

Merry Christmas!!

Dear Friends,

We hope you are all having a wonderful month leading up to Christmas! What a month this has been! We wish we could celebrate the birth of Jesus with all of you in person! We have had a month of feeling the darkness deeply and at the same time, seeing the light of the world at work around us. **We'd love to share with you one picture of this in our lives right now and invite you into the story.**

*Anna has been walking with a friend here who has had many dreams of J over the years. She has known other believers in the past and has a hungry heart and a taste of just how much J loves her. **She has also been battling cancer for the past couple of years. She is a mother of four, and has been encouraged by the many ways J has brought her through this horrible season. Doctors told her in recent months that she was practically cancer free and just wrapping up treatment and you could see her hope and thankfulness. Unfortunately, a week ago, her doctor discovered a cancerous tumor near her liver. She hadn't been feeling well for weeks but thought it was the stress of medical debt that had piled up and exhaustion from a final round of chemo.***

*The news devastated her. For a woman who speaks so confidently of how God can be trusted through even the darkest trials, **I saw her truly despair for the first time as she confessed that she had lost hope.** We cried together. we read scripture, and I mostly just listened. Her doctors told her there is a treatment available to her in a nearby city but it is very expensive. She has watched her family sell most of their possessions and go into debt for her chemo over the last two years and for various surgeries she has had and she didn't want to be the cause of more struggle.*

*To make a long story short, **her family has convinced her to accept the treatment, have asked near and far and borrowed and worked and sold and they have more than half the money but still need 7,000 dinars (just under 2.300 dollars).** We would love to be, along with other believers here on the island, part of his hands and feet and provide for them in this.*

We've also asked if she would allow a **small group of believing women to gather to pray for her healing in J name and she has accepted.** Please please ask with us for her healing. I have seen the Father pursue her so clearly and even though she is not yet fully surrendered to Him. **She is so close -- and I'm asking the Father for the gift of her life here and more importantly, for her eternal life.** Apart from not wanting to lose my dear friend, my heart is heavy for her husband and perhaps especially for her kids -- **would you intercede for them and ask that they be granted the gift of growing up under the discipleship of their dear mother for years to come? I know He loves my friend. She knows it too.**

Please ask that the God of hope will continue to shine His light into their lives in the midst of the dark and scary sickness. This is not meant to just be a financial request, but the need for finances for her treatment is a reality for them and if He lays it on your heart to give in that way please let us know. There are others here locally who want to contribute too.

Please ask that Anna would be a bearer of true light and true hope in her meeting with her friend tomorrow -- and that her friend would once again feel J's love for her.

There is other news from our lives and things we'd love to share in the new year. But for now, we are celebrating with you from afar this Christmas the hope that came down from heaven - an everlasting light that has broken through the darkness!

"A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices! For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!" - O Holy Night