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## Bearing Each Other's Burdens

It's that time of year when families get together to celebrate... but also when those who are separated/estranged from family can feel cut off and alone, and it can be painful. For many believers from the



*Fellowship meal in the House of Faith*

Middle East, this is a struggle not just at Christmas time. In the Muslim world, when someone finds Jesus and decides to follow Him, they often pay a heavy price, especially with relationships. Many have lost their entire family.

One of the most precious things we have learnt at ICC, is that fellowship and relationship between brothers and sisters in Christ, is a fundamental part of discipleship and can bring comfort and healing from these painful losses. We have a big family in Christ, and as we walk together on this messy, painful journey called life, God can do incredible things.

At ICC, we are in this for the long haul with each believer our King brings to our doors. Jesus walked alongside the disciples, teaching them through daily life... in their struggles, despite their weakness and brokenness. Was it messy? Absolutely! But as Jesus walked alongside them, teaching them the ways of the Kingdom, they were forever changed.

Whether those continuing to live under intense persecution in the Middle East, or those who were like scattered sheep when persecution came, our King has His eye on them all. We all have a part to play in this walk alongside them.

Please remember them, this Christmas, and pray for them. Please pray for us as we continue to minister to them, encourage and strengthen them and train them in the ways of the Kingdom.

**Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2)\*\*\*\*\***

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## **This Light Momentary Affliction...**

Our dear Kabul doctor's family is in need of your prayers again. Having safely returned to his family, he has had to flee to another city again for a while. His wife asks you to pray.



*Please pray for us. There is someone threatening us again. He is in the Taliban group. Through your prayers, we and my husband are doing well, but please pray for our protection. I thank God a thousand times that he gave us a family in you. We love you very much. I wish we were face to face with you all. Please pray for this man from Taliban. Let's pray that Jesus will do with him as He did with the apostle Paul - Hallelujah!*

The faith of this family is something that should humble us to the point of bringing us to our knees. They have lost their whole family. They have been betrayed by their family. Yet they rejoice in the knowledge that Jesus has not abandoned them. And we are humbled that our King has brought them to our 'door'.

Their attitude reflects the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:17:-

**For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison**

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## **Another Afghanistan Prayer Request**

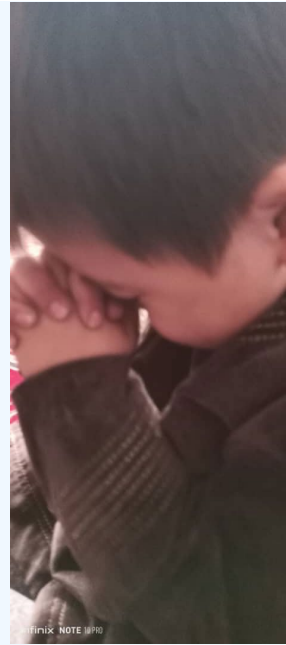
Please pray for our sister in Kabul who is going blind in both eyes. She is due to have surgery on her first eye in the next few weeks, and is very anxious about it. She and her family have been suffering for a long time, so we are thanking God for making it possible to get the surgery arranged. Please pray for successful operations and for fast healing. Please also continue to pray for her protection, as she is extra vulnerable in this situation.

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## **Severe Persecution in Yemen**

This month, we have been reached out to by a group of believers in Yemen, who have endured severe persecution for their faith. We are currently trying to find ways to support them. The persecution has been so intense that many of them have lost their lives and many have abandoned their faith. Recently a group of them were attacked and burned by Muslims who were punishing them for their apostasy from Islam. Several of the children have suffered serious burns. The pictures are too graphic to share with you.

They have asked us for teaching and guidance, and desperately need your prayers. Please pray for us as we navigate this situation and try to put some support in place.



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## Current ICC Needs

We have several new families approaching us for additional support and for help with safe housing due to persecution and harassment in camps.

From January, the price of electricity in Greece is expected to skyrocket, as government subsidies and regulations end and new more expensive tariffs are being imposed. Food prices are double what they are in the UK (we did some supermarket comparisons!), and still increasing. We are also paying internet costs for several of the scattered Afghan flock, so they can be connected and join our Zoom meetings. This is a lifeline for them.

We are struggling to cover these additional costs, so please pray for additional financial resources. We are deeply grateful to all of you who faithfully give financially - we couldn't be here doing this work without you!

Please also pray for some locally-based, long term volunteers to help us carry the load.

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# THANK YOU

May you all know the love, blessings and joy of our precious Prince of Peace as you gather with your families.

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