

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

2012 January



My dear Prayer Friends,

I will write to you a little bit about past events, but more importantly, about prayer requests for the future.

In December, God gave our team in Istanbul a special blessing as a little miracle. During the last week before Christmas, we had only five people coming to our Christmas choir practice. It looked as though our annual Christmas Carol Concerts at Santa Maria Catholic Church on Istiglal Street on Friday, December 23rd, and at our church on Sunday, December 25th, would not happen! But we were not discouraged and we did not stop practicing. Praise God! He enlarged our choir by bringing a great group of Iranian Christians from Bilecik to Istanbul on the morning of December 22nd. They are refugees from Iran who now live in the small city of Bilecik - just 3 hours from Istanbul by train. Our team member Umid, who now also lives in Bilecik, met them, and they started regular home prayer meetings where they also began practicing Christmas Carols in English and Turkish. They also performed a special Christmas Carol in Farsi at our Concerts. So despite all the terrible attacks (including heavy rain), we had great, beautiful and successful concerts! You can see on the photos the group of our Iranian Angels.

January 3-5th, we had a conference in Moscow with Pastor Stambovsky, who came from the U.S. Then we went to Helsinki, where we took part in the Winter Conference with Pastor Benjamin from Israel. After that, I spent a week in Turku, resting at Pastor Ismo and Hannele's sauna cottage. It was a great time of fellowship with old friends, receiving a lot of gifts and blessings. The rest of January, I spent in Moscow.

As a result of all of the conferences and amazing rest, I got a little personal revelation: God has for me, not only the general plan for my life, but also the concrete plan for each of my days. I would like to know it and to fulfill it in detail. For that, I should be very careful to hear the voice of Holy Spirit! Please, pray for me, that I would learn to hear Him and to obey Him with all my best!

Please pray for the third semester of the Istanbul Bible Institute which started on February 6th. There are 20 students - all are young guys from Turkey, Romania, Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan. Pray for translators and especially for arranging the technical equipment for translating (microphones for translators and headphones for students)! It is very important now! It would be a great improvement and help to the students because now there are three translations going on simultaneously in the same classroom:

- 1) from English into Turkish – Umid does it via Skype from Bilecik;
- 2) from English into Farsi for our Iranian students;
- 3) from English into Russian for students from republics of the former Soviet Union (Nazaket does it).

Please pray for me, that I will be able to enter Turkey in April when the next semester of Bible school starts. Right now I am in Moscow. On February 2nd, I traveled to Istanbul but I was not let in by the Passport Police. Sorry, this special adventure I will describe for you in the next newsletter. Please just wait a week!

God bless you! Thank you for keeping us in your prayers!

Nina

