

# MINISTRY UPDATE FROM VICTORIA D.



“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!” Psalms 96:3

## Prayers and Praises

• Please pray for me as I say goodbye to many dear friends and move to America this month. Pray for God’s strength in the midst of transition.



“Kemal” after his baptism last year.

## From Death to Life

“Kemal” began to research religion at age 14. He quickly became disillusioned with the local religion and instead became an online atheist apologist. Yet over time, his staunch atheism led him into depression and suicidal thoughts, as he realized how meaningless his life was.

When he was 24, in the course of a single week, he lost his job, was dumped by his girlfriend, and had a travel visa application rejected. This deepened his depression. Noticing a problem, Kemal’s family tried to “cure” him using local witchcraft. Through this, Kemal began to be aware of the spiritual world around him, particularly demons. He reasoned that if demons are real, God must be real as well.

This realization first led him back to a mosque, but he didn’t find the answers he was seeking. Then he stumbled across an Instagram ad for a Christmas celebration at our church. Kemal thought that Christianity was a ridiculous religion with heretical teaching of “three gods,” yet he decided to visit the church anyway.

What he found was a crowd of people worshipping and singing about how great God is, and he felt love there. Kemal had always been proud that he never cried as a man, yet that day, his eyes filled with tears. For the next 3 months, he read and researched about Jesus alone in his home. Suddenly one day he awoke and realized “I want to believe in Jesus!”

It was now March, and he went to the church again on a weekday during visiting hours. He told the volunteer there “I want to know Jesus,” and they spent the next 3 hours in deep conversation. At the end of that time, Kemal placed his faith in Jesus!

Kemal describes himself as becoming a totally different person overnight. His friends immediately recognized a change in him and asked what had happened. “I was dead, but now I am alive!” he told them. Now Kemal is growing in his faith as he attends and serves at church—including receiving visitors during open hours, where he tells them that he was sitting in their spot just one year ago.

**In case you missed my announcement** in last month’s letter, I am transitioning out of full-time ministry and moving back to America later this month! It has been a privilege to serve in ministry these past 16 years, and I am so grateful for your partnership. Please pray for me during this season of change.

If you are a financial partner, please contact Austin ([austin.dunaway@sheltering-wings.org](mailto:austin.dunaway@sheltering-wings.org)) at the Sheltering Wings office to discontinue your giving after May.

OR if you would like to continue supporting the ministry here in the Middle East, **please consider transferring your support to my friends and coworkers, Pastor Ali and Kaylee Öztürk**, also with Sheltering Wings. I would love to introduce you!