

Refugee Brethren & Sisters Feb 2006

We continue in touch with a number of severely persecuted brethren and sisters who are on the run from various forms of persecution. We've reported already how a number of Iranian brethren have been helped to escape safely to North America, where they are now all active members of ecclesias. We've also reported how a persecuted family in West Africa have now safely relocated to South America. However, there are a number of other such brothers and sisters with whom we're still prayerfully working. These include Iranians currently in hiding or appealing to the UNHCR in various countries; and some brethren from Nepal, whose wives and families are stranded behind the Maoist front line in rural Nepal, and are undergoing severe hardship. We ask for your prayers for them all, and your continued support for them.

We have developed a good relationship with the UNHCR, and we'd like to recount a recent miracle of sorts which the Lord worked. There is an Iranian sister currently seeking asylum, located in Turkey. Her parents are with her, but the UNHCR had closed their case, and the Turkish authorities wanted to deport her father to Iran, where he faces a death sentence [quite wrongly and unfairly]. We have seen the documentation from the court. He attempted to leave Turkey but was imprisoned and threatened with deportation to Iran to face the death sentence there. Our sister Chenor is young and in need of our support. We contacted UNHCR and pleaded for them to be involved again with the case, purely for humanitarian reasons. A lawyer was contacted to try to help with the case- as you can see from the text messages, these things are expensive:



these things are expensive

Our sister lives in a town some way away from the prison where her father was placed. We arranged to meet her at a bus station, and it was wonderful to simply pray together and take courage together as soon as we met:



simply pray together

Praying at every stage, we went to a lawyer or 'avukat'. Here is our sister outside and inside the office:



our sister outside and inside the office

The lawyer was good and we persuaded him to come with us immediately to the prison. Here we are accompanying him and our sister first to a taxi



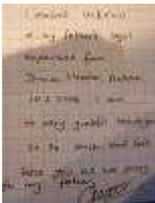
first to a taxi

... and then following our lawyer into the prison itself:



into the prison

We gave our sister what support we could and as usual got a receipt:



a receipt

Chenor's dad was in a bad way. Imprisoned with a bunch of Nigerian drug traffickers, this 60 year old man was in an awful way due to his chronic diabetes. No account was taken of his dietary requirements and he was in a terrible state, hands severely swollen, eyesight failing, terribly thirsty, served sweet Turkish tea with sugar automatically mixed in a couple times / day, not given enough to drink. The drink he'd been given earlier by the family had been stolen by the other prisoners in the cell. They just grab whatever he gets. Anyway we went to a market and bought as much as we could of food and drink suitable for diabetics, feeling we had to do what we could. Here we are outside the prison perimeter with the food:



a outside the prison perimeter with the food

The lawyer and UNHCR promised they'd do what they could but humanly speaking it didn't look hopeful. We were as worried about him even dying of kidney failure from the uncontrolled diabetes as we were of his being deported to his death in Iran. We did what we humanly could and committed the case in prayer to our Father. Within a few days, quite against all human probability, good news came through, as recorded in the following texts:



Our sister and her husband are really so very grateful for the support given. But they are two of quite a number of refugee brothers and sisters in similar straits. It was as if God was super actively at work for our brethren, because at about the same time, we received news that another Iranian brother and sister in Turkey had been suddenly allowed to leave for Finland:



We can only give thanks for all these blessings. The majority of Iranians who appeal for asylum are refused [over 90%]; but nearly all the cases of our brethren have been accepted. We put this down not only to their evident sincerity and the genuineness of their cases, but to our Father's lavished blessing upon us.

Please do continue to support the work being done with our refugee brethren. Every little helps, but above all your prayers are clearly powerful. Thank you.

Your brothers and sisters of CCM

SPECIAL NOTE:

CCM have a treasurer, Br John Thatcher, and he has produced accounts for our expenditure. Basically whatever comes in, goes out [pretty quickly!]. Any who'd like a copy of them can apply to Information