

CAVON FAMILY NEWS

Volume 6

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Dear Family and Friends,

Our warmest greetings to you all in the name of Jesus, our LIVING Savior! We pray that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that your Christmas celebration will be joyous. This year has been filled with highs and lows; times of great happiness and times of sadness, but through it all we remain joyful because we have a Savior Who has Himself said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you," (Heb. 13:5). It has been such a blessing to be back in Turkey, fulfilling the tasks that the Lord has ordained for us to walk in even before time began. How exciting it is to see His faithfulness play out before our very eyes. We returned to Turkey 5 months ago, though it seems like only a week, and so much has already transpired. The work here continues to press forward rapidly, we can hardly believe that it is almost 2009! In this letter, we would like to update you on how you can pray for us during this Christmas Season and throughout the coming year.

As we write you this letter, we are just coming off of one of Turkey's religious 1 week holidays which they call the Kurban Bayrami – which means the Sacrifice Holiday. As many of you know, this is a time when Muslims all over the world are celebrating their holiday together which commemorates Abraham's obedience to Allah and Allah's provision of food. A family of 5 or more must, as a minimum, sacrifice a bull and families of less than 5 must sacrifice a sheep. The meat is then divided up among the family and a portion of the meat is then given to the poor. They do this for 4 days, and eat lots of barbecued meat and other special meat dishes. The purchase of the animal, the sacrifice itself, and the distribution of meat to poor will count as good works for them. This year, the government in the city of Ankara instituted special yellow tents for those living in the city to sacrifice in. This kept the city considerably cleaner and better smelling for us (it usually stinks for weeks as the blood slowly washes away), of which we were thankful. Some friends of ours that live in Adana said that there were so many people BBQ'ing that the entire city was full of smoke; so much so that they could not even see across the street!

Before we left the States, we had asked that you would remember us during this time of the year and that you would make it a point to pray for Muslims worldwide, that they would be convicted of sin, righteousness, and judgment. As King David said in Psalm 51:16-17, "For you do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise." Turks believe that the blood of these sacrificed animals has the power to protect. Often times, they will smear the blood onto the bumpers and doors of cars, or smear some on the forehead of the provider of the family or a newborn baby. Our hearts were heavy this last week as we spent time reconnecting with some old friends that we had known when we last lived in Ankara. It is clear that the evil one is roaming about this country like a lion, seeking out whom he can devour. It is sad to see how blinded our friends are, but we commit them by faith to our loving Father and pray that He would reveal Himself to them all and that they would come to know Him in a saving faith. Please pray with us that we would be bold in our speech and use every opportunity that He puts before us for His glory, for we know that the Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward all, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance (2Pet 3:9). Oh, what a loving, merciful Father we have.

This Saturday, December 20th, at 6:30, we will be participating in a Christmas program in which the Gospel message will be clearly portrayed. It will also include some artistic dramas and dancing, as well as presents for the children and snacks. In every New Testament that is distributed, there will be contact information for further follow-up. We are anticipating that at least 200 unbelieving Turks will attend. May God use this time for His glory and for a great push in the furtherance of the Gospel. Later in the evening, we will be having a small get together at our house for further discussion about Christmas in general and the Gospel message, answer questions they may have, and deepen our relationships with one another. Please pray especially for the two families that we will be personally bringing to the program, that their hearts would be touched through the events of the evening and that they would desire to know more about the living God.

Finally, we would like to tell you our last piece of exciting news. In our last letter, we had shared with you all the way the Lord is working through the BCC program. This continues to be a real blessing to us. As we had mentioned, this program relies on many types of advertisements, but one of the most popular venues is via the internet webpage. With this in mind, the company in Istanbul was given a grant, which they passed on to some brothers and sisters in Europe. They built a new website that is really top quality and can be found through many different "key word" searches; there were 65,000 hits the very first week! We had the opportunity to view the site the other weekend and were so pleased at the quality of work that went into its production. On the webpage you will find a clear presentation of the gospel, thought provoking video clips, a list of free literature and Bibles, and an area to be filled out for follow-up contact by people like us. We hope that this coming year we will be getting more determined seekers, as well as many more contacts. This will, of course, increase our already quite full workload, but praise God if this is a problem that we face in our ministry. This past month, some contacts have parted ways with us for a while, and some are now returning to learn more. Our plates continue to be full in this area of ministry and we are using this Christmas season as another avenue for the furtherance of the Gospel.

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouraging notes, and generous giving to this ministry; "Like cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a distant land" Proverbs 25:25. Thank you for continuing to be such a vital part of this ministry that the Lord has chosen for us. Merry Christmas – Emmanuel has come!

Joyfully in Christ's name and for His glory,
Joe, Karyn, Jacob, Joshua, and Angela Cavon

Prayers and Praises:

- ◆ Praise God for good health throughout this season.
- ◆ Praise God for a great Thanksgiving with brothers and sisters (and that we got a turkey).
- ◆ Praise God for the generous giving of the Body to this ministry.
- ◆ Praise God for brothers and sisters in Christ who spur us on to love and good works.
- ◆ Praise God for the boys doing well in their classes and for kind friends.
- ◆ Praise God for His faithfulness in answering our prayers – through generous giving from the saints, we were able to purchase a good van.
- ◆ Pray that we would be responsible with the small portion the Lord has allotted us, and that we would see it multiplied immensely for His glory.
- ◆ Pray He would send us His elect; please pray especially for this year's Christmas Program that it would yield much fruit. It is estimated that at least 200 Turks will attend.
- ◆ Pray that God would guard Jake and Josh's hearts and minds against ungodly speech and deeds that they are exposed to in school each day.
- ◆ Pray that God would continue to keep Angela and all of us in good health, both spiritually and physically throughout this whole term.
- ◆ Pray that we would continue to grow in the language and culture and use it effectively. Pray that Angela would continue to remember her Turkish and that she would not be fearful, but be more friendly towards Turks.
- ◆ Pray that we would have great opportunity to share Who Christ is during this Christmas season.
- ◆ Pray God would continue to provide for all our financial needs.
- ◆ Pray for diligence and endurance as we press on in the BCC and language courses. Pray especially for new contacts.
- ◆ Pray that we would grow together as a family and reign in our tongues to be wellsprings of life both to each other and to the world.
- ◆ Pray that we would redeem the times for the days are evil! May we make the most of all opportunities!

Update from the Field.....

In December of 2001, for the first time, the Bible was completed and released in its entirety in a language that Turks could read and understand – Modern Turkish. We were blessed to have been here on a short-term basis to witness this moment in time. It was a glorious time for all who were, and now are, ministers of the Word in Turkey. By God's grace, this great accomplishment has been celebrated and used by God to touch the hearts of Turks; revealing the one true God to them. This translation is used throughout the country in the 35 churches that exist, and it is the translation that is distributed through the BCC. After this great task was complete, the Lord guided this same team of brothers to begin translation of the Holman Bible Handbook and the Study Bible. Through much prayer, trials, and laboring in sweat and tears; after over a decade of waiting for the various steps of the translation process to be completed, the Holman Bible Handbook and the Study Bible is scheduled for release **this** month! Please pray that it would be used in a mighty way and bring glory and honor to our everlasting Father and King!! Praise God for the diligent work of so many brothers. Praise God that He who began a good work is faithful to complete it!! Pray that it would be another tool that the Lord uses to sanctify His church here and to draw His elect to Himself.

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

Last month, we had our first parent-teacher conference for Jacob's Junior High Class. In this country, it is not a private meeting as it is in the States. We had forgotten what a stretching experience this is. Every conference that we have been to Stateside consisted of just the specific student's parent, and the teacher. Not so here! All the parents entered into a room and waited somewhat patiently for the "home-room teacher" to come in and start the meeting. She began by explaining to us all that the year was off to a pretty good start and that the children are definitely learning lots and preparing for the high-school acceptance exam, which they will take next year. After this brief overview, she asked if anyone had any specific questions regarding their children. Finally, she went around the room to each parent set and asked, "Who is your child?" "Oh, little Sally is doing well. Don't worry..." "Who is your child?" "Oh, he is not doing any of his homework and is behaving very shamefully. Did he tell you that he called me a witch?!" the room filled with tuts from the other parents, indicating their disdain for the naughty child and the pathetic parents. She turns to us, "Who is your child?" Gulp...uh..Jacob.." another gulp. Praise the Lord! She had nothing but praises for his work and behavior. It dawned on us, this is just so different from our mother culture. Privacy is definitely a foreign concept here!

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