

Dear Family and Friends,

It is hard to believe that another year has passed, that we are another year closer to seeing our Lord face to face, and that we continue to have this privilege of sharing Christ with such beautiful and hurting people. We need your prayers! The depths of depravity are so easily seen when we take a moment to look at the world. The news carries with it nothing but strife and anxiety. This country continues to be in a state of emergency. This status was supposed to be lifted this month, but with the recurring acts of terrorism, they found it fit to continue on for at least 3 more months. In addition to this, the government is wanting to make many drastic changes that will cut down on a lot of the current freedoms. The people are disillusioned and scared and try to find meaning in their lives.

What a stark contrast our Lord brings to this scene! Our Christmas celebrations were very well attended and God's word and promises clearly spoken. Among the many guests that we brought to our Christmas Eve service were our friends, Guven and Sema. They were so pleased to come to a Christmas celebration for the first time in their lives. Added to that was the fact that our dearly loved, Angela, was promised to star in the Christmas Theatrical which would be part of the celebration. She was so honored to play Mary and worked very hard to successfully memorize all her lines in Turkish.

Everything went very well, by God's grace. Your prayers were heard by the Lord and through the messages spoken there, it caused Sema and Guven to think deeply about their beliefs. It is our pleasure to tell you that there is truly joy in the presence of God's angels right now! (Lk 15:10) Sema and Guven have trusted in the Lord Jesus and have been unshackled from their former beliefs. They have found joy and freedom, but we shall not be deceived into thinking that this road was easy for them. They spoke of how hard it is to deny a religion that is so clear around you, that you grew up believing was the truth, and that is so undeniable in this country. And yet, despite all this pressure against them, our mighty God gave them the strength and faith to trust in His Son, our Savior. Halleluya!

Our annual New Year's Celebration was held at our home. It is always such a highlight to worship God corporately in this setting. One dear, new sister in the Lord said something to us as she was heading home the evening of January 1, 2017, that really touched our hearts. She told us that this was going to be the best year of her life! This was the best new year's eve ever! We talked, laughed hard, ate good food, praised God with hymns, praised God for all He is, and prayed for one another all night long. We truly were able to bear one another's burdens. What in the world could be better than that?

What indeed?! As the apostle John said in 3 Jn 1:4, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." This dear sister, Burcu, came to know Christ just under a year ago through the sharing of our dear sister, Selma. This was the first Christmas and New Year that she has celebrated and we pray for her growth as a new creature in Christ. As a woman of 22, she is still under her parents' roof and must abide by their rules, which sometimes means not having permission to leave the house and attend church meetings. Please pray for her patience and that she would continue to show respect to her parents even when she is being treated unfairly at times.

This year, however, has not started off as pleasant for everyone. Many of you have prayed for our friend, Ester, in the past. As you recall, she was on the run for over a year because of her faith in Christ. Since our return, we have had limited contact because of the fact that she is no longer living in our city and frequently changes her phone number because of possible safety issues. Just yesterday, Karyn heard from her again. A month ago, she tried to take her own life. It pains us so much to write these words about our dearly beloved sister in the Lord. The feeling of hopelessness weighs down on the populous like a dank, cumbersome cloak while the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he can devour. Unfortunately, she has been out of fellowship for nearly 2 years. She is confused and feels as though she is losing her mind. She expressed the internal warring that she has been feeling like never before. Listening to her speak this way broke our hearts, and such a clear

reminder that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Eph 6:12) Dear brothers and sisters, pray for us and for our fellow brothers and sisters suffering here. May we conduct ourselves in holiness and godliness as we anticipate and hasten the coming of the day of God, when the heavens will be dissolved by fire and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with God's promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and new earth, where righteousness dwells. (1 Pet 3:11-13). What a refreshing thought! May He reign supreme in our hearts and minds as we minister to our friends, and may we overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15:13)

We wish you all a year filled with joy and peace which can only be found in Jesus Christ.

Joyfully serving for His glory,  
Joe, Karyn, Jacob, Joshua, and Angela Cavon

Cavon Praises and Prayers:

- ❑ Praise God for our new brother and sister, Guven and Sema, who have recently entered into the family!
- ❑ Praise God for good attendance of our holiday celebrations. May those who attended the celebrations meditate on the messages they heard and harken their ears to His calling. Please pray for protection from evil men that mean to do harm.
- ❑ Praise God Selma was so encouraged to be able to find a small side-job (\$60/week) that will give her at least some money for food. May she persevere in seeking new employment and may God lead her to just the right job.
- ❑ Praise God for Berna who is trying to rest in Jesus and cast her cares upon the One who cares. May her new faith not be choked out by the things of this world, but may she see that God is sovereign and faithful in all these things and that she can trust Him. Pray for her son, Zafer. May the Lord reveal Himself to him and draw him to Christ.
- ❑ Pray for Ester to find peace and joy in Christ and stand firm in her faith, putting on the full armor of God as she faces these spiritual battles.
- ❑ Pray for both Jacob and Joshua to make wise and godly decisions in their lives and to draw near to God. Please pray that they would surround themselves with godly people who will stand with them and build them up in the Lord. May they seek Him and His righteousness above all things.
- ❑ Pray for Fatin who seems so close to faith. May the Lord grant him humility and strength to lay aside all his former beliefs to grab hold of the One true God!
- ❑ Pray for Esma, Rasha, and Gozde who we are meeting with on a regular basis for Bible Study. May the Lord open the eyes of their hearts to see their position before a holy God and the way which has been opened for them to be reconciled.
- ❑ Pray for Ilkay to have courage to continue to seek out truth despite pressure to forget about it until later.
- ❑ Pray for Bulut who is studying God's word with us regularly but is petrified of losing his job and worse. May the Lord comfort him and give him strength to put his trust in Jesus as Savior and King.
- ❑ Pray for Havva who seems to have hit bottom in life. May the Lord reveal himself to her, may we be bold to speak life giving words to her, and may she come to know Jesus.
- ❑ Pray for Zerrin who has been forbidden from meeting with us and is experiencing a lot of negative input from her family for looking into Christianity.
- ❑ Pray for Ozlem to be able to stay in Ankara, especially for suitable housing and to be able to move out of the dorms.

- Pray for our boldness to speak His word and take advantage of every opportunity the Lord gives us to share our hope.
- Pray we would continually think of others before ourselves.