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Address:

Kizilirmak Mah.
1443.Cad (eski 53.Cad)
Yagmur Ap 31/23
Cankaya/Ankara TURKEY

Phone:

011-90-312-285-5462

E-mail:

brian.phipps@interman.us



United States

Box 850357
Richardson, TX 75085

1500 International Parkway
Suite 300
Richardson, TX 75081

tel 800-755-7955

email info@christar.org

Member of ECFA and IFMA

Canada

(the ministry of

International Missions in Ontario, Inc.)

PO Box 20164

St. Catharines, ON L2M 7W7

tel 800 295-4158

tel 905 646-0228

fax 905 646-8707

email christar@on.aibn.com

Member of CCCC and IFMA

www.christar.org

Please contact our Prayer Letter Secretary with address changes or to receive future prayer letters by email:

Melissa M. Phillips
9388 S County Road 100 W
Clayton, IN 46118-9245

E-mail:

PCS.ServingHim@gmail.com

Brian & Dana Phipps

Dear Friends,

Lokman's story

God is using the Internet in Turkey. Lokman's story is a great example. This October Lokman turned to the Internet to find answers to his questions about God. Flood gates of opportunity opened: Lokman found good Christian websites, he met Brian and received a Bible, he began participating in Bible studies and other fun activities, he downloaded and listened to Christian programming. Finally, by the end of November, Lokman believed in our crucified and risen Savior Jesus for the forgiveness of his sins!

Jesus has become more valuable to Lokman than all the other things he used to chase after. Lokman loves the Word of God. He participates in four different Bible studies each week. In the late evenings, Lokman often uses Facebook to share truth with new online friends. Through these "virtual chats," Lokman has even arranged face-to-face meetings to share the Gospel. As such, Lokman has gone from Internet seeker to Internet fisher of men! Praise God! Please pray for Lokman's progress in the grace of God. Pray for him to stay humble.

Ali's story

Ali was befriended by a missionary 25 years ago (without help from the Internet!). They grew so close that the missionary was in Ali's wedding. They also spent many hours in Bible study. Ali claimed faith in Christ, but the missionary had reasons to doubt Ali's genuineness. Over time, the missionary moved away and these two men lost contact with each other.

Fast-forward two decades. Ali is divorced, living with his parents, and his paychecks go directly to the bill collectors. But God used these crises in Ali's life. Ali's interest in Christ was re-kindled, and he turned to the Internet to order a Bible. That's how we met! We invited Ali to participate in our Bible study. Months of good teaching took place. Whatever the spiritual condition of Ali's heart was over the past 25 years, it is clear to everyone now that Ali is truly saved. Ali is a faithful member of the church plant. He even took the bold step of changing his identification card from "Muslim" to "Christian!" Ali hopes to be baptized just as soon as winter passes. Please pray for Ali. Pray for the struggles he faces.

"I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down"

We rejoice with Lokman and Ali. But, now we have to completely switch gears and report a crisis to you. Sadly, as in the familiar children's story, the big bad wolf (Satan) has come banging on the door of our church plant.

For the past three months we have been in the middle of a heart-wrenching conflict with our co-workers. For the sake of discretion we do not want to share the details of the situation. But we do want to share that we have deeply searched our hearts, seeking to see and repent of our own sins. We have done all we can on our part to strive for reconciliation with our co-workers, but to no avail. They are not willing to work through misunderstandings. They are not willing for us to remain in ministry with them.

This has greatly confused and distressed the Turkish brothers and sisters in the church plant. A few of the Turks have grown discouraged and are no longer attending regularly. To be sure, this has become a fierce spiritual battle. Please pray.

Please pray for our family. We are in need of spiritual, emotional, and physical restoration. We need wisdom and guidance concerning our future service for God in Turkey. **In which Turkish city do we next serve? With which organization do we serve?**

We praise God that He has provided a house, vehicle, etc. for our upcoming furlough year in America, which starts in March. We are excited to reconnect with family and friends. We look forward as well to the input of our pastors.

Final prayer requests

- Pray for good progress in Taylor and Tyson's **home schooling**. The team conflict has been a big distraction to our regular routine.
- Pray for a good start to our **furlough**.
- Our Turkmen brother, **Murat**, has enrolled in a one year ministry training program. Pray that this school, along with his regular participation in the church plant, would prepare him well for future service to Christ.
- **Mert** went to northern Iraq for work. His wife and three children remain here in Ankara. Pray for Mert to abide in Christ. Pray for his family to continue participating in the Bible studies without him.

Love,