

Dear praying friends,
It is so good and such a privilege to be here.

Praise God I had such a smooth trip here and my plane from Toronto was full of the nicest sweetest Iranian grandmas! Some of them were going back to Iran for the funerals of their kids that died in the plane that got shot down. That was very sad and somehow a privilege to be on that plane to "mourn with those who mourn". in the midst of a very hard time for them personally and for their country they were soooo kind to me. I felt like I had 50 grandmothers taking care of me. They kept feeding me the whole flight with food they were pulling out of their purses :) And there kept asking how I was doing and if I was ok. The sweetest tiny grandma sitting next to me put her little pillow on my neck and snuggled in and slept on my shoulder the whole flight :) Somehow it made me feel so loved by Jesus that he sent these precious grandmas to take care of me on my journey.

I can see so many ways in which J-s-s has given me grace to be here now. Thank you for lifting me up. Your prays and notes of encouragement have meant sooo much to me since coming!

I am slowly adjusting to life here. I am really enjoying my small team here and have felt really loved and encouraged and built up by them. I love my room and it is good to have place where I can feel peaceful and rest. This city is massive and colourful and sooo interesting. I love to take rickshaws here and watch the people we are driving past. There are soooo many people here. The sun is always shining here and the dust in the air makes for beautiful sunsets which I can see from my big bedroom window! That is such a blessing. I can't walk around outside here but I found a way to still exercise in a little sunshine: I run up and down the stairwell of our apartment building. My team-mate took me plant shopping on Friday so I could put some plants in my exercise stairwell and put some in my room. Sometimes I feel a bit stuck inside but it was nice to bring some of the outside in! I love every chance I get to go out and see the city and interact with local people and eat amazing food. I am LOVING my language teachers and going to language school. My main teacher is about my Grandpa's age and he is sooo kind and such a good teacher. He regularly falls asleep while he is teaching which makes it hard for me to hold in my laughter. There is a small shopping center near my language lessons. I realized last week that there are lots of women there from my people group who go there to shop or have lunch with friends. It was so exciting to hear them speaking and to be able to understand a lot of it. So I have been going there for lunch after my morning classes to pray walk. Maybe one day I will have a divine appointment. There is SO much to be thankful for here.

Two weeks ago I was at a different shopping centre with a friend to get some local clothes. There was some kind of performance going on by a bunch of primary schools. The little kids were singing songs and it was being broadcast on the speakers of the shopping centre. Hundreds and hundreds people were crowded in sitting and watching the performance. We were listening to the cute music through the speakers while we shopped when all of sudden the kids started singing in English: " If I were a butterfly,

I'd thank you, Lord, for giving me wings.

And if I were a robin in a tree,

I'd thank you, Lord, that I could sing.

And if I were a fish in the sea,

I'd wiggle my tail, and I'd giggle with glee,

But I'd just thank you, Father, for making me Me!

'Cause you gave me a heart,

And you gave me a smile

You gave me Jesus,

And you made me your child.

And I just thank you, Father, for making me Me!"

My friend I looked at each other shocked and delighted to hear this song being broadcast in this shopping centre in front of all these precious

Mslm people. We rushed out to see the performance. The teachers of the school performing were dressed in a more conservative isl-mic fashion. I am not sure why they chose that song for their performance or if they actually understood the words but it sure made me cry with joy to hear it in this place sung by tiny little kids.

There have definitely been some stretching things about being here. It is a lot of change and new things to adjust too. Even though I am enjoying the city and the people, I can tell my body is under more stress than usual. Especially though, being here has been stretching for my faith. There are still sooooo many unknowns about my future here. Sometimes I find the uncertainty quite unsettling and the constant change of plan confusing. I want to trust Gd that he can make a way for me to be here long term, a way for me to connect with my people group here and be a light for him. Since coming though I am realizing that Gd's main heart for me in the midst of challenges is that I know J-s-s. It is HIS work to do here, not my own. He wants me to be here to know him and be his friend.

In a place where I feel helpless to "do stuff" sometimes these verses from John 6 have taken on a whole new meaning in my life:

28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works Gd requires?"

29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." ...**33** For the bread of Gd is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

34 "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. **36** But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. **37** All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. **38** For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. **39** And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. **40** For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

It is so powerfully wonderful what J-s-s is asking us to do. To know him and believe him. But even this I am so weak to do without Jesus's help!

Pryr Requests

My main pry request is that my heart would be soft and that I would remain connected to J-s-s here.

-This coming Thursday I will be traveling up North to the capital city to check out a v-s- possibility. I will also be traveling to the main city of my people group here. I will be visiting some mentors/friends there. I am sooo excited to interact with my people group more and to see them in their own setting and homeland.

Pry for a good trip to these two cities and for vision and insight and encouragement from J-s-s. I am also looking for possibilities for placement for other young people who want to come and work here. Pray that I would be sensitive to the Holy Spirit on my trip and that my interactions with people would be full of J-s-s.

-Pry for my mind to be protected here. and for good sleeps.

-Pry that J-s-s would share his heart with me for the precious people here

-Pry that J-s-s would show himself to women from my people group. That they could come to him and find rest

Thank you for prying. Sooo thankful for each one of you.
in Him, K.