

The information contained below is of a sensitive nature. Please do not forward this newsletter to anyone or post any of the information on social media. If someone is interested in receiving this newsletter have them contact me directly at jadoan@comcast.net .

## Pastoral Insights by Pastor Barry Miracle in Gaza

I want to make sure everyone has a chance to read the story for the last day of Ramadan from the booklet that John and I passed out. It blessed me and thrilled me because it matched my prayers for the revelation of Jesus to Muslims around the world. I think you will enjoy it! -Pastor Barry

#### The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 NIV

Rasim, his wife Yasmin, and their five children were asleep in their home in Gaza when the bombing began. The night sky lit up with explosions. Suddenly, their home was struck and collapsed upon them. The family was buried under heaps of concrete and debris. Darkness enveloped them, and the air was thick with dust.

Despite being trapped under the rubble, they



found that there was a little space around them which allowed them to breathe. The children's desperate sobbing and fear drove Yasmin to pray

for a miracle. But the endless minutes turned into hours. Time seemed unending and dark. Five days and five nights went by.

Finally, they heard noises. Beams of light pierced through the darkness; rescuers slowly and carefully cleared the way. Hands pulled Rasim, Yasmin, and their children out – one by one – covered in dust, with bruises and scratches, but alive. Everybody was in awe. How could they be still alive after such a long time under the ruins?

Yasmin beamed with grateful tears in her eyes, when she shared their miraculous story. "A man in a shining white gown came a few times to us and brought water and food. I asked him for his name, and the stranger replied: "I am Isa al Masih!" (Muslim name for Jesus)

The family had been devout Muslims and had never before been in contact with any Christians. But now, together with others in Gaza, they have found the truth.



# Report from Brazil Marie Evensen

I arrived in Brazil two weeks ago and it feels great to be back where God has called me to serve. It's still a bit of an adjustment period, but much less than before. It's nice to have the familiar faces of friends, a knowledge of how to get around town and also a greater grasp of the language. I've been encouraged already that my language study while away has paid off. I understand a lot more and my speaking has improved. Praise the Lord!!!

A few days after arriving, my team held an evangelistic service at our ministry location called Light House. During that time two youth decided to accept the Lord (pictured below). It's exciting to see that the invest-



ment in the community around us is bearing fruit!

Throughout the week we host many discipleship groups and are consistently going out into the streets to evangelize and invite people to join our groups.

Right now we are a team of 8 and are very busy maintaining our ministry location, leading groups, and going out into the community. Please pray with us for more workers to join in this ministry so we can have a wider reach into the community around us.

My VISA process is moving along. My documents are currently being translated into Portuguese and that's the last step before submitting everything. Please pray that everything is ready soon and that my VISA request will be approved.

Thank you all for your prayers and support as I serve in Brazil. It's a huge blessing to know I have an amazing team behind me all the way!

--Marie



Highlights from Kenya

#### March 22<sup>nd</sup>

We held our full AF Kenya Board Meeting. We all rejoiced in the success of our outreaches. What a joy to not only feed the students in our program but also the local village children who stood outside the shamba watching and hoping for some leftovers. Everyone enjoyed more than enough food. Pastor Steve noted how much the people responded to salvation as well as requests for personal prayer at the Kwirenya Primary School Worship Day. The mass majority were so open to sharing very real and intimate needs as we prayed with them. In addition, we discussed some new ideas. We plan to add an announcement and awards during our celebration day, recognizing the top 10 most improved students and the top 10 academic achievers. Further, we will look to develop an athletic event the day prior to our celebration in coordination with a local school.

#### March 23<sup>rd</sup>

I visited a 92-year-old widow in the village. Esther is the oldest remaining Amaitsa family member. She shared intimate stories about what her life has been like in the village. Her mother lived to be 110 years old, and her father died in his 90's. Her mother bore 12 children of which only 5 survived to adulthood. Her fondest childhood memories are doing chores with the family. She recalls the happiest time with her family was when her husband was alive. She would take the cattle with the children to the rain forest all day (Kakamega Rain Forest). Also, she enjoyed playing with the children and the chickens around the shamba. Esther remembers they would have very little food and go all day without anything and at night have a portion of corn meal (ugali – corn meal cooked with water). Death was a common part of village life.

Esther's attended a local Friends Church nearby her shamba, stating her parents also attended a Friends Church. She states she is a Christian but cannot read or write; therefore, never read the Bible but heard about God from the pastor.

There is no electricity or running water, just local spring water. They have a pig, and chickens run around the shamba likely just as they did 81 years ago when she began to start her family on this land.

--Phyllis

### **Prayer Requests**

#### Keep Praying for...

#### Team Naphtali -

1. The target areas of service

are villages in: Kawalu, Purbaratu, Sukaraja, Salopa, Gunung Tanjung, Tamansari, Tasikmalaya City, Bungursari, Cibereum. There are many Islamic boarding schools in these villages that influence the minds of the community, but the community also believes in and studies spiritual knowledge and shamanism.

- 2. In these villages there are people who are open to the Gospel. They want to listen to the story of the Gospel but do not want to admit to believing because their families are all Muslims, economic problems, fear of being scolded by their families, prefer to obey the teachings of their ustad, have amulets that they don't want to let go because the amulets are their parents' inheritance.
- 3. There is 1 village called Urug Lapang. This village is very open to us because of the reading platform and the provision of reading glasses that we bring to them. There are only 3 mothers there who have heard the Gospel but have not yet believed. There are also many people there who are experiencing illness and economic difficulties. The people in this village work as red brick makers for building houses. But now their red bricks are piling up because buyers are rare. Pray that we will meet people who are ready to be discipled there.
- 4. Two Reading Posts in Urug Village and Salopa Village which are in Elementary Schools so that they can be useful for the people there. In this village there are no believers in Jesus. There are also several Islamic boarding schools there. We always say that we are Christians when we meet the people. They are surprised that Christians are there, but we say that there is a reading post that we run there. Now the people there are happy with us and say that Christians are good. Pray for these 2 villages so that these disciples of God will be found.

  Many students in these two schools also have difficulty reading even though they are in grades 4 to 6. Because the students are more emphasized by their parents to learn Arabic so they can read the Quran. We are asked to help the school teach these children to read.
- 5. Pray for us that we will be given the courage to preach the gospel and be given the wisdom to answer questions from Muslims about the Lord Jesus.

#### **PARI - Sundanese Christian Fellowship Prayer Requests**

\$	<b>Abraham Team</b> - Pray for the 3 new House Church- es that have been formed in March, so that they can continue to run well.	Timothy Team - Grateful for Mr. U* who is willing to believe but is not ready to be baptized, pray that in the next follow-up he wants to be baptized.
\$		Gideon's Team - Prays for the plan to open 2 new house churches so that each member always has a longing to worship Jesus.
\$		<b>Isaiah Team</b> - Pray for the opening of a new House Church in 2 families who have believed.
	ized properly.	<b>Daud's Team</b> - Prays for 1 family that is in the pro- cess of establishing the House Church so that it can
$\diamond$	<b>Daniel / Betani Team</b> - Pray that in the near future 1 House Church can be formed, may God help so that believers can be gathered and start worshiping.	<ul> <li>be realized at the end of this month</li> <li>Enoch's Team - Prayed for R*, who had been</li> </ul>
\$	<b>Peter's Team</b> - Prays that the newly formed House Church can grow and increase in souls.	served but withdrew again because his parents for- bade him, praying that his faith would continue to grow even though it was opposed by his family.



West Java—Home of the Sunda

## Prayer Requests

#### Central Asia - From our representative...

\$144,000 has been raised to purchase land and begin the initial phase of building the Camp and Retreat Center.



#### New Prayer Request...

 Pray for the fund-raising for the building of the camp and retreat center. We still need to raise \$850,000.



Mission Forum Meeting Thursday, April 10th - 6 pm

Topic: the Apostle Paul's view of prayer Ramadan follow up

See you there!



I am a student in a seminary in Jakarta. I want to share about what I experienced when I was doing evangelism. A lot happened when I and my friends were in the streets. Sometimes we were ignored, chased away, and there were also those who directly opposed our sharing of the gospel.

One Saturday when I went to evangelize, I got lost in the city streets. But I still believed that God's power and presence will always be with me when I go to preach the Gospel. And sure enough God brought me together with a lady called ibu Uni who is a Muslim. Ibu Uni helped me find transportation for me to go home and when Ibu Uni was accompanying me she was very kind and open about her life. We had a lot of conversations and in the middle of the conversation I began to preach the gospel of Christ. But when she found out that I was preaching about Jesus Christ she immediately distanced herself and said goodbye and left.

From that experience, it taught me that even though we are rejected, ignored, even abandoned we must remain enthusiastic and remain strong in preaching the Gospel. PRAYER

- One challege we face is making the new local believers understand the importance of baptism. Pray for a new believer – pak Tata – who is planning to be baptized soon.
- Pray for the seminary students, both old and new to remain enthusiastic and courageous in spreading the gospel. Pray that the Holy Spirit will show them those who are ready to hear the Good News and receive it into their hearts.
- Pray for two people we are following up: pak Omar and pak Iswan. They remain open to the Gospel. Pray they will soon understand and want to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.