. She was instrumental in the case of Josi.

She comes almost an hour's journey, from the other side of Athens, for an 8 o'clock prayer meeting and brings with her Mirno, the brother who was recently burned by his uncle, the morning before his baptism. After his baptism, their door was closed to him and he found himself homeless. On hearing about it, the above-mentioned lady, opened her home to him, gave him a shelter and took him under her care!

All our love,
From Athens,

Kallie Skaife (and Jimmy)

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Web pages:

www.ITRefMin.org (click "Teams", then click "Athens")

www.iteams.org

<http://refminathens.blogspot.com> (some refugee stories)

www.geocities.com/scripturecalligraphy (purchase beautiful art and support our teammates)

www.helpinghands.gr/en/default.htm

www.helpinghands.watchmyshow.info

Our ministry is striving to be a FULL-SERVICE station on this exit ramp of the Refugee Highway by partnering with churches to offer practical services which demonstrate the love of God for the refugee as a whole person, and which invite the refugee to be a part of advancing His kingdom among the nations.