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## A New Year and New Beginnings

We have been very busy this past month getting the House of Faith moved and re-opened, as well as hosting another retreat at Goshen (so please forgive the delayed newsletter!).



The flock in Athens love *In the new House of Faith* the new place, and it's being well used already. It's much easier for them to access, and is a warm, welcoming and safe place to gather as a community. It will also be much cheaper for us to run, praise God!



New families have been arriving, and instantly feel at home and welcome at the House of Faith



*Our classes are back in full swing*

We have even been blessed to have a couple of visits from former beneficiaries, who have successfully moved on to independence. One is now working as an accountant, and another has almost finished nursing training in Germany.

*"oh, it feels so good to be here at ICC again! I miss it a lot. I miss everything and the presence of the Holy Spirit here... Being at ICC is like being in a warm swimming pool! I'm so happy to be back!"*



## Fleeing Again in Afghanistan

Meanwhile, our flock in Kabul have been facing more troubles. One family had to flee to a new hiding place, trekking on foot to the other side of Kabul, after hardline muslim family members threatened to turn them over to the Taliban.

The family of five, with three young children had to flee immediately, leaving everything behind except the few clothes and bits of food they could carry. Thank God they were protected as they fled, and that they managed to find a new place to hide. A tiny apartment with one room and a kitchen, without any furniture or basic items. The father, "A" managed to find some blankets in the new neighbourhood, just in time for their first night in the extreme cold. Many Afghans



*Please thank God for His provision, and for making a way of getting some help to them in such difficult circumstances!*

have died this past month because temperatures have been below minus 22 degrees celsius, without heating or fuel.

That first night, they were awake all night praying, shaken by the events of the day and worried about how they would survive.

We are praising God that we found a way to get a secondhand stove to this family, as well as some food and a small amount of wood so they could be warm.

"A" told us:

*"My God, thank you! I didn't imagine that you would care this much about us, I don't know how to thank you. We were very sad last night, and I was praying all the time. We had nothing. My wife woke up from a dream and told me she saw a person in light come to her in a dream, and said to her 'Don't be sad, my child' and then handed her a piece of bread. Then your help came. I don't know how to thank you."*

Please pray for them. They are in so much danger, with so little. We in the west take so much for granted, yet these have literally given up everything for our King.



*One of "A"'s children - please pray for these precious ones.*

## **"Freely You Have Received; Freely Give"**

We are so humbled that despite the intense hardships and extreme persecutions, some of the flock are going out and serving others!



*Some of the people our young couple visited*

How amazing that these who recognise the treasure they have found in Jesus, desperately want to share what they have found with others in dire need.

Last month, one of the couples from our Pakistan flock decided they wanted to help some of the people affected by the recently devastating Pakistan floods, and to share Jesus with them. When asked to help translate for some doctors visiting a badly affected village, they jumped at the chance - seeing an opportunity to share the hope and salvation they have received.

Nearly every family we are supporting, in both Pakistan and Afghanistan, are sharing with others the treasure they have found. Persecution has emboldened them, rather than deterred them - what an example they are setting to us in the West! How many of us take seriously and actively live out the instructions in Matthew chapter 10? (we encourage you to read it!)

*"I am ready to die for Jesus. The God who saved me from the darkness of Islam will help me. I want others to find what I have found"*

Please pray that as they try to reach others, despite being like sheep among wolves, they will be as wise as serpents but as gentle as doves, and that they will bring great glory to our King.

## Please Pray for Healing

This is a dear sister in Kabul, another mother of three. She needs your specific prayers for healing. A few years ago her eyes were damaged by a virus. Ever since, her eyesight has continued to deteriorate. Recently, she shared how she can hardly see at all now.

*"Everything is becoming so dark now. I know Jesus can heal me. I trust Him. Please pray for me."*

Despite being almost blind, she works hard doing whatever she can for her family. Here she is shelling nuts, to earn a little bit of money. The discarded shells have provided a small amount of fuel for their stove. We love this family very much, and are sad that on top of everything else they are enduring, this is also happening. Please pray with us for a miracle of healing.

Pray also for her family - all of them have suffered so much for their faith, which remains strong... but they carry so much trauma. Pray for their healing and for peace and protection.



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## Current ICC Needs

Please continue to pray for the **resources** to repair our damaged safe house, and also to fix the charity car. **These are pressing needs**, as they affect our ability to operate effectively.

Also for **provision to continue supporting the families in our care**, as we receive new referrals, the needs increase.

Please especially pray for our **strength, wisdom, protection and resources**, as we do our best to take care of these precious flocks our King has entrusted to ICC. This work is hard, often lonely and with little help available. Thank God that this work belongs to Him! He has done such great things - may ICC always bring Him glory in all that we do!

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# THANK YOU

Thank you to all of you who continue to cover ICC and our beneficiaries in prayer, and to all who selflessly give towards the needs. Thank you for walking this path with us, and not turning your eyes away. We are so grateful for each of you - thank you for being there and thank you for continuing to support this work!

Much love and many blessings to you all, from us all!



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