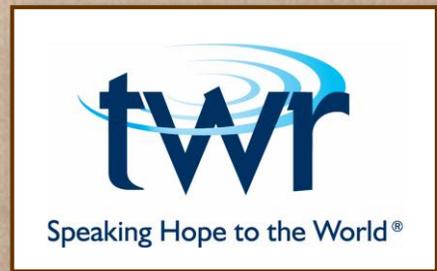


The Rags Bag!

An odd gathering of events and articles that may at times have something to do with the Ragsdale Clan and their adventures in Europe. This might include their latest musings, ministry updates, news, maybe even a song or picture that is in some way or another related to our ministry, extended family and friends. Our hope is that whatever comes out of "The Rags Bag" will not frighten, but instead, enlighten and encourage you to pray for us and TWR.



Dear Family, Friends & Prayer Warriors:

July 2020

Uncertain times...

As I sit here writing this letter, so many things are racing through my mind. Over the past few months my mom, Ruth Ragsdale, has been in a stage of declining health. Not knowing how much time she had left I purchased a ticket to return to Oregon to be with her and dad. I flew out of Cyprus and arrived in Hillsboro, Oregon on Sunday evening, June 21. On Monday evening of June 22 at 6:05pm, my mom entered into the glorious presence of the Almighty. My parents' local church family in Hillsboro and two of my sibling's families who live in Oregon, have been an amazing support for mom and dad during this time. We praise the Lord that just a week earlier, mom and dad celebrated their anniversary on June 14th together with some of the family. Mom was a faithful prayer warrior and constant advocate for us all. We will miss her.



Celebrating 62 years of marriage, on Flag Day!

New broadcasts for the Kurdish Kurmanji...

I am overjoyed that a new ministry has opened for us in reaching out to Kurdish-Kurmanji people in southern Turkey and northern Syria. Over the past couple of months we have been preparing content that has been produced in years past for re-broadcast from an FM station in southern Turkey. For many years we had broadcast these programs from a high-powered AM station. It is an amazing provision of God, that we can now broadcast from this location on FM. Many different people, from six different ministry organizations, worked together to make these broadcasts a reality. Please pray with us for the broadcast to make a lasting impact and provide encouragement for Kurmanji believers in this war-torn part of the Middle East. Just after the broadcast began on June 1, I received a message from the station director saying that, "church people are very happy" and "one Kurdish brother heard the programs and started to cry." For many of the Kurdish people in this area, this will be one of their only ways to safely have access to the Gospel in their language dialect.

Continue to pray for our team in North Africa as they translate and produce programs for broadcast to Algeria in the Kabyle language. The team has really been stretched during these weeks of lockdown in the country with heavy restrictions on movement. I am grateful for a husband and wife team here in Cyprus who coordinate and manage the team activities from afar, as well as produce content, edit other people's programs, etc. In the midst of it all they have three young children to care for and educate due to the schools being closed. Pray for this family as they have faced some incredible personal challenges.

Changes to our team...

Over the months of July and August, we will experience the departure of three family units leaving our team here in Cyprus. They are relocating due to new ministry responsibilities within the organization. Pray for them as they make this move, something we did just a few months ago, and pray for us as we adjust to a new team dynamic.

On the home front...

A few weeks back, Carol woke me up to a burglary that was in process. The intruder came in through the kitchen window and took several food items from the freezer. We yelled from our bedroom and made lots of noise, which led to the quick departure of the intruder. Though we were traumatized by the experience, we praise the Lord that no one was harmed, and that no major items of value were stolen. It was a reminder to us that in times of forced lockdowns, many people are faced with desperation. Pray that we will remain salt and light in these times of upheaval for many.



Spending time with a friend & teammate who is leaving.

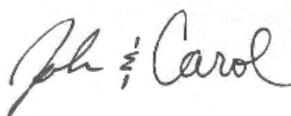
We had planned for Jean Marc to join us here in Cyprus for a few weeks, but due to restrictions on non-resident US nationals coming into Cyprus, we had to cancel those plans. He is now scheduled to join us here in early December to be with us over the Christmas period. He continues with summer classes and working on the maintenance crew on the campus at Toccoa Falls College. This is the first employment he has ever had, so he is enjoying the experience. We are grateful he is able to stay in student housing through the summer with other guys who are needing to work. In anticipation of John being in Oregon, Jean Marc will be joining John in Oregon from July 1 to 11.

Nicole is finally done with school for the summer break. She did well in her classes, and we praise the Lord for completion of what they call grade 12 here. Next year she starts grade 13 and Lord willing will graduate on May 28th, 2021. She has really missed her friends from Vienna this year, but she has also made a few new friends here. In fact, from June 20th until end of July, one of her friends will be living with us. The parents of her friend needed to travel back to the US for six weeks, and she did not want to go back to the US for the summer. Pray that she will have a good stay with us, and that we will adjust well to having two teenage girls under our roof.

Carol has been staying busy with assisting a couple of ladies from Cameroon who live here in Cyprus. One lady in particular is faced with some challenges in terms of staying in safe lodging and providing for her young child. She attends our church, but her English is quite limited. Carol is the go-to person for her. Pray for wisdom and strength for Carol as she encourages and helps the lady. Also pray for Carol as she cares for two teenage girls while I am away in the US. She will need strength, wisdom, grace and much more.

Though it is still unofficial, we are planning to return to the US late-summer 2021 for our Home Assignment. We will give you more details in the coming months. We continue to thank the Lord for you and for partnering with us through prayer and financial support.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John & Carol". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John, Carol, Jean Marc & Nicole Ragsdale
Serving the Lord with TWR in Europe & CAMENA

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