From: **Sonja Luce** sonjaleeluce@gmail.com
Subject: June, 2023 Update
Date: June 14, 2023 at 12:44 AM
To: Justin jwindham@faithcommunity.ws

June 14, 2023

Dear Justin,

Greetings from sunny Cyprus! I hope you are well. As I prepare to return to the US for a few months, I want to give you a quick update on things here. I do hope that I might be able to see you, if possible, while I am stateside.

Things here have been difficult for many but God has been faithful and I have been very thankful and content to be here and see what the Lord has been doing. I am truly humbled by the generosity of many of you and the women are more grateful than I can convey.

The only jobs available to foreigners in Famagusta are still just the cleaning or restaurant server jobs for the most part. They pay them so very little for exhausting work. One of my workers has a son, 17, who was told he had a job. He and his mother were so excited! Unfortunately, after 2.5 days (20 hours) of cleaning and helping with deliveries, he was told he was no longer needed and was paid just 300 lira which today is less than $15.

There is no recourse for the foreigner who has no ability to pay for court fees and can so easily lose his visa to stay.

I currently have 8 women working for me. 3 are full-time now and 1 is awaiting a work permit in Turkey so she can return. After 6 years living here, she was denied a visa to stay and was told she needed a work permit. (providing a rental contract has been sufficient till now). I do not have an official business here so I am unable to

been sufficient till now). I do not have an official business here so I am unable to provide work visas which cost over $1000. Because my worker has a sister with a work visa, she is hoping to be able to receive one but is waiting in Turkey with some contacts of my pastor until she is able to return. This may be a sign of things to come. The thought of returning to Iran is devastating to these women. Prayers appreciated!

As we grow in hours and production of our handmade items, it is more and more difficult to get them all to the US and sell them. We are in real need of a store or someone willing and able to store and sell these items online. Please pray for this.

Below are some of our newest creations. You can custom order anything you like - we can even burn your name on the leather, but you would need to be patient with the time needed to ship. I am going to try to provide donation amount information of our instagram page but as of yet there are only some pictures. (Instagram)

Love
Romans 5:8
Shimi
Shimi

Pray Without Ceasing
LOVE
BEARS ALL THINGS,
BELIEVES ALL THINGS,
HOPES ALL THINGS,
ENDURES ALL THINGS.
-1 CORINTHIANS 13:7
You ARE LOVED Forever
-ROMANS 8:38-39

I have requested prayer for 'Sherry' in the past. I'm delighted to report that she has made the decision to follow Jesus and is really doing so much better than before. She was baptized this past Sunday and has now made the difficult but necessary decision to return to Iran. Please remember her in your prayers.

We took a recent trip the ruins of an abby. We had a lovely time and the women were so appreciative! Without cars, they rarely get to see anything outside of Famagusta.

As I prepare for another short summer in the States, I ask for your continued prayers for the sale of the many works these women have made this past year. I have several open houses scheduled and 2 churches have graciously offered for me to have a presentation there. I never know exactly how the Lord will provide or guide me during these trips but He always has. I praise Him for He is working in the lives of the lowly and 'forgotten' and He has given them hope. Praise be to our Savior!

Prayer and praise:

- Prayer for "Sherry". Back into a dark place but going with Jesus!

- Praise for a wonderful trip to Istanbul where we found many wonderful pieces of leather!
- Prayer for wisdom for me this summer and for "Di" as she will be in charge while I am away. It can be difficult for her.
- Prayer for "May" who needs a visa to return here and is separated from her sister
- Prayer for an additional way to sell items

Thank you so much! May the Lord bless you richly!

With you in His service,

Sonja

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