

# 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:

October 2020

## God is our refuge and strength...*Psalm 46:1a*

As we have learned from the news of the fires raging on the west coast of the USA, our thoughts have been drawn to our relatives, supporters and supporting churches in Oregon and Washington. We wonder if you have faced great loss or been impacted directly in some way by the continued spread of the fires. The pictures our family and relatives have sent or posted show so much smoke in the air. A Cypriot friend of Nicole, who has served with Youth for Christ here on the island, just moved to Medford, Oregon, recently to study. She arrived just a week before the town of Phoenix was hit by fire. What an introduction to her new home for this young lady from Cyprus. Even John's dad had relatives move in with him for a week, after having to evacuate from where their home is located. We're thankful their

home was not destroyed. These events can cause our minds to race and our hearts to grow faint with worry. Please know that we have been praying and please let us know how we can be praying for you.



Our Cypriot friend Kiveli, just before her departure for Medford, Oregon.



Ready for the start of her senior year (grade 13 here in Cyprus).

## Back to school...

We are thankful that Nicole is back in school, and the school is having on-site classes. We have no idea how long this arrangement will last, but for now we are hopeful and thankful she can attend classes for her final year of high school. By the time you read this letter she will have taken the SAT exam (which was cancelled in March due to Covid-19 lockdowns) and will be waiting for the results.

Jean Marc is fully back into college life, and we are grateful he is attending classes at Toccoa Falls College once again. The college has done away with fall break and have condensed the schedule so that the fall semester will end right before Thanksgiving Day. He has had a good start to the new school year. Because of the shortened semester, he plans to come see us on December 1<sup>st</sup> for a span of six weeks, unless new travel restrictions are imposed. Thank you for your continued prayers for him, and please pray that he will be able to join us for Christmas.

## Blessings in the hidden things...

You might be looking at the photo to the right and thinking, what is it? Well, if you look a bit closer, you will notice a little sea turtle. On the morning of Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, Carol, along with Nicole and a friend and her mom, got up really early drive to a location along the beach to watch little sea turtles hatch. Soon after hatching they would scurry over the stones to quickly make their way into the waves in an effort to keep from becoming breakfast for the hungry birds of prey. Similar to this bumpy terrain, John has been learning to overcome some small bumps in the road in his life journey. Soon after he returned from being in the USA for his mom's passing, and after fulfilling his two-week self-imposed quarantine, he was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. It has been a bit of a bumpy ride in learning to navigate this change in life habits, but thankfully with proper diet and a daily dose of exercise, he is learning to overcome this new challenge. As one who loves sweets, life seems a little saltier now. Thankfully meat of all kinds is still on the menu.



## Personal challenges of our North Africa ministry team...

Our teammates who work with our ministry in Algeria, have been facing some major challenges in their lives. The father of one of our workers has recently disowned her though she has been a Christian for many years. Her life has also been threatened if she does not return to her former life. Pray for her safety and for the Lord to strengthen and uphold her in these times. Another teammate is caring for his father Dirk, who has been diagnosed with aggressive, cancerous brain tumors. He had surgery a few weeks back, but they could not remove all the tumors. Pray for this family as they face the uncertainty and challenges that all of this brings in their lives as they care for their father. We are thankful that our ministry team who work on the programs for Algeria, have been able to continue their work. The socio-economic challenges that exist within the country due to Covid-19 restrictions and rationing of food and other items, has made life very difficult for our team. Please pray for the Lord to provide all that they need as they continue to serve the Lord in these challenging times.

## 2021 Home Assignment...

We are starting the process of making plans for a return to the USA in mid-2021. At this point the dates are not yet firmed up, but it will most likely be after Nicole has graduated and around the time we would return to get her settled in college. At this point the timeframe looks like we would be in the Pacific Northwest from September to November. We would most likely be in the southeastern part of the US for the latter part of August. In our next letter, which you will receive in December, we will be sure to have the dates confirmed. We would love to schedule some time to be with you and to share what the Lord is doing in this part of the world through the ministry of TWR. Here's our rough dates:

In the USA (East coast): August 12 – 31, 2021  
In the USA (West coast): September 1 - December 5, 2021

As we continue in our endeavors from Cyprus, we again thank you for your faithful partnership with us in ministry to the people of North Africa and the Kurdish areas of the Middle East.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John &amp; Carol".

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

**Address:**

P.O. Box 62036  
8060 Paphos  
Cyprus

**E-mail:** [jragdale@twr.org](mailto:jragdale@twr.org)  
[cragdale@twr.org](mailto:cragdale@twr.org)