

2 March 2013

Dear Pastor Victor and Lisa

Greetings and hope you are fine.

Long time I am not hearing from you. So, hope you and the ministry are going well.

This is to update you about us, although I am little bit tired of repeating myself. Because it seems that the world got tired of hearing the same news and in fact even the media is forgetting us, too, when there is no new news or they got bored of repeating the same disastrous situation, where, unfortunately, only the people are the sufferers.

Since July 2012 and until today, we had and still having tough days. I am not able to go, ten minutes by car, far away from the Church . No safety at all and snipers are everywhere. The roads are dangerous, because of kidnapping, and the airport, since two months, is closed, too. Therefore to leave the city is very risky and dangerous.

At the end of December I sent a Christmas letter-message, where I mentioned about our situation (hope you received it???).

At the end of January I sent another update –message (hope you received that,too???).

The last two-three months were tough months. No bread, no electricity, no water, no fuel for heating homes, no telephones, no internet, but thank God for the Oxygen to breath. Despite all of these, we continued our Worship Services, every Sunday morning, with average of attendance 80-85 people. Without electricity and without heating, the people were coming by walk, despite a lot of challenges, to worship the LORD. Praise the Lord.

As a Church our main focus –ministry was and is the relief help.

Unfortunately due to the disastrous situation, we were not able to find some items and whatever we were able to get, the prices were incredibly high and always increasing for four-five times more and everything is in black market. For example. – The bread: As you know, for Middle Eastern people, the bread is essential for daily living. Before one year, the price of one pack of bread (eight loaves) was 15-20 Syrian liras. From December until the first of this month, the price of the same pack was 250-300 Syrian liras. Now, the price 125 Syrian Liras.

We helped more than 100 needy families with food parcels-kit, bread, blankets, medicines, candles, baby milk, etc...Plus we helped widows, orphans, elderly, sick people and especially refugees who were out of their homes. Before one year the price

of one food parcel's cost was \$30 .Now the same parcel's cost is \$70-75.Unbelievable prices and disastrous economical situation.

Through your help, we tried our best to help the neediest and the refugees. So, thank you so much for your concerns, prayers and support.

Unfortunately, the situation is not calming down and the people got tired of waiting for PEACE.

On the other hand, the increases of kidnapping the Christians are another fact. Still two priests were kidnapped and not released yet .Other Christians were kidnapped, too. The gangs asking ransom for release. This chaos situation is very dangerous. I am afraid; this will lead the Christians to another exodus. Please keep this matter, in your prayers.

The last ten days, the situation got worse in our area and the rebels were closed to us, 150-200 meters. Couple of days, me and my family was obliged not to leave the building. The shops closed, the people flew. I was praying for God's wisdom. The fear was that the rebels are coming to control the area. What shall I say and how to talk to them, if they came to me??

But thank God .The army got the control and pushed them little bit far from us. Now, we are "safe", but a new sniper is closed to us and we are not able to cross that street, which is far 100 meters from us.

Thank God the Lord is in control. He is our Refuge and Shelter. HE is keeping us "safe".

Please continue your prayers .The people's need are hope, safety, courage and strength. My daily challenge is to continue praying and empowering them with God's peace, which is beyond our understanding, and helping them, as much as I can, for their daily needs.

Please keep my safety and my family's safety in your prayers, too.

With best wishes and prayers

Serop

P.S. Sorry for bothering you and telling you our sad situation and asking, always, your prayers. But Praise the Lord, that, through His GRACE, we are able to witness HIM.