

CAVON FAMILY NEWS

Volume 7

Number 5

December 31, 2009

Dear Family and Friends,

It is hard to believe that the year 2009 has ended. As we decorated our apartment with decorations that we have brought from America to remind us of the Christmas Season, it gave us opportunity to remind the children what the true meaning of Christmas is once again. The little nativity sets that we set up together remind us that it was the time when God came to this earth as a baby, born of Mary, a simple, devout, Jewish virgin. Jesus was the King of kings, but was born, not in a palace or a place with the trappings of wealth and royalty, but in a humble, lowly stable. He was not placed into a bassinet covered with jewels and silk, that is so often seen here in the Middle East, but was placed in a stone manger after being wrapped up in clean rags. What a price our Lord paid for us from the very beginning. God's glory had come to this earth once again ~ it was announced by angels, not to kings and princes, but to lowly shepherds! This Christmas season, we have been reflecting on a just and devout man who was waiting expectantly for our Savior's arrival. When Joseph and Mary took the baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord, they were greeted by, Simeon, who took the baby from their hands, held Him in his arms and proclaimed, "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. *For my eyes have seen your salvation*, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." (Luke 2:29-32) Simeon was at peace and prepared to leave this earth because he had seen the Lord's salvation! We praise the Lord that we too can proclaim the same! However, it breaks our hearts when we look around the country we are living in and are struck with such a stark reminder that there are so many who cannot claim this truth yet, and most of whom have never even heard this truth once in their lives!

In our last newsletter, we wrote about several goals that we had set for ourselves over the upcoming months. We would now like to update you all on the progress of some of those goals, so that you can rejoice with us in the Lord's answering of our collective prayers and His wonderful working in our shared ministry to the Turks.

Goals for the end of November:

Our goals by the end of November were:

A) GOAL: Have at least two more people added to our Bible Study group. Praise the Lord, we have 2 new regular attendants!! They are very pleasant young ladies to work with, and both are very interested in learning more about the Bible and spiritual things. In fact, one of the girls reads a Turkish Bible every night before bed, and the other reads an English devotional, "Daily Bread." Please pray for these friends of ours that God would touch their hearts and draw them to Himself.

B) GOAL: Have enough people to begin a second weekday English group. At this time, we do not have enough attendants to necessitate a second meeting, nor do we have the personnel to run a second group. But please continue to pray for this endeavor, that this goal could be reached soon, by God's grace.

Goals for December:

GOAL: To complete the website that is specially designed to attract Turkish women between the ages of 20-45, married or divorced, either with or without children and hope to have this website up and running by the middle of December in order to take full advantage of the Christmas Season and the end of the year festivities here in the country. This goal has been partially reached. The website is indeed up and running; however, we have been trying to get Google's Adwords advertising on this site. Unfortunately, although we are not doing anything illegal, but because we are a very openly Christian website, we have been black-listed from Google Ads. We have tried several different solutions in order to get our ads to run, but so far we have only gotten a very negative response from those who work for Google. In truth, according to Turkish Penal Codes 125, 126, & 127 it is our legal right to share our faith in this country and it is actually illegal to prevent it. This has been a great discouragement to us, but we realize that the Lord is still sovereign and we are in a great war against principalities of this world. Please pray that this situation would be resolved and that our Google Ads would be finally approved and run. On a more encouraging note, however, despite our setback in not being able to advertise, we have gotten our first "real" contact. Please pray for Ayse that the Lord would move mightily in her heart and glorify Himself through her. Please also pray for our endeavor to run newspaper ads in lieu of the Google Ads. May this bring many to the site in order to hear the Gospel and meet with us face to face and the furtherance of His good news.

Goals for the end of January:

1) GOAL: To publish a second website. This second website has been published. Its main theme is to get people to think about moral dilemmas which will lead them to thinking about spiritual, eternal things. Also, on this website we have included links to try to funnel more visitors back to our main "women's" website. We are experiencing the same problems with Google Advertising on this website, but trust that the Lord will bring many seekers to these sites.

2) GOAL: To strive for continued growth with our young believing friends: Joe is currently discipling Falcon, Invitation, and Sultan and Karyn is working with Wish. This is going well, however, Sultan has become involved with an unbelieving woman and has distanced himself from our group a little. Please pray for the dissolution of this relationship and pray that Sultan would see that God is so much more precious than a pretty face.

3) GOAL: To continue on in the process of becoming an "official" team for a new CP effort here in Ankara, and to continue to pursue forming our future team that will be serving in an eastern city in Turkey. By God's grace the first goal has been attained! We are now an "official" team for a new CP effort in Ankara. May we continue to humbly put

the Lord first in all we do, keep in step with the Spirit, and think of our teammates' needs before our own. May He use both our families to bring many Turks to come to know Him. We've already had 3 endeavors together, all with great success in collecting many together and sharing the gospel with them.

New GOAL for January that we would appreciate prayer for: As part of our Sat. evening Bible Study, Joe is beginning a series of teaching on attributes of God in order to try to further develop their thoughts of who God is. In January he will be teaching on God who dwells in eternity vs. us who live in time and space. How is it that our eternal God would have so much love for His creation that He would leave His glorious, eternal throne to dwell among fallen, sinful men and women who would reject Him and put Him to a torturous death in order to reconcile us to Himself? As David said in Psalm 8:4, "What is man that thou art mindful of him?"

As believers we so often pray, "Your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven." When we look at Revelation 4-5 it is amazingly clear the stark difference between heaven and earth and it truly causes our hearts to yearn after the time when we will see Him face to face and worship Him together around His throne. What a truly amazing God we have and a truly priceless gift of a relationship with such a glorious God! May your Christmas be a reflection of your love for our Savior and may you be continually blessed by His new mercies each day of the New Year!

Warmly and thankfully by God's grace,
Joe, Karyn, Jacob, Joshua, and Angela Cavon

Prayers and Praises:

- ☐ Praise the Lord for an enjoyable, blessed Thanksgiving with brothers and sisters in Christ. Praise Him also for a surprise visit from an old friend.
- ☐ Praise God for protection while ill right before the holiday and for continued healing.
- ☐ Praise God Angela is understanding Turkish, enjoying school and beginning to speak a little bit on her own. Pray that she would speak more and more and be able to communicate with her friends and teacher clearly.
- ☐ Praise God the Bible-based English time, though still in the beginning stages is progressing slowly and attendants are really seeming to enjoy the time and are interested in God's Word. Pray for fruitful relationships to develop. Pray especially for Nazli, Cemal, Umut, Yagsin, and Ayse – that God would touch their hearts and open their eyes to His truth.
- ☐ Pray that we would be able to add at least 2-3 more people who will regularly attend our English time.
- ☐ Praise God for a good time of bonding with Bible study attendants during the holiday.
- ☐ Pray that those who are not yet believers would take that step of faith and repent of their unbelief.
- ☐ Pray especially for Tutku and her mother, that she would make a real effort to restart studying God's Word with Karyn.
- ☐ Pray that we would be able to increase the number attendees to our study, as well as spiritual growth for the believers who are coming. Pray for Joe as he prepares to teach for 5-10 minutes at our Sat. Bible Study. May he be able to explain clearly what the Lord has prompted him to teach. Pray for spiritual growth for Demir, Ekber, Hamdi, and Didem.
- ☐ 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 for much fruit to come from Radio Shema Card distribution; may it cause many more Turks to tune into the station to hear God's Word and eventually cause them to want to enter into a Bible study and relationship with the Savior.
- ☐ Pray that we would not grow weary of doing good, knowing that in due time we will reap if we do not lose hope.
- ☐ 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, website building, and language courses, etc. Pray especially that God would send us friends who are truly seeking.
- ☐ Pray that our hearts would overflow with rivers of living water.
- ☐ Pray that we would be a family that builds each other and others up with both words and deeds.

Update from the Field.....

FLASH from COMPASS DIRECT NEWS

News from the Frontlines of Persecution

Summary:

ISTANBUL, December 18 (Compass Direct News) – In a decision many hope will lead to greater religious freedom in Turkey, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) found that a Turkish court ruling barring a church from starting a foundation violated the congregation's right to freedom of association. Orhan Kemal Cengiz, a Turkish attorney and legal advisor for the litigants, said the decision earlier this year was the first time the ECHR has held that religious organizations have a right to exist in Turkey. Cengiz added that this case is just the first of many needed to correct conflicts within the Turkish legal system in regard to freedom of association, known in Turkey as the concept of "legal personality." "This case is a significant victory, but it is the first case in a long line of cases to come," Cengiz said. In its decision, the court unanimously found that the Turkish Courts' "refusal to register the foundation, although

permitted under Turkish law, had not been necessary in a democratic society, and that there had been a violation of Article 11.”

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

Have you ever thought of throwing all the little bits of things left in your cupboard into a pot to boil and serve it up for a special meal? Things like: various kinds of beans (white, kidney, pinto, lima), chickpeas, hazel nuts, peanuts, walnuts, bulgur, oatmeal, dried apricot, dried figs, pomegranate seeds, cinnamon, cloves, salt, and sugar? Put it all in a pot with some water, boil it until it is thick like porridge. This is a very special dish that is served to neighbors 40 days after the Sacrifice Holiday to commemorate when Noah came off the ark. In this culture, they believe that when Noah exited the ark, he had only a little bit of every supply left, so put he it all in a pot to feed his family for the first few days back on dry ground. When we first tasted it, we laughed! It is not a recipe that we keep on hand, but most of our Turkish friends really love it and right now is the season, so we are receiving multiple bowls each day from neighbors! The name of the dish is called, Asure (pronounced: a-shu-ray). So when you run out of ideas for your family and feel you don't have enough ingredients for anything, you can give this a try! Afiyet olsun! (To your health!)

The Cavons

Osman Temiz Mah.

1022. Sk. (Eski 43. Sk.)

Ercan Apt. No: 34/34

Ilker, Dikmen

ANKARA, Turkey

Phone Number: 0312 480-8792

joe.cavon@interman.us