

Darrell & Ruth

RACEY

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Dear Praying Friends,

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush unless it's Thanksgiving. This year we cooked two turkeys, one in the oven and one in the ground covered with hot coals for four hours. Good thing, since Joshua invited noncommittal university students from Egypt. At the last minute, seven of them decided to experience Thanksgiving with us and filled our living room. Our friend Elias from Saudi came too and shared his story of faith. That was an enigma to the Muslim students. Never had they met a Saudi or any Muslim who had decided to follow Christ. It was like they met an alien from outer space. The highlight of the evening was hot tea made on the coals in the fire pan outside in the cold. They huddled near the fire for an hour drinking tea and talking with Elias. With my 95-year-old father, a Muslim girl from Sudan, and a Kurdish couple with four young kids, our house was full, and we were spent by bedtime.

Three days later, we celebrated Thanksgiving at the Arabic church with a potluck. Guests included a Syrian family of seven who just arrived a few days before. They were invited by a fellow Muslim, and that may have been their first visit to a gathering of believers. They were a representative sample of the United Nations who came for the event: people from Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Sudan, Jordan, Kurdistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. A Hispanic congregation joined us for the celebration so us Gringos were joyfully outnumbered. Prayer and hymns of praise were in three languages with food and dessert from around the world. We split up for Bible time in Spanish and Arabic and kids' activities in English. I later heard the Syrian Muslim kids asking when they could go back. Pray that misconceptions will be removed, and their hearts open to hearing the story of Jesus.

Kids Bible Clubs have been going well. This fall we've been blessed by a new Yezidi family of four boys, who are very open to hearing the Word of God because of an incident that happened to their father years ago. While in Turkey as a bachelor, waiting to come to the USA, he got cancer. In his distress he saw Jesus in a dream who said He would heal his cancer, and he got better! After coming to the US, he was sympathetic to Christians and the Gospel but not willing to profess faith and identify as a Christian. Years have passed, and this summer his four boys came to VBS and now come to Bible clubs. Three are in Ruth's class (two are twins). One said, "My dad is so lucky—he got to see Jesus!" Another said their dad was better "because of God" and "It's a miracle." That story is being told in their family, and young hearts are open to the Lord Jesus! Pray they will understand who He is and will follow Him boldly. Pray the parents will seek Jesus for healing their hearts from sin, as well as healing the body.

We are thankful for how you bring God's power in our ministry to Middle Eastern refugees in the Midwest through your prayers, and for God's provision through your faithful giving.

Yours in His Love,

Darrell & Ruth Racey



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Prayer Guide for December 2023 - January 2024

- 1&16** Pray for the seven Egyptian students from UNL who came to our house for Thanksgiving and heard Elias' testimony. Pray for them to ask probing questions before they return to Egypt mid-December.
- 2&17** Praise God for our United Nations Thanksgiving at the Arabic Church: Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Sudan, Jordan, Kurdistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. May Christ be honored in these groups.
- 3&18** A Syrian family of seven came to Arabic Church Thanksgiving. Later the father said he wants to be open to new ideas here in the USA. Pray their many needs as new arrivals will be met to God's glory.
- 4&19** Pray for the four brothers who come to Kids Bible Clubs every Thursday night to make Jesus Lord and Savior of their lives. Pray all children who come will grow to love Jesus and God's word.
- 5&20** Pray for Elias to more boldly share his testimony and to keep growing in faith and knowledge.
- 6&21** Pray for Darrell directing and teaching at a Manarah Muslim outreach training in Panama this February and in Michigan in May. There are teachers to schedule, classes to prepare, and students to recruit.
- 7&22** Pray for Jonathan and Heather to be able to sell their houses in CA so their needs in Ohio are met. Pray for God's leading for Joshua, and for his participation in ministry here in NE.
- 8&23** Pray for team members who got a re-entry ban when they left their home in the Middle East recently. They can't return to the land and people they love unless there's a change in government.
- 9&24** Pray for believers from a Yazidi background to know how to participate in community events during the Yazidi holiday December 15. Pray for our adult children coming for Christmas December 24.
- 10&25** Praise God for our faithful donors. We have been *"generously supplied with the gifts you sent... They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God."* Philippians 4:18
- 11&26** Amber has decided to take a job offer in Kansas City in January. It is a big change after 12 years in VA. Pray for all the details that need to be taken care of and for her to settle in a new community.
- 12&27** As we consider leading a group to Kurdistan this summer for a vision trip, pray for wisdom amidst the conflicts in the Middle East.
- 13&28** Praise God that Zoe and her sister Vivian, two English students, have been coming to Arabic church regularly since September! Pray for clear understanding of the teaching of the Word.
- 14&29** Pray for Darrell as he teaches SCC students from Syria, Afghanistan, Sudan, Ukraine, Burma, and Iraq. Pray they'll be open to new ways of thinking as they learn a new language and culture.
- 15&30** Pray for the Arabic church Christmas outreach December 30. Pray we will discover believers, attract seekers, and build unity in the body. Pray we will have enough helpers.