

Brokenness to Healing

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." ~Psalm 34:18

The world is full of people who understand what it means to be brokenhearted and have a crushed spirit. Regardless of the source of their brokenness, many are seeking peace.

This past October another conflict began in the Middle East. Kurdish and Iraqi armies are again warring against one another over disputed areas in northern Iraq. The advance of the Iraqi military and subsequent fighting has caused thousands of Kurds to flee into neighboring cities and villages throughout the region.

As winter began to bear down, our Reach the Rest team received word of several refugee families living in broken-down housing units with no heat or adequate supplies. These families have little to help them manage the cold. The RTR team, along with national believers, loaded up vehicles with food and heaters and traveled off to meet them.

Gathered in one house, 12 families greeted the RTR team as they arrived to distribute the much-needed supplies, food, and heaters. These displaced

families were thankful and expressed their gratitude many times.

Over the next few months, the RTR team continued to visit and build relationships with these Kurdish families. They began to openly pray for

Prayer Points

- Pray for wisdom and strength for those serving and working among the Kurds in northern Iraq and other parts of the Middle East.
- Pray that the spirit of war and violence in the Middle East will be overturned with hope and peace that comes from our Lord.



*Tea Time
with Ameena.*

their needs, share their personal testimonies, and relate truths from the Word of God. Eventually, they had the opportunity to give a Bible to each person who desired one.

These Kurdish families often debate with one another about what they are experiencing and what they are hearing from those who are helping them. Some insist that the Gospel is true because it is Christians who are doing good and loving others, while those of their own faith are killing and oppressing one another. One Muslim man explained how he had attended a local church multiple times in order to discover the “false teachings” of Christianity. When he reported back, he was dumbfounded. He could find no fault in the Gospel.

What began as a group bringing supplies to hurting people is

Photo has been altered for security purposes



being transformed into individuals being drawn to the Father and even defending the Gospel as unbelievers! Currently, some of these families are reading the Word of God regularly and asking about next steps in faith and baptism.

Ameena’s Story

Ameena is a Muslim woman and the mother of six children. She was born in a mountain village near the country of Iran and still lives there today. The Reach the Rest team came to her home on a cold, wintery day. She had prepared a feast for them to enjoy with endless cups of tea! In typical Kurdish tradition, everything was made by hand in lavish portions.

Ameena’s home consists of two rooms, an indoor and outdoor kitchen, and an outhouse. Only occasionally there is running water and electricity. Her roof and walls are mud and thatch and covered with plaster. Two of her six children were born in her home because it was too unsafe to travel to the hospital due to the conflict and unrest in the region.

Because she is illiterate, much of Ameena’s world is distant — including, and especially, the words of Jesus. The confusion and turmoil in her country only adds to her plight. She seeks peace. She seeks truth.

Ameena’s suffering is repeated by thousands of other



Displaced Kurdish families receiving food and supplies for the winter

women and children displaced by war and cultural upheaval throughout Kurdistan.

The Bible tells us that God sees and knows the needs of those who suffer. And He uses these difficult circumstances as opportunities for Christians to step forward, meet these needs, and share openly about the Father’s grace and mercy.

God’s love for the broken and wounded in spirit can be seen at the cross. His desire is for those who know Him to further His Kingdom by praying and partnering with His Spirit to reach those who have never heard the redemptive and life-giving work of Christ. The cross can turn defeat into victory and brokenness into healing!



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