

Dear Family and Friends,

Our warmest Christmas greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus who is the Christ! Life continues to be tumultuous with looming visa problems throughout the world. We praise God for His love and care for our dear boys, Jake and Josh, and for Josh's fiancée, Naomi, who will not be able to join us here for Christmas due to the visa restrictions. That has come as quite a disappointment and shock to us, as we were all so hopeful that this problem would have been resolved by now. The Center continues to have utility problems that are tied to the landlord which we are slowly trying to resolve. We would appreciate your prayers for our natural gas to be turned on, as it is now winter here and we have only the use of space heaters to heat the entire space.

Despite all the busyness and stress, this continues to be one of our favorite times of the year. Before we knew the true and living God, this time of the year brought excitement, yes, busyness, yes, and even warmth to our hearts. But from such an utterly different perspective. As believers and followers of Christ, one of our favorite Christmas hymns has been "O Holy Night." This year, in particular, we have meditated on the line which says, "The thrill of hope; a weary world rejoices..." Weary is a very befitting word for this day and age. All the news outlets continue to berate leaders, expose men and women as they are being caught in their perversions, there are rumors and threats of war, people unsatisfied and discontented with their lives and taking it out on those around them, and on and on the list goes. Our souls weary at the mere hearing of all that is going wrong in the world. So where is this thrill of hope? Who, in this weary world, is rejoicing? The answer is, those who have heard and those who have embraced the glorious King whom God has sent to deliver us from our own sins and this broken world!

So it is with such great joy that we proclaim this good news to the weary world around us. Since opening the center, we have seen God work in the lives of so many people. As we spoke to our neighbors in the building, they commented on how our presence has brought peace to the building and neighborhood. Praise God! This month, the center is going into full swing. We continue to do the Bible-based English conversation groups twice a week, Sunday morning Bible study and worship, Tuesday men's/women's Bible study, and beginning this week we started hosting for the first time an art class which includes studying a verse or passage from the Bible while learning techniques in color theory and painting. In January, we will begin a fitness program that will exercise both body and soul through reading and meditating on God's word and teaching Pilates. We would appreciate prayer for these ministries as it is the first time we are using this type of venue and it seems to be getting a lot of interest from women.

Finally, we would appreciate your prayers for our Christmas celebrations. We are seeking the Lord for energy, boldness, and that He would use us as a sweet perfume of life to the lost. As usual, we will be hosting an outreach celebration and also attend one that is a city wide celebration, as well as a Christmas Eve service for our new Sunday morning Bible study group. The following weekend will be the annual "Pray in the New Year!" The Lord has been so good to us and has continued to provide and show Himself ever faithful, even and especially as we walk through some very lonesome valleys. Praise the Lord with us that we can declare as David did in Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want...Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever!" Praise His name! We serve a risen and living Savior who provides for ALL our needs! In the midst of chaos, fighting, turmoil, we can experience peace, comfort, and joy. Who, but God's people, can say this?

May the Lord's goodness be ever clear to you all as you celebrate His miraculous incarnation – a mighty, awesome God left His throne to dwell among sinners so that all mankind could be reconciled

to our holy, loving God! Oh holy night, indeed! Let us never tire of hearing this great story, and let us not end the story at the stable, but remember the death and resurrection of Jesus which opened the gates of heaven for all to enter through Him! Merry Christmas to each and every one!

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. 9<sup>th</sup> 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!