

AN UPDATE FROM E & J serving in North Africa



E & J are Parkside missionaries serving in a closed country. We have blurred their photo for their protection. E writes:

It's hard to believe that it's been almost two years now since we moved from Northeast Ohio to North Africa. Although life here might seem a bit different from what we've known in the States, we are thankful to know that our God is still the same and is faithfully providing and working! As we press on, and as you stand with us, it is important to remember what our goal is:

"To glorify God by obeying him in order to see a sustainable, reproducing movement of maturing, Bible-believing and Bible-obeying local churches among the 'C' [initial only for security purposes]. This is done as a team, in partnership with 'C' believers, and the national church."

This goal helps direct our efforts here. "C" stands for the minority people group that we are focused on reaching. They have no churches, and the Bible has yet to be translated into their language.

Our first step in this process is learning the language. Our message is one that needs to be communicated carefully and understood rightly, and therefore, being able to communicate competently is foundational. Language learning can be interesting and rewarding at times, and at times monotonous

and discouraging. The Lord has been teaching us a lot of lessons along the way and we are always grateful when we can see glimpses of growth. E has had opportunities with tutors. We look forward to being able to clearly share the good news one day! Please pray that we will continue to persevere in our language learning and that the Lord will save our tutors, neighbors, and friends!

To see our goals accomplished, we need to have a long-term, legitimate presence in the country and among the "C". To develop this, we need to have a business which will provide both official permission and understanding from our neighbors who might otherwise be suspicious of foreigners. E and his coworkers have been researching some options this past year and have recently decided to move forward with what seems like a viable business plan. This business gives us a good reason to leave the big city and move to the more rural and less developed "C" region.



Above: The "C" region, where E & J hope to move in the next year

This coming year, we hope to develop a plan to move our families and business to the "C" region. Pray that God would continue to open doors for this business and for the ability to establish a long-term, legitimate presence among the "C" for the sake of Christ.

We are thankful for how the Lord has been growing our family! We left Ohio with two little kids and now M is five years old, J is almost four, and C was born here last year. We are so grateful for how our kids have opened opportunities for relationships with locals here! The Lord is also using them to refine us as well.

The two oldest are attending a local preschool a few mornings a week and are starting to understand more of the language. Pray for the salvation of our children and that we will shepherd them well in the ways of the Lord.

The Lord has been so gracious, kind, and good to us! As we reflect over the past two years, here are some praises that come to mind:

- Patient language tutors who are interested in engaging with the Bible
- Progress in language
- Neighbors who are kind and patient
- Our 2-bedroom apartment within walking distance to small markets & shops
- The safe delivery and birth of our daughter here
- Supportive teammates
- Some special visits from friends

Thank you so much for praying for our family. Ask that God would use our efforts to glorify the name of Jesus among people who have never heard.

With His love,
E & J (and kids)