

# Wes and Rachael

Missionaries to [REDACTED]

Dear Pastors and Praying Friends,

*And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. (Matt 17:8)*

No matter how many times I discuss with [REDACTED] what time we will try to meet, I can always count on one thing- he will be very late. So an hour after our discussed time, I was still waiting and finally relegated myself to just enjoying the moment. The kids in the street had found a piece of Styrofoam and were cleverly making shapes of toys they wished they had (ironically, none of them made a smart phone). The hustle and bustle of everyday life in the desert is a nice reprieve from the constant pressure we place upon ourselves.

At times, this pressure may be induced by the decision that faces families like us the world over: *We vs. Me*. 'We' represents the people(s) Christ freely gave His life for on the Cross of Calvary. 'Me' represents the ministry we frequently try to take credit for or represent. Choosing 'We' means doing things to help others that are unwritten, unseen, never talked about, photographed, or have funds raised for them. There will never be a hash-tag campaign, blue check, or viral post to justify the sacrifice. Clearly stated, putting them first means they only see Jesus.

## ***Life Lessons | Ramadan & Resurrection Sunday***

Two of the most important holidays for believers worldwide are only three weeks apart this month. Setting the dates of Ramadan depends upon a lunar calendar that cycle through every 33 years. Consequently, this is one of the busiest times we get in ministry (but a couple of times every 33 years is nothing to complain about). Also, Orthodox Easter comes a week after the Western date.

We recently faced a *We vs. Me* decision that involved helping families celebrate these two events. We did not ask for direct assistance during this season as so many people just helped us with the Baskets & Blankets Project. Be that as it may, we could not turn a blind eye to those whom the Lord has placed in our hearts for fear of God's warning:

*Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. (Ez. 34: 3-4)*

Nonetheless, the Lord knew the need. Numerous churches and individuals sent extra support allowing us to touch nearly 800 families thus far by helping with a holiday meal bag and new dresses (abayas) for the ladies and girls who need one. Relationships, not handouts, are the goal of our ministry. With world food prices and inflation at record levels, the love of Christ has never been shown more clearly.

## ***New Church Plants | Th[REDACTED]***

We continue to make new contacts and strengthen relationships as we wait for the day we can hold a meeting at the [REDACTED] Church plant. The process remains engaging due to changes in regulations, building codes, permits, and other normative issues. Over and above that, we are already praying about the location of a 3rd church. Would you pray with us for wisdom, guidance, and direction as we begin laying the foundation for the next phase of the ministry?

## ***Praise Reports & Prayer Requests***

- For the 3 ladies who accepted Christ as their Savior in the month of March.
- For the church planters as we finish off the sophomore year of the Bible College.
- For new converts to see the need and biblical truth to follow in Believer's Baptism. Your friends and God's servants,

***Wes & Rachel [REDACTED]***

*... See the Missionary board in the old church, or contact Emmett for the full letter.*