

Dear Family and Friends,

“Welcome, snow!” is the cry of every child's heart lately as they scamper down the road covered in polar fleece, goose-down jackets, and woolen caps, dragging behind them sleds, discs and ice skates! The joy in their hearts is so evident at that moment in time. That same feeling of awe, thankfulness, delight, and glee also fills our hearts as believers when we sing praises and hymns to our loving Father! It is the cry of our hearts to a merciful Lord who hears each utterance from our lips. Oh for a thousand tongues to sing...what a truth! This week the Lord has put in our hearts the classic hymn by Frances Crosby, “Rescue the Perishing.” The last verse sings, “Rescue the perishing, duty demands it; Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide; Back to the narrow way patiently win them; Tell the poor wand'rer a Savior has died.” In the news we see so many horrific stories of senseless violence perpetrated by anger and bitterness and leaving so many in the audience believing the falsity that there is no hope. “Though they are slighting Him, still He is waiting, Waiting the penitent child to receive; Plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently; He will forgive if they only believe.”

Yes, there is hope! Our God is still mighty to save and on His throne! Our hearts yearn to return to the work He has called us to in Ankara, Turkey. He has had us here for a season; He has stretched us in our faith; He has strengthened our resolve to see Him glorified in the hearts of this broken world; and we have experienced in a new dimension God's faithfulness, comfort, and provision. In all these things we rejoice and give thanks to God.

Our target date of returning to Turkey is this August! We will be returning to the same city, Ankara, Turkey, where we have begun the church plant now known as, Ankara Hope Church. It has been such a blessing and honor to be used of God in this way – more than what we could have ever asked or imagined! At the conception of the church plant, all functions had been held in our home, including the housing of abused women and their children. By God's grace, we witnessed 28 Turks come to Christ and see their lives transformed before our eyes. Just as in Acts 2, we were breaking bread from house to house, eating food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church those who were being saved. (Acts 2:46-47) Now that we are too large to meet in one home, we plan to expand our ministry into what we are calling the Battered Women's Center, where we will be able to provide temporary housing for up to four women and children at a time outside of our home, and a 24-hour emergency line will give abuse victims a place to turn at any hour of the day or night. The center will offer Bible seminars, as well as job and life skills seminars for women. In addition, it will train women to better handle and prevent abusive situations, as well as how to talk to their children about the violence they've witnessed. The Battered Women's Center will also be a place where local believers can learn to use their spiritual gifts to minister to those who are hurting. We will disciple members of Ankara Hope Church and equip them to serve in the center. This opportunity will strengthen the ministry of this church and cultivate spiritual gifts among these believers. Ultimately, we envision this ministry as being a vital part of the completed church plant. That is, as the Ankara Hope Church plant nears its completion, when the “Foreigners” are “Backing-out” of the church, these ministries will continue on as a permanent, integral part of the planted church.

For those of you who are local, in the Gallatin Valley area, we are hosting a Free Turkish Tea at Grace Bible Church, Bozeman, on Friday, January 22, 2016, from 7-9pm, where we will be sharing in more detail the Lord's work in Turkey and how you can partner with us in this ministry. We appreciate your prayers and support and hope to see some of you there!

Because of His grace,
Joe, Karyn, Jacob, Joshua, Angela Cavon...and

Bette Davis too!

P.S.

We were recently on the radio, 99.1, "The One," for a two part ministry moment. We thought you might enjoy listening to it if you missed it live. Just go to www.kingdomfarmers.com/battered-womens-center.html to hear the recordings.

Praises and Prayers:

Praise God for bringing in over 1/3 of our necessary finances for the Battered Women's Center! Please pray the Lord will bring in the remaining funds in order for us to return to Turkey this August.

Praise God for good health for our family and a wonderful Christmas season together as a family.

Praise God for a great time of encouragement, fellowship and teaching at the Christmas party Ankara Hope Church was a part of.

Praise God for safety of our many friends in Turkey during this tumultuous time.

Praise God for internet and being able to still be a vital part of their lives even while stateside.

Praise God for Murat's new baby!! This is our first believing married couple to have a baby within our group. May the Lord pour out His abundant blessings on this precious family and may their son come to know Christ at a young age. Pray for the parents' strength and faith as they bring up this child in the love and admonition of the Lord.

Pray for the 4 members of Ankara Hope Church that are going through leadership training. May the Lord develop them into godly leaders of His church.

Pray for God to use the radio station, 99.1 FM, to share the vision He has given us to reach Turks, and call many people to partner with us in this ministry through prayer and generous giving.

Pray there would be a good turn-out at the "Turkish Tea" at Grace Bible Church, Bozeman, on January 22, 2016, from 7-9pm, and that He would use this opportunity to connect us with faithful partners who will pray regularly and give generously to the Lord's work.

Pray for the Lord to sovereignly guide us to like-minded churches and individuals whom He has appointed to partner with us in this ministry.

Pray for good health, travel safety for all of us as we travel to various churches in the valley and beyond. May the Lord use us for His glory as Joe fills pulpit and we share the vision of this ministry with the Body. Pray that we would be a blessing to all we come in contact with.

Pray for God to provide for all of our physical, spiritual and financial needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us back to Turkey this August.