Syria -- Christians At Risk

When American troops pulled out of Syria, and Turkish troops moved in to establish a "safe zone" in northeast Syria, there were understandable concerns about the safety of the people living in this area. Turkish authorities gave assurances that their forces would not persecute religious minorities, including a significant number of Christians. However, recent reports have indicated otherwise. Troops were reportedly told not to physically harm any Christians. However, that has not stopped them from driving civilians who practice Christianity out of their homes and land. Armenians and Syriac Christians in the region have been intimidated and forbidden access to their land, keeping them from harvesting their crops. As a result of the takeover, combined with bombings of towns and villages in the area, many Christians have been forced to flee. Witnesses describe it as a "soft ethnic cleansing." Along with the danger posed by invading Turkish troops, Islamic extremist groups -- including self-proclaimed ISIS terrorists -- have been emboldened. On November 11th, an Armenian Catholic priest, Hovsep Bedoyan was murdered by gunmen, along with his father. Two others in the vehicle were also injured. ISIS has claimed responsibility for the attack. The terrorist group has also been responsible for some bombings that took place on the same day near a Chaldean church in Qamishli, leaving six dead. Please remember the family and friends of those killed in these recent attacks. Also intercede for the many displaced civilians who have lost their homes, land and livelihoods. May they be encouraged and strengthened as they sense the Lord's tangible presence among them and witness His miraculous provision for each of their needs. As for the political unrest, pray that the ministry of the Holy Spirit will bring greatly needed peace to this volatile region.

Turkey -- Teacher Dismissed for Social Media Posts

A Christian teacher has been dismissed from her teaching job after the press accused her of conducting missionary activities through social media. Esma Bağcı Kaya had been teaching religion and morality at the Hasan Fatma Onal Anadolu High School, a private school in Kusadasi, for the past two years. On November 6th, the newspaper, Milli Gazete, published an article drawing attention to Esma's Christian faith and accusing her of conducting missionary activities through her private social media account. The story was picked up by other media outlets, leading to an investigation by the National Board of Education. Esma was suspended under orders from the Minister of National Education, Ziya Selçuk. Esma has opened a court case alleging defamatory and discriminatory remarks by the press and the board of education. In 2016, Esma also faced allegations of her association with Fethullah Gülen, a Muslim cleric who is presently living in exile within the United States due to accusations of instigating a coup. The unfounded allegations against Esma were eventually dismissed. Similar false accusations were the basis for charges against American pastor Andrew Brunson, who was released in October 2018 after serving two years of imprisonment and then subsequently forced to return to the States. Pray that the truth will be revealed in Esma's case and that she will be allowed to return to teaching. May the governing leaders of Turkey, as well as the members of the media press and the board of education, all realize the importance of promoting freedom of belief for all citizens. In the meantime, prayerfully uphold the pastors, evangelists and lay workers of country's various churches, as they seek to spread the Gospel despite opposition.

Iran -- Recent Prisoner Updates

Christians in Iran face constant danger when living out their faith. This is particularly true for those who convert from Islam. For many, faith in Christ leads to torture and imprisonment. Ismaeil Maghrbinejad, 65, was taken into custody on January 25th of this year on charges of propaganda against the state. In a hearing on October 22nd, charges of apostasy were added by the judge, even though Ismaeil had been a Christian for nearly 40 years. The next court hearing is expected in two months’ time. On October 31st, it was reported that Ebrahim Firouzi had been released from prison and would be facing two years of exile after a temporary leave. Ebrahim has now been sent to Sarbaz, a city that is located hundreds of kilometers south of his home and nears the border with Pakistan. Ebrahim was scheduled to arrive on November 12th to the city, where he will be learning of the conditions and restrictions enforced on him for the next two years. Five other Iranian Christians were scheduled to have their appeals heard on November 13th. For some of them, a previously appointed hearing scheduled for September 3rd was postponed when the judge failed to appear. All five of these believers are facing sentences between five and fifteen years for "acting against national security." As we await the results of the November 13th hearing, please pray that all five of the believers involved in this most recent case will experience God's peace and grace regardless of the outcome. Pray that the Lord will also minister in wonderful ways to Ismaeil, who is facing another court hearing in the future, and Ebrahim as he begins his lengthy separation from family and friends. While settling in his new location, may Ebrahim be divinely connected to other committed believers so he can partake of Christian fellowship and receive opportunities to share the love of Christ with those in the community who are spiritually seeking.
PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES
Mike and Renee Delorenzo – AIM (working in Atlanta) Muhotas in Kenya, Abba’s House
Jonathan, Jodi, Jessica, Joshua, Joseph & Josiah Thar – Taiwan The Churo School
The Sterns – Argentina via International Teams The Gideons
C&MA: Carolyn Thorson – Gabon; The Wendels – Latin America; Westergrens – Spain; Cheryl P – Germany; Brian W – Malaysia; The Iversons – Taiwan; Dee Krueger – Guinea; M M – Israel; T & K – Bosnia; Livingstons – Ivory Coast; Green Mountain Team
OTHER MISSIONARY FRIENDS OF CANAAN
Christon & Kinzie Pierce – Salvation Army—waiting for an assignment; Kirk & Janis Reynolds, Navigators (Kowalski) – Chicago Regional Ethnic Ministry; Steve, Heather, Austin & Evan Webb (Leonard & Linda Webb’s son) – Thailand; Jeff & April Davies – Captivated Praise; Vincent Mekubo pastor & teacher of orphans in the Kissi-Kingoris area; Ann Baenziger (Dr Garnet Harris’ daughter) – Ireland.

Debbie Vik – Thailand

Returning back to Thailand from home assignment is always a big transition. Though the plans are the same, the methods are different. From my last letter it appeared that my settling back into life and ministry would be very smooth and in some ways it was! I was able to purchase my car my first week back, move back into the house I was living in last term and return to the work that I enjoy. HOWEVER, it was not smooth! The purchase of my car is not yet completed though I have been driving it all this time. The car company hopes to finish the final step of changing my temporary red license plate to the permanent white and black one sometime this month! Because of so many repairs needed on the house I lived out of my suitcases for 3 months. I began moving into my house the middle of September and because of work obligations I was not able to get everything unpacked and organized until the beginning of October – so glad that’s done!

Our Center for Leadership Development (CLD) is also going through a lot of transition. I came back in July, Mark and Kitiya came back from 3 months in the states in October and Lee, our director is returning to the states for a one year home assignment this month. Pawinee who has been active in our program since the beginning is stepping in as interim director starting in January (moving up from Bangkok). Our office staff, Nat is due to have a baby in February! As a team we were finally able to meet together a couple of weeks ago to redistributed job responsibilities. I will continue to visit various groups studying in the program but my “territory” is more spread out than before. In the past 3 months we have trained 15 pastors and leaders and graduated 2 groups of students. One group in Chiang Mai celebrated the completion of their studies on Sunday and on Thursday the leader of their group passed away suddenly of a heart attack – a total shock to us all. The senior pastor is originally from China and his wife not only co-pastored but was the interpreter from Chinese to Thai when her husband preached or taught. Their daughter has stepped up to interpret during church services and in March 2020 will be trained as the leader to raise up the next group of lay leaders for this church. Our CLD camp was held last week – 98 adults and 9 children came. It was a wonderful time for people from all over the country and different churches to meet one another, share their experiences studying in the program and receive training together. We had training in coaching which our center leaders will use with their students and financial training to help people manage their finances better. These camps are held every 3 years so they are very special times for us and those in the program.

Pray for these upcoming events:
November 20 Thanksgiving meal with missionaries serving in northeast Thailand
November 23 – 25 Visit Center in Sarabury – Final in Preaching class – listening to 10 sermons that weekend!
November 28 Thanksgiving meal with Northeast Bible School students
November 30 – December 2 Visit Centers in Surin/Srisaket
December 10 – 11 Center Leadership Training for leaders starting the 2nd level of studies
December 18 Christmas celebration with missionaries serving in northeast Thailand
December 22 Preach at Khon Kaen Chinese Church
January 6 – 8 Mid-Year Retreat with CMA Missionaries in Thailand – Khao Yai
January 10 – 22 S.E. Alaska Network Vision Trip – Pastors from Ketchikan, Alaska
January 30 – February 23 Medical Team from Salem Alliance Church
CANAAN COMMUNITY CHURCH PRAYER CONCERNS NOV 17, 2019
SPOTLIGHT FAMILIES FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17 – NOVEMBER 23, 2019

Pray for one another……

♀ Jim & Carmen Tackitt  ♀ Pastor Kevin & Kathy Thompson
♀ Jonas, Nicki, Tyler, Cameron & Connor Vance

PRAISES
Praise God for His constant presence in our lives!

COMMUNITY PRAYER LIST
Ray Robertson’s pain has not decreased. Brenda Davidson continuing physical therapy. Pray for Pastor Kevin & Kathy & Pastor Chris & Kelli. Pray for families in crisis. Health concerns: Rich & Pam Roth; Kathy Thompson; Jim & Marianne Ash; Kay Dlugos; Pam Miller; Miller’s grandchildren, Natalie (in out-patient treatment) & Jackson; Rita Bedwell’s step-daughter, Crystal (home receiving health care). Dealing with pain: Vicki Kendall; Ray Robertson; Ann Nesbitt; Debbie Arney; Bob Mitchem; Sharon Doty; Mike Black; Rich Roth; Claudia Wooden; Donna Draper; Carol Fitzgerald; Nancy Schuch; Kay Moore.

MILITARY PERSONNEL
Rob Skillern—stateside Ft Hood
Carlos Kline, USMC (Raley’s grandson)
Jared Holtane
James Myers – (Audrey Birtchman’s great grandson)
Robbie Skillern—stateside
Todd (friend of Mike Anderson)
Rob Lamb
Kaila Cantillas, Airforce Reserve (Donna Draper)

KEEPING OUR PARTNER CHURCHES IN PRAYER
Regional C&MA Church Fellowship Cluster
Hope Church (CMA, North Indy)
Fall Creek Community Church (CMA Fishers)
Cityview Christian Center (Inner City)
Christ Fellowship of Indianapolis (South Indy)
Current Church (Franklin)
International Churches
Vincent Mekubo of Kissi-Kingoris -- An Independent church that cares for orphans

COLLEGE STUDENTS
Haley Purcell
Olivia Benner (Roth)
Jackson Benner (Roth)
Abby Schubert
Amelia Delorenzo
Chris Destremps
Virginia Muhota
Claire Simms
Rachel Simms
Katie Schubert
Jessica Thar
Isaac (Roth)

FRIENDS AND FAMILY CANCER CONCERNS
Sue Neier (breast, bladder)
Rick Miller (bladder cancer)
Judy McEachern, Kathy Thompson’s sister
Avery (6) & Jeff (Marilee’s gr grandtr & brother)
Dawn (Cindy Ware’s stepdaughter)
Heidi, Linda, Joe, Aliza, April (Kowalski)
Carolyn Ditto
Lucille (Kitzie)
Sue Benner (Roth’s daughter)
Marylu (Robertson)
Florence Dockey (Nicki Vance’s grandmother)
Debra (Thompson)
Lee Romine (Miller)
Ray Robertson
Tracy Morehead (Rick Miller’s sister)
Cheryl Roth (Rich’s sister-in-law)
Sarah Dvorak (Jaclyn Davidson)
Jessica Snyder (Donna Draper)
Heather (Pastor Kevin’s sister)
Kelly (Collins) Mullen ( Zac’s mom)
Leanne (Mitchem’s daughter)
Carla (Sandra Runner)
Karen D (C&MA missionary)
Debbie O’Neal (Debbie Arney)
Mary Williams (HL resident)
Sylvia (Paula Murphy)