

**April 2022**

Dear Marshall EFree,

So much to catch you up on!

We always love sharing stories with you, so let's start that way.

Then I'll share a rapid fire list of praises and prayer updates. Only read as much as you have time to pray for :)

### **Discovering Kingdom Culture**

I (Emily) went to visit a friend whose baby had just gotten out of the NICU, and while there I met a like-minded American family. They were new to Turkey and mentioned they are looking for a babysitter, so I offered to ask my babysitter's sister "Y".

The next day, I was talking about them with my babysitter "G".

*G - Emily, you just met this family, right? And you can already trust them. It's amazing how many wonderful people I've met because of you.*

*Me - Well, I know them through mutual friends who had also just met them. But there is something special about this family. You know that I don't just trust every American in Adana, right?*

*G - Our culture isn't like that; you can only trust your family.*

*Me - Well in this case, they sort-of are my family. They obey the Bible and are committed to being like Jesus. That makes all the difference.*

One thing led to another, and I was able to invite the new family and "Y" to our house to introduce them. As we chatted, I realized that "G" was right. I had just met this family a few days ago. We had never *actually* talked about Jesus.

*Me to new family - So, I should really ask you, do you believe in Jesus and accept the authority of Scripture? I'd like to be able to explain to "Y" the reason that I am able to so readily trust you.*

*New Family - Yes, we do.*

*Me to "Y" - I trust this family because they follow Jesus, like my family does. That doesn't make them perfect, but I know they will do their best to love you because that what Jesus enables us to do. If you ever have a conflict with them you can trust them to follow the Bible's teachings.*

It will be many months before this new family speaks enough Turkish to share with "Y" directly about Jesus, but from day one "Y" is fully aware that their different-ness is because of Jesus and not geography. **Please keep G and Y's family in your prayers. May they be the first Arab Alevi family group to believe in Jesus and obey the Bible.**

### **Mülk Sahibiyiz (Homeowners)**

WE BOUGHT THE HOUSE!!! It feels like we have been holding our breath since our last update, but as of yesterday, the house is in our name! Between savings, generous gifts and a personal loan, we can cover the cost of purchase and repairs, PTL! All of the paperwork has come together, PTL! The neighbors have welcomed us with open arms. The kids have already made friends in the neighborhood. PTL! There's a lot of work left to do. **LET US PRAY!**

***Please pray for safety for the construction team, favor while we work to get the renter out of the first floor apartment, and provision for unexpected expenses. We hope to move in in early May.***

### **H's daughter**

We mentioned H's daughter in our last update. Her condition has stabilized, but not improved. Her spirits are up, but her body is in pain. H is very sad and particularly hurt that her parents have been unhelpful. ***Let's pray for H's parents to be touched with a spirit of compassion.***

### **"O"**

O continues to grow in her faith. She has requested Easter Sunday off from work so she and her daughters can celebrate with believers and forge connections with the Body as she pursues baptism. ***Please pray for her marriage.***

### **Our business**

In all likelihood, Luke will have to fire one of his directs at our business. ***Please pray for wisdom and appropriate transparency in the process.***

### **Ramadan Holiday (Eid al-Fatr)**

The month of fasting, Ramadan, starts next week. ***Consider doing a prayer walk to pray for your local Muslim community.***

### **Film Project**

Our Teammates just finished filming the 12th and final episode of the [Jesus in our Day](#) series. ***Please pray for the post production process.***

My job is to distribute the series in Turkey via social media advertising. The ads we ran last month led to 17,530 views. I am learning how to track whether viewers click on the follow-up links to learn more about Jesus. ***Please pray for time and energy for this super awesome project.***

### **Social Media Fishing**

Luke and several other teammates are beginning to reboot the Arab Alevi focused Facebook social media page about the teachings of Jesus. We are still prohibited to promote/advertise our page, but the page has enough friends/shares/likes to continue growing organically. ***Please pray for Luke and his team as they begin regularly posting and responding to comments.***

### **Homeschooling Has Started**

Soren and I started homeschooling this semester. It takes a lot of work, but it is going really well! Homeschooling is not an option for Turks, but thanks to my hometown public school superintendent we can show Soren's registration as a MN homeschool student.