

Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings to all of you dear ones in the name of our Savior and King, Jesus Christ! It is hard to believe we have entered into the year 2018. During this time of the year, we try to make it a habit to look back on the past year to reflect on all that the Lord has done in our lives personally and through this ministry, while also looking to this new year in anticipation of what wondrous things He will do.

2017 was a year of change, transition, and great growth. Our company installed a new field leader for this area, with a fresh vision for the future work here; Joe received his official work visa which has opened a door for us to possibly gain citizenship here; Joshua got engaged to a lovely young lady who loves the Lord; Jacob solidified his decision to go into an MD/PhD program after graduating in May of this year; and Angela was able to join the English speaking youth group last year and make new godly relationships with peers.

Last year, our ministry center opened with the goal of providing refuge and counsel to Middle Eastern women and their children who are victims of abuse, and to introduce nonbelievers and their families to the God of the Bible. This ministry has been in full swing since the end of 2017. As we see in His word, God works in many ways and through many situations to make Himself known to the lost world. As we work with more and more people, we try to speak to their hearts through means and methods that are dear to them. Art is one way that we have been able to minister to the public. We offer a class to all local women to come and meditate on the Psalms while also providing an artistic release of what they have learned. For example, one of the verses we meditated on was Ps 67:1-2 in which the Psalmist called out to God for blessing in his pursuit to make God's ways and salvation known to all the earth. As we pondered what this meant, our paintings and designs become an outward expression of what our ears have heard, what our eyes have read, and what our hearts have felt. It has been a very profitable time to share our faith in the only one who can bring healing to a broken heart and a great time to bear one another's burdens. We have been meeting together once a week for nearly 3 months now. Through this meeting time we have been able to study the faithfulness of God and the hope that He freely offers to whosoever will come.

Another women's ministry that we offer is a ladies' handcraft day where everyone brings their favorite craft to share with one another and teach that technique. During this time of sharing, hymns are continually being played in the native language which has spawned many open doors to sharing who God is and the gift he offers to all of us. It is also a time which encourages ladies to share their hearts and know that there is a hope that we can rely on.

We have also begun a pilates outreach. Health is continually a concern for people here, just as it is in most other countries. Through this Pilates outreach, we teach basic health tips as well as share passages from God's word that we as a group can think on throughout the week and perhaps discuss the following week. Ladies who attend are also given a healthy recipe to take home which has a Bible verse on it.

We also are offering Bible based English conversation groups.

Joyfully serving for His glory,
Joe, Karyn and Angela Cavn

Praises and Prayers:

☐ Praise God for His provisions. May we constantly trust in Him even when we do not see the

whole picture.

- ❑ Praise God for the Uyanis Gencligi Christmas meeting on Dec. 9th at the center. Everything went great! Nearly 90 people attended and were wonderfully blessed!
- ❑ Praise God for energy and good, enthusiastic attendance to meetings.
- ❑ Praise God for Abby. May she continue to grow in her language learning. May the Lord confirm in her heart whether to return long term.
- ❑ Pray for Karyn and Angela's ikamet status to be renewed and easily transferred to Joe's Work permit on Dec. 20.
- ❑ Pray for natural gas to get hooked up so we can be completely independent from the landlord's shenanigans.
- ❑ Pray for Taner to see his need for a Savior who will deliver him from his bondage to sin.
- ❑ Pray for our Christmas Celebrations and New Year's Celebration.
- ❑ Pray for Jake, Josh, and Naomi. May the Lord reveal Himself to them in very personal and abundant ways and be ever near to them especially during Christmas while they are away from family. :(
- ❑ Pray for Angela to keep up with her studies so that she will finish everything in April. Praise God for the opportunity to be a part of the Youth Group this year – May she grow in her love and knowledge of the Lord.
- ❑ Pray for God to illuminate the scriptures for Fatin as he studies through the Bible.
- ❑ Pray for Yavuz who is so close to taking that step of faith. May he clearly see Jesus and cast aside all doubts that he has.
- ❑ Pray for Bulut who loves to discuss Christianity but has yet to take the step of faith to give his life to Christ. May God grant him the faith to believe in Him.
- ❑ Pray for the attenders of the English Sit to be aroused to seek out who the God of the Bible is. May many come to know Him through this venue.
- ❑ Pray for the 6 ladies who attended the first of the art ministry. May God speak to them through His word and this time of exploring the beauty of art and His promises together. Pray that the other ones who signed up and did not come to the first meeting will be able to attend the following mtgs.
- ❑ Pray for Kamil to remember the desire he felt in the past to seek God and not get so caught up in all the cares of the world that he stops seeking.
- ❑ Pray for Selma who is struggling with depression and laziness. May He strengthen and refresh her so that she can joyfully do all things as unto the Lord.
- ❑ Pray for wisdom and the Lord's guidance as we plan regular activities at the center. May many people be drawn to Christ through these efforts.
- ❑ Pray for God to keep us from evil people who mean to do us harm.
- ❑ Pray for us to continue to seek Him first in all that we do. May He pour out an abundance of His grace upon us so that we will see much lasting fruit for His glory!