

Reaching Refugees

September 2008

It's hard for me to believe that summer is over, but here we are in September already. I hope that you all had a great summer filled with good times with family and friends. I am so glad I got to spend two weeks in July visiting so many of you in Michigan. It was so good to see you and hear how God is working in your lives. I was blessed by your warm hospitality, kind generosity, sweet fellowship and good humor. It was good to be 'home'.



Thank you so much for all of your prayers this summer. God provided enough gas money for my trip to Michigan, gave me a chance to share my ministry with many people and has made this transition to B.U.I. (Bethlehem Urban Initiatives) go very well. I also want to thank my financial supporters who have continued their support through this transition. Your support is a great encouragement to me.

I ask you now to continue to pray with urgency about my need for more financial support. I have gained no more new supporters in the past few months and found out that one of my major supporters will be unable to continue their support starting next year. This has been very discouraging but I know God has a purpose in it. I know that God has called me to this ministry and he will provide all that I need in his time.

"...the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel."

I Corinthians 9:14

My current need is approximately \$1167 per month. Aside from all of the letters, e-mails and phone calls I am making, I hope to be speaking to some small groups about my ministry. Please pray that God would bring these together soon and provide many of these opportunities so that we can see God's provision through his people. If you live in Minnesota, and would be willing to have me come to share with your small group or church, please contact me soon. I can show pictures, talk about my ministry with S.A.L.T. and give people the opportunity to become a financial or prayer partner.

One of our goals at SALT is to facilitate and encourage relationship-building between our students and volunteers. Summertime is a great time to make this happen. Volunteers were able to visit students in their homes, go on shopping trips, invite them into their homes, and even share a parable of Jesus. We praise God for how he is working through our volunteers to reach out in the name and love of Jesus Christ.



I also have opportunities to do these kinds of things and recently went out with a volunteer and two students on an outing to the Somali mall. This is a place where Somalis own all the businesses and sell a lot of imports and things that they particularly like. It is a cultural experience just to walk around in there. After a little shopping, we went back to one student's apartment for a snack. Then, both of these ladies insisted on giving us gifts of clothing. It was a great opportunity to show our love to these two women and for them to express their love and gratitude to us. In their culture, it is important to not always be

receiving from others but to also give something in return. It is very satisfying to them. When we saw them the next school day, they were just so radiant and glad to see us. This is just one way that God is giving us inroads into their lives. We pray that as they learn more English, we will be able to communicate more significant things that have eternal value.

During the month of September our students are observing Ramadan. This is a month of fasting and prayer to seek God's favor. Their practice of fasting is extreme and causes many of them to get sick. It's a time of heightened spiritual awareness and often involves an intensifying of spiritual darkness. Please pray for God to reveal himself to them through dreams and visions. Pray that they will realize the futility of trying to earn God's favor, the weight of their sin and the need for a Savior. May God draw them in a powerful way by his Holy Spirit.

Gratefully His,
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