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Afghans to be Expelled from Pakistan

Earlier this month, Pakistan announced that it will no longer allow Afghan refugees to remain in Pakistan. They have been given

until the 1st of November to voluntarily leave the country, otherwise they will be forcibly deported back to Afghanistan.



Some of the ICC flock in Pakistan

This is devastating news for the families we are supporting in Islamabad. They had all fled persecution when the Taliban took over 2 years ago, and never imagined they would still be stuck in Pakistan. Most registered with UNHCR and tried to find relocation programmes to apply for. The problem is, there are so many Afghans trying to do the same thing that places are oversubscribed, and backlogs are long.

At this point, all of our families do not have any safe option left. They are scared and ask for prayer. All applied for visa extensions. All were refused. For Afghan Christians, the thought of being forced back into the hands of the Taliban is terrifying.

Please pray for them. We continue to be in contact with them all, and they faithfully join our bible classes 3 times a week. But in a couple of weeks time, they don't know what will happen to them. Some are thinking of going to Iran. Others are still holding out hope that their relocation applications will come through. The rest are wondering if they can stay under the radar and buy time somehow. All of them need your prayers.

Just in time...

Thankfully, one of our families were relocated

just in time. This beautiful family of 3 were accepted by Canada, and have now arrived.

For the first time in their lives, they have been able to attend a church service. They were so excited that finally, it is possible to be a Christian without fear of being killed for their faith. They can worship openly and meet with other believers without fear.

Please pray for them as they start this new part of their journey. Once they are settled, they hope to be able to join our classes when they can. We are so relieved for them, and will remain in contact.



on the plane to Canada

"My family and I want to truly thank you for standing with us and supporting us these past two years. We thank God for you. We thank God that ICC exists. We love you!"



Finally safe, in Canada

Born in Hiding

Meanwhile, the ICC Pakistan flock grew by one last month. This beautiful, healthy baby boy "Elijah" was born in hiding. His mother and father are Afghan believers who are in extra danger. They are not only threatened by the Taliban, but also by Elijah's grandfather who is actively searching for them in Pakistan. This young couple need to flee again soon, as soon as they have recovered from the birth. Please keep them especially in your prayers. Pray they remain hidden, and that God would provide them with a safe escape route.



A family reunited at the House of Faith

One of the families in Athens were miraculously reunited with their daughter last month, having successfully managed to legally bring her from Iran to join the family. This is unheard of so we are all celebrating that God has done the impossible. She was at university in Iran when the family fled to Greece, and she didn't manage to go with them. Since then the family have been beside themselves with worry, particularly as things have become more volatile in Iran lately.



Finally here!

What a difference it has made to see the family finally together again. The relief is tangible. She has quickly become a much loved part of the ICC community.

Recently, the flock have been making jewellery together after one of the bible classes, which is proving to be really therapeutic and another way for relationships to deepen, and for fellowship to grow.



Some of the Athens flock making jewellery together

Israel

As Israel again heads to war, we see it as something far bigger than all previous conflicts in her history. Some Israeli families are already looking to flee and as refugees fleeing war, they should be entitled to international protection.

ICC was established on a mandate from God to; *“establish My consulate for My people from the Middle East”*.

We have long suspected that this may one day include Messianic believers from the Holy Land and have already begun assisting with enquiries from Israelis and are ready to help if and when they begin arriving in Greece.

As some of you will be aware, there has been a global call for jihad against all Jews. But as we have seen with the Islamic persecution of Christians in the region, it will probably not stop there. Remember too, the old Islamic mantra; ‘first the Saturday people then the Sunday people’. Please pray for our protection and wisdom in the days ahead.

Current ICC Needs

Our team particularly needs your prayers at the moment. It's been a really, really tough summer. Please pray for our recharging of emotional batteries, renewed strength and for protection. (Apologies for this newsletter being a little late)

Please especially pray for our Afghan translator who is currently fleeing to Iran from Kabul. We will try to update you in the next newsletter.

Please also pray for:

- resources to cover our various insurance premiums due
- funds to help cover increasing costs for caring for our Athens beneficiaries (supermarket vouchers, school supplies, utility bills, meal provisions etc)
- protection of the House of Faith and ICC properties and beneficiaries (we are worried about increased violence/uprisings etc in response to the war in Israel.

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THANK YOU

Thank you so much to all of you who donated towards our wildfire resilience needs last month! We have managed to get the retardant and will be installing the water tanks, pumps and sprayers as soon as we can. You are all amazing!

Thank you also to everyone who continues to faithfully support this work both financially and by prayer and encouragement. You don't realise how much your support keeps us going. None of this work would be possible without your incredible support.

Much love and many blessings from all of us at ICC!

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