

There and Back Again

After having Baby S's birth in December and some friends and family from America visiting us here, we had a busy eight months and once again need to apologize for the big gap between our last official update and this one.

As many of you know we've been to America for two months, mostly to attend Anna's brother's wedding and spend time with family. Thankfully got to see a lot, but unfortunately not all, of our American friends and family. The time was great, but COVID took us out of circulation for around a month, but thankfully most of us (all except J) could still attend the wedding. Johnny got to have his birthday with family and his besties as well while we were there.

Life with two kids is busy and tiring - full time language and visiting with local friends are challenging while just juggling normal life with a busy (now) 4-year-old and a teething baby! Having said that, there are many moments of pure joy as we see Johnny learning to accept, love, care for and play with his little brother and both language and local friendships are improving.

We could also connect and visit with our team leaders, as they passed through to "the beloved country" to start the business there. We are so encouraged about how God is opening doors for them (us).

Spiritual Warfare on the Front Lines

This is a term that is often thrown around and argued about by believers and different denominations, but this is not how we're using that term here. In "the beloved country" there is a real battle going on where the devil is doing everything in his power to stunt the growth of the local body in the Berber people group.

You have prayed that God would add their names to the Book of Life, and we PRAISE GOD that He did that! Now please join us in asking the Father of all Grace to encourage these relatively new believers that make up the Body in this people group.

They only have portions of His Word in their heart language. While translation projects are under way (praise God for this!!), it is difficult for translators to get into the country, and it is difficult to test translation work that's already been done due to a variety of problems. *Pray that God would open doors for this important work to continue and for local believers' involvement.*

They are not meeting together. Due to persecution efforts from family, community and state it is very difficult to build trust between believers. Even regular online meetings are challenging. Some have met and have had fellowship outside the country (praise God!!!), but that cannot happen too often and cannot be a long term solution. *Pray that they would really start being a fellowship and not disparate believers from the same people group.*

There are strife between believers. In this young “fellowship” there are disagreements, different views and growing egos where trust is already an issue. *Pray for gracious and humble attitudes toward each other and those trying to help them. Pray for a spirit of unity among them.*

Local Friendships

As mentioned, local friendships here are growing deeper, little by little. You may remember praying for “Calm” before, Anna’s friend that lost her mother soon after Anna met her in a very God-type encounter. She has another friend here, her name means “Beloved”. Please pray that God would meet these two women and their families as Anna spends time with them.

John has a friend here that he gets to spend time with, and shared the gospel with, but he doesn’t have eyes to see or ears to hear. His name means “Guided”. Please pray for him, that God would give him a sense of his sin and need for Jesus.