

Syria

While ministry to the Muslim can be complex and challenging, we continue to share the simple truth of the unfailing, unconditional love of the Father. In doing so we are planting seeds of love and acceptance for individuals, nurturing and caring for them and as always praying unceasingly, trusting the Lord for the harvest. It is in these sometimes-simple acts of love that these simple seeds fall deep into a heart and take root.



As Daniel drove a van load of refugees to Vienna, to meet loved ones arriving from Syria, he began seeing just how these seeds were growing. In a previous conversation with Abdull, Daniel shared how one day, this dark time he was having would all be forgotten and that he (Daniel) would be earnestly praying for him. Abdull reminded him of this conversation and said the day had come, it was this day, that his prayers had been answered! Abdull overflowed with thankfulness for Daniel, but Daniel quickly reminded him that it the Lord who had made this day possible.

Following this trip as we visited Abdull and Souat, Abdull introduced Ava to Souat and said, she has been praying for you every day, for your safety and for your arrival from Syria. The whole family has been praying for you! And now you are here!

For some, it might not sound like much of a "root" but we know the Holy Spirit works in deep and mysterious ways. Abdull's eyes are open and he is seeing and experiencing the faithfulness of our God in answering prayers!

The Olive Branch

He long remembered the days of his childhood. Days filled with the nurturing love of his dear mother. Endless days spent sitting attentively at her feet eagerly listening as she instilled in him the stories of their faith. A wonderful story teller, she made the stories come alive; especially his favorite, the story of Noah and the great flood. He could see the vast array of the beasts of the field, his nose burned with the acrid smells of their presence. He could feel the increasing tension each day between both man and beast. And when the dove returned with an olive branch - his heart erupted in joy with Noah and his family, he felt the rush of peace that lightened their burden and hardships. He dreamed of receiving this peace for himself that came in the symbol of the olive branch. His mother taught him that the olive branch came as the gift of peace, peace that came through the evidence of land, peace that came through the land itself.

War came to his land, there was no more peace. The war came close to home and he fled his country, seeking to find a place of safety, a place of peace. Many years passed and now a man he still found himself searching. He became rich and famous. He traveled to distance lands, met with people of various rank and file. Desperately hoping that they could help him find this peace that he had learned about as a young boy. And yet he found no peace. One day he decided he would plant an olive tree in his garden and grow peace. He tended the tender sapling, he nurtured it - it grew delicious fruit, but it didn't grow the peace he sought.

As an old man, he returned to his homeland still searching for this peace...

This story adapted into English is based on a play that our friend Abdull has written and produced in Syria. We were astounded by the depth of searching from our friend's soul. We see the Lord working in his life through the power of prayer. And we see how hungry his heart is to know the peace giver. Please join us in prayer as we ask the Holy Spirit to break through this creative hobby. He says as he sits to write

the words, sentences just come and flow out of him - Lord let your spirit flow into his heart and set him free from the darkness!

Armenia

Two years ago, we set out on a quest for a bible. Simple, we thought...bibles are everywhere and easy to find. Little did we know how difficult it would be to locate a modern translation of an Armenian Bible. The problem we soon discovered is that Armenia, although listed as the first country to call themselves a Christian nation, are not bible readers. In fact, bible reading is very rare in this culturally Christian nation which made our quest an interesting challenge! However just recently a new modern translation of the New Testament and the Psalms has been released and we were blessed to be able to obtain one of our refugee friends from Armenia!

When we delivered the gift, our friends were overjoyed! Having left theirs behind in their hasty departure from Armenia over 2 years ago, they were eager to begin reading. They were equally surprised as they began to read words they could easily understand. Their version left behind was in an ancient, complicated text which was very difficult to understand and at times unreadable.

Please pray for our friends, Saam, Nadja and Mellie as they begin to read and understand perhaps for the first time God's love letter to them. May they truly discover the lover of their souls on the printed pages they now hold in their hands.



Afghanistan

Mixed with these praises are prayer requests for not only our Armenians and Syrian friends, but our hearts are heavily burdened with the children at the camp. One particularly so, Melat is an 8-year-old boy from Afghanistan, here with his mother and father. They have been waiting for over 2 years for an interview for asylum. This week during craft time, I observed him drawing a picture. Curious to what the red splatters on the paper were, I asked him to tell me about his picture. Melat shared that the people were all dead, all murdered and pointed to the blood showing me how obvious it was to the experienced observer. I asked him if this was something he had seen, "yes," he said...when I asked him where, he shrugged his shoulders and went quiet. Tempering my words, desperately trying to restrain the tears that threatened to flow - I asked him to share more of his picture with me. Knowing this drawing was somehow providing an outlet for his trauma. Many are the experiences like this one with the children at the camp, as hard as it is for us to hear, or to see - it is incomparable to what they have endured. They and their families need the healing touch of the Father. We can but pray - and trust that the seeds of love are going deep into their hearts and will one day bring salvation and healing.



Iran



Five interviews later our Yazti friends are still waiting for a decision to be made concerning their petition for asylum. Porsor, 17, now pregnant with her 2nd child talks about whether her child will be born in the safety of Austria or in the terror fields of Iran. Bessie, holds Ava and Melina close, referring to them as her grandchildren.

Thank you for praying for the Austrian mission - which in reality is a mission to the world. Your prayers are being answered and we believe that the Lord of the Harvest is ready - He is on the move and we will see the salvations of these dear ones!