

## April 2015

When we booked our tickets last November, our criteria was simply based on finding the cheapest time to fly. We had no other agenda or requirements, it all came down to cost; or so we thought. At that time we had no idea what the Lord knew and how, as always, He was working His perfect timing and abounding grace into our lives. Our presumption and perspective of our mini furlough went something like - rest ... with plenty of down time, time to mourn the passing of Daniel's mom, visits with friends & family, ministry awareness meetings, attending a fundraising dinner, do some much needed clothes shopping, and just general rest and recuperation from more than a challenging 15 months on the mission field. How quickly we forgot that *"many are the plans in a man's heart, but it's the Lord plan and purpose that prevails"*. Having first learned this lesson years ago in India - it seemed that once again the Lord had something completely else in mind for us!

While we did manage to accomplish our furlough goals, it certainly was not in the way we initially believed they would occur. The Holy Spirit deftly worked his plan and purposes in spite of our laundry list of expectations. We quickly discovered that our main purpose and reason for returning when we did had nothing to do with cheap seats, but more to do with the timing of the diagnoses and treatment of my mother's lung cancer. Two days before we left Austria we received the diagnosis, and the 6 weeks following we had the privileged and honor of caring for and ministering to both my mother and father during this blessed time.

Blessed? Did I really say blessed? Is it blessing to hear such a diagnosis? To watch love ones suffer - the mental, physical and spiritual testing of ones so dear? And yet, how can we but not say blessed as we all drew closer to the Lord, as we walked the path of suffering that yes, did lead to a deeper place in Him. It's all too easy to sing "How Great is our God" when we are lost in the euphoria of His Presence... when life is good, but if we ever doubted, now we know that it is true even in the midst of pain and suffering. His presence sustained and strengthened us, and when we were weak and weary He carried us, He saw us through every step..those steps took us to a place deeper into the Kingdom of God where no sickness or diseases reside. The Kingdom that lies within every believer of the Lord Jesus Christ - it's there that we keep our eyes fixed on the healer! How Great is Our God, He is the King of Glory and Worthy of All Our Praise!

During our visit we connected with old friends and made new ones, we had times of deep ministry through amazing times of worship, and times of deep healing through prayer, the Lord knew what we needed more than what we knew ourselves. Our ministry awareness meetings were of great blessing to us as well and many have partnered with us through prayer and financial support. Our fundraising dinner at Messiah was a great blessing and raised over \$4,000! This money primarily provides money for ministry for the year, i.e. resources, bible studies, alpha/Christianity explored etc, outreaches, ministry to asylum seekers, scholarships for yearly ministry retreat.

So we leave you now with our greatest need - PRAYER! Please join us as we pray for:

1. For Mom's continued manifested healing! Praise Jesus for her healing!
2. For continued comfort for Daniel and his family in the loss of his Mom.
3. For another missionary family to join us - to grow the team.
4. For the church, that the Kingdom of God would be manifested among us in a greater way.
5. For the Terfens church (made up of 20 somethings) and our involvement with them.

6. For ministry to the Turkish ladies/and other nationalities.
7. For wisdom about expanded ministry to the asylum seekers.

Until we meet again...May the Lord bless you and keep you and make His face shine upon you!

Serving Him with Hearts Full of Gratitude in All that He has done!  
Daniel, Kathleen & Ava