

Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings to all of you dear ones in the name of our Savior and King, Jesus Christ! 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.

This week we have begun transitioning into warmer, spring weather as well. It is hard to believe we have entered into the year 2018 and we were able to celebrate Resurrection Sunday! It is our prayer that this month is a time of renewal for our faith in the One who has called us, in the One who has justified us, and in the One who has given us life and joy in Him! Reflecting on this time of the year leaves us in utter awe of the love God has for us – that He would go to the farthest lengths to reconcile sinners to Himself. In John 10:18 Jesus states, “No one takes [my life] from Me, but I lay it down myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I received from my Father.” Freely Jesus Christ gave His life for us so that we may live; and not only live but live an abundant life. We are praising God for our new brothers, Yavuz, Fatin, Aslan, Kurban, and Metin!

As we reflect on this glorious truth, we would like to tell you of a dear brother who is being persecuted for his faith in Christ so that you can join with us in bearing this burden through your faithful prayers. It isn't often that we see a new believer in Christ show so much consistent gratitude for what God has done for him in his life and want to take every moment to grow in likeness of his Savior. He comes from a small village and is one of many siblings. Village life was difficult, to say the least; days and weeks out in the harsh weather alone as a child-shepherd, along with the elements and animals made for a difficult youth. It is a very dark and spiritually oppressive place. As a child growing up, he was forced to go to the mosque, to pray 5 times a day, fast, all the while seeing all those around him partaking in utter atrocities and showing absolutely no love for one another – not even a mother and father for their child. He recalls a time in his life, when he was around 13, he lost one of the animals he was to shepherd and came home late. For punishment he was forced to remain outside the house all day and night for a week; it was during the winter and there was a meter of snow on the ground. What sort of mother and father can treat their child in this way, he asked himself.

In his heart he longed to find the true God. As he watched the other villagers and his family worship Allah one second and curse and steal the next, his heart new the hypocrisy and longed for truth. Of the 11 children, he was the only one who had courage to question their common religion which resulted in severe punishment. As a child he would cry out to know God and to be delivered from the village that he was living in. Through God's providence and grace, our brother was able to obtain placement in one of Ankara's universities. It was while here that he came across our website and had the courage to call and inquire as to who God is. After studying His word with us for several months, the Lord enlightened the eyes of his heart and gave him new life, for which he continually expresses his praise and gratitude.

As he grew, and continues to grow in his faith, the Spirit continually bore witness of His truth. In his heart he heard the voice of Jesus speak to him saying, “Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes

in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.” In tears he came to us and asked for prayer because he wanted to tell his family of his new life and faith so that they too may have an opportunity to be reconciled to God.

As is so common in this part of the world, his words were faced with ridicule, hatred, and evil intent. They harassed him for several days and finally have threatened to take his life. Though we cannot begin to imagine the pain and heartache that he is going through during this time as he gives up his own family who threatens to kill him, we can, by His strength, help him bear this burden as his new eternal family in Christ. It has been a pleasure to see him growing in Christ and count this difficult time as a privilege to be called worthy to suffer for His name. Please continue to pray for our brother's protection and that he would know what is the length and width and height and depth of His love for him. Let us lift up the name of the Lord in praise and thanksgiving for our resurrected Savior who has given new life, abundant life, to all who believe and trust in Him. May our glorious living Savior lead and guide us all in our decisions as we ready ourselves for that glorious day when we will see Him as He is and we as His pure and chastened bride! Your prayerful laboring with us is such an encouragement for us as we continue on in His work here.

May you be filled full of joy and blessings that can only come from knowing the One who calls us by name as you reflect on His death and resurrection.

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

#### Praises and Prayers:

- Praise God for our new brothers in Christ!
- Praise God for all the Lord is doing in our midst.
- Praise God we have natural gas and all our utilities!
- Praise God for well attended and blessed Good Friday and Resurrection celebrations. May the Lord touch the hearts of all those who attended.
- Pray for Karyn and Angela's ikamet status to be renewed and easily transferred to Joe's Work permit before we have to leave on April 30th.
- Pray for safe travel and good health as we travel to America for Jake's graduation, Josh's wedding, and Angela's follow-up visit at Mayo. May everything go well.
- Pray for our brother, Enver, who has told his family of his faith and they have threatened his life. He is also struggling with nightmares. May the Lord deliver him from both these situations and grant him peace in his spirit.
- Pray for Jake, Josh, and Naomi. May the Lord reveal Himself to them in very personal and abundant ways and may they put into practice what they have heard and seen in our lives and God's word.
- 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 our group as we leave for 4 weeks for the graduation, wedding, and med. Check-up.
- Praise God some the attenders of the English Sit have been 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 attend the art outreach. May the Lord reveal Himself to them.

- Pray especially for Basar who has been reading the bible.
- Pray for unity among our brothers as we leave a chosen few in charge.
- 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 be pure and holy before our Lord such that those who see us will glorify our Father in heaven.