

Tucson Refugee Ministry

December 2006

Newsletter #7

A family in Washington DC had a neat tradition. Every year they invited a lonely person to come and spend Christmas with them. One year they were thinking about who might be a lonely person and they decided to invite the Ambassador of Libya. Relations between Libya and the US were not good at that time and they thought that maybe the Ambassador was lonely and could use some friends. They contacted him and he said YES! He came and spent Christmas with them, along with one of his aides. That day he said something that they will never forget. He said, "I have lived in the US for almost 22 years now and I've been invited to many important functions, but this is the first time I've ever been invited into an American home."

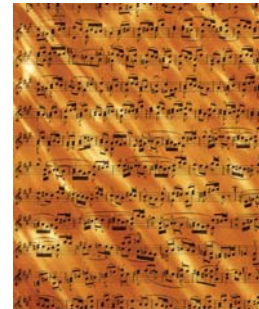


There are many refugees and other international people who live here in America and they don't have any American friends, and many more who do not know any Christian believers. Most of my refugee friends come here believing that ALL Americans are Christian, and their definition of Christian is different from ours. Their "Christian" is defined by the images that they see on TV on American soap operas and programs like Baywatch that they watch overseas. That's almost as bad as us believing that all Muslims are terrorists!! How will they know if we don't tell them (Romans 10:14)? How will these "sons of Ishmael" ever understand that Jesus died for them too? Jesus told us to "GO" and to make disciples. But we do not have to pack our bags, buy expensive airline tickets, or get any shots in order to fulfill the Great

Commission... all we need is our car keys!
God is bringing the nations to our doorstep!



There are some specific needs right now that I would like to share with you. I know it is a very busy time of year, and if you are like me, you are WAY behind already. But 'tis the season to show the love of Christ, and what better way to do that than to reach out to people by meeting some tangible needs? The needs are listed below at the bottom of the newsletter.



Christmas Caroling is not a need, but an opportunity for the whole family! On Friday, December 22nd we are going caroling to several of the refugee communities. Mark it on your calendar! We have done this before, and it is so much fun to see their surprise and excitement when they answer the door and see lots of Americans who have come to serenade them and hand out cookies. If you can join us that evening please call me and I will let you know where we are meeting. (#360-9195 cell)

Well, Christmas is coming and we celebrate the birth of a baby that changed our lives, and in fact saved our lives. Muslims believe that Jesus was only a great prophet. They actually have the same story in the Koran about the angel coming to tell the Virgin Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus, who is even described as the Word! And we know that in John 1:14 of the Bible that the "Word" became flesh and dwelled among us! Jesus is mentioned many times in the Koran and it can be a wonderful bridge to help our Muslim friends understand really who Jesus is and why He came and why He died.

When I put up my Christmas tree this year I remembered what my Muslim friend in the Middle East said when I asked her why so

many families there had Christmas trees and decorations. She said "Jesus isn't just for Christians." I think that is profound.



May our Muslim friends find this year that Jesus is so much more than a prophet!

Specific Immediate Needs:

***English teacher:** A woman from Afghanistan needs someone to come to her house and teach her beginning English. She is over 50 and lives by herself and doesn't have any family here.

***English teacher:** A mother of two from Russia needs an English teacher. She has a young baby and a three year old and doesn't ever leave the house.

***Baby Shower:** A young Russian mother just gave birth last week to a new baby boy. She still has a lot of baby needs and doesn't know any Americans to ask for help. It doesn't necessarily have to be a shower, but if your church group or Bible Study wants to bless a family, this would be a good way. We could just drop some things off at her house together if that works best.

***Adopt-a-Family:** There are several new Meskhetian-Turk families who have arrived in the past month and they don't have any American volunteers or sponsoring church group. The MT's are an un-reached people group, and there are many of them living right here in Tucson. If you would be interested in meeting one of these families please, please, please, by all means call me. :)

New Website!

The Refugee Ministry has a new website (*thank you Stacy!*) if you want to check it out!
<http://www.catalinaassociation.org/tucsonrefugees.htm>

I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.

Revelation 7:9

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR KING!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Love... Cherie