

# CAVON FAMILY NEWS

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Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings to you from sunny Ankara, in the name of our Lord and Savior, who was and is and is to come - Jesus Christ! We pray that this letter finds you all well and resting in the love and grace of God. It is hard to believe that we have been back in the country for a full year this month. We are praising God for His mercy and for granting us a healthy first year back. We continue to pray that He would allow us to be healthy and of sound mind. Many things have transpired over the past year and the Lord has presented us with abundant opportunities to serve Him. The past week was our annual conference and we were reminded of the privilege it is to be counted worthy to share in the sufferings of Christ (2 Timothy 2:1-7). Laboring for the Lord in Turkey continues to be a challenge; however, it is amazing to see the marvelous ways in which the Lord is working.

As most of you know, we are currently living in Ankara with 2 main goals before us: 1) To form a team that will go out to Eastern Turkey with us (we must have at least 3 families, we currently have two); 2) While assembling our team to go east, we want to gain ministry experience with existing ministries in Ankara. Since we have been waiting for our third family to join us, God has graciously provided a great opportunity for us to begin a new cp effort here in Ankara by partnering with another family that has been working in Turkey for the last 14 years. It has been an incredible growing experience for us in ministering to Turks. This new cp effort has a bit of a different approach to the traditional methods used in Ankara and around this country; it is a very dynamic approach that is much bolder in its concept and takes advantage of many methods of sharing Christ with others. Though we are prudent as the Lord calls us to be, we are taking advantage of the new-found openness of secular Ankara in that we actually look a lot like "M"s. For instance, since last December we have been involved in sharing with our Turkish friends through such activities as: Christmas outreach, a seminar and book signing activity at a local hotel, Easter outreach, construction of a new internet website (we are currently making business cards with this internet address on them), Children's Holiday outreach with tracts, speaking at a private college with students and faculty, and we are currently forming an English Club that will be centered around God's Word.

The Christmas Outreach message focused on John 1:14, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Since we wrote about this outreach in detail in a previous letter, we will not elaborate more on it, except to say that it was a fruitful event and that several of the contacts we made that evening we are still working with today.

The Seminar and book signing opportunity arose when a former worker in this country was planning on visiting Ankara and as it turned out, one of the books that he had published in Turkey was recently available for purchase here. We planned the event at a local hotel and invited around 200 people. Since this was our first really bold attempt at gathering people to hear the Word we didn't know what to expect or how many would come. We prayed for God to send us those who were truly seeking Him and had a total of 12 Turks who attended. The seminar was about seeking truth for yourself and encouraged and challenged Turks to open their eyes to certain lies that they have been indoctrinated to believe are true without searching into whether it is really truth or not. We were very encouraged by the fact that none of us got arrested, and that we were able to have really good, meaningful conversation afterwards which has lead to even deeper conversations which we are continuing to use to teach God's Word.

After regrouping with our new teammates and evaluating our approach, we decided to have our Easter Outreach at our teammates apartment. We invited those who we had been building close relationships with, the ones who we thought were truly interested in learning more about who God is and showed an interest in studying His word. We had a total of 17 Turks come to this outreach. We had food, games, and a very clear and straightforward presentation of the Gospel message and the true meaning of Easter. This event seemed to really solidify our relationships with those who were seeking, and weed out those who were not being called at this time.

Since we have so many different holidays in Turkey that are conducive to share God's word, we decided to create a new website which began with the Children's Holiday Outreach where we began to push the limits of boldness to see how far we could stretch them. The new website was centered around the theme of the Children's Holiday, with a main article about what God's Word says about children and parents' responsibility in raising them. Our concept was to create the website and begin handing out tracts with the website address on them a couple of days before the holiday began. We found the limits to boldness the very first day when one of our teammates was held at the police station for 6 hours. Handing out tracts is not illegal, but that doesn't stop the local peace-keepers from detaining whoever they feel they need to. Things went very smooth after that first day and we managed to hand out several hundred tracts. God opened a particularly amazing opportunity for Karyn at this time. A friend of ours is currently attending a University and her final for one of her classes was to give a presentation on "The Typical American Family." She asked Karyn to attend and answer questions and act as sort of a visual aid. By God's grace, she

had seen many differences in our family, which she found very different from her own and furthermore, different from the statistics she found in her research on Americans given to her by the American Embassy. Karyn was able to speak on who we are, not as Americans, but who we are in Christ and what our values are when it comes to child-rearing and husband-wife relationships through the perspective of God's Word. At this time, she was also able to pass out tracts, which were received very well from both the faculty and students!

As for our upcoming English Club endeavor, please pray that we will understand how to put it together and develop it well. We believe this will be a great venue to share God's word and His love with our Turkish friends. We have never taught English before, so much planning and prayer is needed in order to make it a quality event. Also, since our idea is to have the time centered around the Word of God, please pray for our protection, boldness, and for Him to send us His elect.

Finally, our most exciting news: as a direct result of these outreaches, we have just completed a 5-week Bible study and averaged 6 Turks who attended through the series and a total of 9 who attended intermittently. One of these individuals, Falcon, who we will further describe in a moment, was already a believer; however, 3 more of our friends are now claiming faith in the Lord Jesus and have been asking when we will begin to meet for regular service and fellowship together! Please be in prayer over this matter as we iron out logistics and transitioning into formal, corporate worship. As for Falcon, many of you have been praying for him and are aware of his past falling-away. Well, it is with exceeding joy that we praise God and thank you for your fervent prayers on his behalf, and announce that our dear brother in the Lord has returned to the sheep-fold! As you remember, he had a heated dispute with another brother, and consequently turned his back on his faith and the Lord. During these 3.5 years time he had fallen further and further away from the Lord and had been backsliding into a terrible lifestyle and had become a very poor witness for the Lord. When we returned to Turkey, after not seeing him for 2 years and only corresponding intermittently via email, we barely knew him anymore. He had changed so much and gone after the ways of the world. We continued to show him love and asked you all to pray for him and for his repentance. We spoke truth into his life, admonished him, rebuked where necessary, and tried to show him Christ-like love. After visiting and working with him over this last year, he came to us and confessed that he had chosen his own path and strayed from that of his Lord's. He has repented and returned to our fellowship with a new, revived desire for God and His Word. Praise and glory be to God, our rock of salvation!

In the midst of all this, we have recently moved again (please take note of our new mailing address and discontinue sending anything to the former address). It was a rough go, but by God's grace we have gotten through it and are praising Him for bringing us to such a wonderful, spacious, and less expensive apartment. It's difficult to believe but we are actually saving almost \$60 per month on rent, and yet we are so much more comfortable! Both the neighborhood and the building are much more child-friendly, which is a huge blessing to all of us. Our first day in the apartment, some of the neighborhood kids came up and asked the boys to come out and play with them – they were so blessed and happy. What was looked upon in our human perspective as an arduous and unwanted task (the prospect of moving), has really turned out to be a great blessing. God is so good!

Thank you so much for your laboring with us in this ministry that God has called us to – you are greatly loved and appreciated!

By the grace and mercy of God,

Joe, Karyn, Jacob, Joshua, and Angela Cavan

## Prayers and Praises:

- ◆ Praise the Lord for leading us to a wonderful new apartment which is both bigger, cheaper and has children to play with our children!
- ◆ Praise God the boys did so well in Turkish school again this year: Jacob received the honor-roll and Joshua the distinguished honor-roll!
- ◆ Praise God for a good visit with Karyn's parents!
- ◆ Praise God for Jacob; he is now 13 years old!
- ◆ Praise God for abundant opportunity to share His truth.
- ◆ Praise God that our seeker's Bible Study is continuing on well.
- ◆ Pray that the members of our study would be able to bond.
- ◆ Pray that we would be able to increase our study in numbers, as well as spiritual growth for the one's who are believers that are coming.
- ◆ Pray for approval to be an official team here in Ankara.
- ◆ Pray for our Turkish to be enough and continue to improve for His glory and the furtherance of the Gospel.

- ◆ Pray for our believing friend, Falcon. Praise God that he is back in a close walk with the Lord and growing in Him. Pray that the Lord would send him a kind, girl who also has a close walk with the Lord and would stir him on to love and good works. Pray for Karyn to have wisdom and diligence as she introduces him to various women.
- ◆ Pray that we would keep in step with the Spirit and that we would be used by Him to our fullest potential.
- ◆ Pray for the Lord to send us His elect.
- ◆ Pray that we would continue to have boldness for the spread of the Gospel.
- ◆ Pray for perseverance in the midst of trials resulting in perfecting of our faiths
- ◆ Pray God would continue to provide for all our financial needs through the generous giving of the saints.
- ◆ Pray for diligence and endurance as we press on in the BCC follow-ups and language courses. Pray especially that God would send us contacts who are truly seeking.
- ◆ Pray that we could find time to get organized and begin the English Club Outreach within the next few weeks.
- ◆ Pray that we would grow together as a family and have God-honoring speech and attitudes that will be wellsprings of life both to each other and to the world.

## Update from the Field.....

It seems that there is much that is given up when the Lord calls us to serve Him overseas, but as Paul says through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, these things are not worthy to be compared to the glory which will be revealed in us in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:18). One thing that we find very difficult is the loss of beloved saints and not being able to grieve with other brothers and sisters who knew them. Many of you may recall our friend Haruna. He was the pastor of the church we attended when we first arrived in Ankara in 2003. We knew him very well and loved him deeply, as Joseph acted as elder and worked very closely with him during our year in Ankara. He had many trials here in Turkey and eventually was arrested and left to finish medical school in Romainia. We recently found out that he was taken to be with the Lord last week and the age of 29. It was a very sudden, mysterious death. Our hearts were shocked and grieved, as were his parents and other friends. We are comforted to know that he ran the good race, fought the good fight, and we are confident that the Lord welcomed Him and said to him, well done my good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Master. We had a memorial service here in Ankara for the few of us who are remaining in Turkey that knew and loved him. We video taped it and prepared a small slide show, which we will send on to his parents in Nigeria. His life, though short, was powerful and pleasing to the Lord; he was truly a man after God's own heart. Please pray for Pastor Haruna's parents, as well as for all of us who new and loved him and are experiencing the loss of our dear brother.

## A look at culture from the humorous side.....

Karyn's parents were recently in country, so we went to the Mediterranean Sea for a little break. Walking side by side along the beach, one can see a man in a Speedo swimsuit, with his wife next to him covered from head to toe in a religiously appropriate swimming outfit. Mere words do not do the sight justice.

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