



# Jerry & Sarah Mattix Update

Dear Friends,

We just returned from a day out with a large group of our church and the At Risk Women. We went to the other side of the island, just two hours away, where we picked strawberries. Afterwards we enjoyed a relaxing time at a garden tea house/bakery. We're trying to wind down after a very intense season. Sarah is wrapping up her counseling and last assignments and I'm handing things over to others as we prepare to leave on Monday for a two months furlough in the US. Of course there is still plenty of tension in the air regarding the situation in Iran and we can only pray that the Lord will have his way and bring his Kingdom to the Middle East.

The biggest highlight for us this month was celebrating the Resurrection of Christ at the 800 year old Nestorian Church in the old city. Initially we were denied permission but after our mayor went to bat for us we were granted access. We had a full day planned, with crafts and food out on tables after which a couple of hundred people crammed into the building for the service. We were honored to have the mayor and a host of new people join us as we reflected on the greatest day in history. Because of the tensions in the region the police outside were on edge but in the end we were grateful for the opportunity to publicly proclaim Christ's victory. We pray that many of the seeds planted will bear great fruit.

Earlier in the month we had the joy of baptizing five people. A student from Uzbekistan, a Sudanese brother and an Iranian mother with her two daughters. The later had received counseling from Sarah after the loss of their father and all ended up making their way to the church. It was a beautiful opportunity to celebrate their commitment to Christ and inclusion into the family of God. Recently we have also had the joy of seeing another Sudanese brother named Mohammed give his life to Christ. A couple of our At Risk Women are also on route to faith in Christ. Pray for each of these

to grow deep in their relationship with God as they are sure to face stiff resistance.

More recently I made a short trip to Azerbaijan where I connected with dear fellow workers from Diyarbakir, Turkey. We were meeting with longtime supporters and sharing about what God is doing in the region. It was a joy to hear people we mentored in Diyarbakir 13 years ago share about all that God is doing there now. Indeed, despite all the negative things we see in the news, Christ is faithfully building his church in the Middle East. Of course there is much more to share and we look forward to seeing many of you in our travels across the US. In the meantime enjoy some pictures which often say it better than we could ever say it.

Blessings, Jerry and Sarah



Baptism in the ancient harbor of Salamis



Celebrating Easter in the Nestorian Church



Celebrating Easter in the Nestorian Church



Strawberry picking Trip