



Dear MEFC Family,

Thank you for your prayerful partnership last year. Turning to a new page on the calendar was not the decisive comfort we hoped for (HA!) but turning to Jesus always exceeds our expectations (ALWAYS!). Praying that you seek Jesus and find him in fresh ways this year.

In this update we will share a story about 2 of Emily's friends, give you an update on our kids, and share how you can partner with us in prayer. ***We deeply feel the need for prayer right now, so if your time is limited - please just skip the stories and hit up our prayer list.***

**G** is our kid/language/house helper. She is an Arab Alevi Muslim.

**R** is a high schooler from an impoverished family who we are supporting so she can graduate from vocational high school. She is a Kurdish Alevi Muslim.

A conversation in our living room:

G: These difficult days will pass, if it is Allah's will.

R: I'm not so sure. These are the end of times, just as the prophet Ali foretold. And look – just as he foretold – people are not attending their family members' funerals (*because of covid*). This all started with the death of the migrant child that washed up on Turkey's shores at the beginning of 2020.

G: Do you really think God will hold people accountable for things they have not done themselves?

R: Sin and corruption are everywhere. For example, men are becoming weak and not acting like men – growing long hair and wearing earrings. God is punishing us.

Me: So, what do you believe God wants us to do about it?

R: He wants us to be more spiritual.

Me: How do you think you can do that?

R: We should read the Holy Books and pray.

The conversation ended – interrupted by a child or phone call. But later in the afternoon, R mentioned that she has been plagued by an itchy scalp for years. She has gone to doctors and spiritists, nothing works. G was quick to recommend a solution she heard of from a spiritist – *place half an onion on your roof or out in a field and wait for it to dry. When the onion has shriveled and dried – your skin will also dry up and heal. If the onion doesn't dry -then you have bigger problems and need to go back to the spiritist.* R laughed a bit, but implied she would try it. I (Emily) interjected and said that complete healing only comes through Jesus and asked R if I could pray for her in Jesus' name. She accepted and I prayed. She was blessed and moved, but nothing happened immediately.

Last week, I went to visit R's family and she showed me that her scalp had dried up and was healing. Praise the Lord! On that visit I also gave them a New Testament – reminding her that she said she knew how much God wants us to read the Holy Books.

To be continued (Lord willing!)

NEXT UP: Kid mini-bios since it's been a while!

If you would like to commit to praying for Soren, Lydia or Joseph regularly – email me and I will send you a prayer card/photo of them by email or snail-mail :)

**Soren** is in 2nd grade and has been attending a tutoring group led by his classmate's mom. He does his distance learning and homework from their house. PTL! He really needs the Turkish immersion to help him learn. He is beginning to enjoy reading and can utilize Minecraft in ways that make my head spin.

- Please pray that as he asks us big questions about Jesus, heaven and Muslims that his faith in Jesus would grow.
- Pray for wisdom as we make decisions about his schooling next semester and next year.

**Lydia** is in kindergarten again this year. She loves her teacher and classmates. We are so thankful she had a few months of in-person instruction to be able to bond with them. She is incredibly crafty – she is always making something with odds and ends. She has lots of big emotions and big questions.

- Please pray for a pneumonia-free winter for her. The coal/pollution triggers her asthma in winter, so she is susceptible to illness.
- She is growing in choosing thankfulness and joy over whining. All the extra time at home is difficult for her - pray we find energy to help her stay busy until schools open.

**Joseph** turns 4 in February. He had started at a preK last February, but we pulled him out because of Covid. To make sure he still has a chance to hear and learn Turkish, in October we hired G to come 3 days a week. They are good buddies, and he is slowly learning Turkish.

- Please pray that Joseph will grow in his respect for G, listening to her and learning from her well.
- Pray that he will be ready for starting Kindergarten next fall.

### PRAYER

G – her son will leave for 6 months of mandatory military service soon. She is very worried. Please pray that Emily will have the Words to say to encourage and bless her

R – pray for complete healing of her scalp and for a desire to read the Bible with her family. Pray Emily has wisdom in follow up.

We are dealing with emotional fatigue and frequent exhaustion. Pray we will grow in practices that restore our souls. Pray for an ability to release burdens that Jesus is not asking us to carry.

National and Local social media outreach projects – These projects continue to grow and bless millions of people. This year a main growth goal is to find ways to partner with local churches for face-to-face follow up. That would relieve some of the pressure on our current follow up people.

Remember to email us if you would like kid prayer cards.



Here's the closest we got to a family Christmas photo :) Love and blessings