

# 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:

December 2020

## Christmas Greetings from Cyprus...

We pray you will experience the joy of the Lord's abiding presence in your life as this year comes to a close and we focus in on His amazing love for us through Emmanuel, God with us. We also hope that whatever restrictions you have faced before and during the Thanksgiving holidays, that you have much for which to give thanks.



## Wow! What a year it has been...

As we look back on this year and all that has transpired, it has been one year I do not think we will ever forget. Like many of you, we are back into Covid related lockdowns. Mandatory face masks are to be worn everywhere and there is uncertainty of what will come next. Over the summer months, things became more relaxed. It was good to be able to get out and move around the island of Cyprus.

In mid-November Nicole resumed online classes with her teachers and schoolmates. Youth related events where the youth can gather together are on Zoom. Jean Marc is planning to visit for the Christmas period. By the time you read

this letter, he should have already arrived on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. This all depends on whether he is approved by Cyprus immigration to travel to be with us. Even for us to drive to the airport to pick him up, we are required to show proof of a negative Covid test when we pass through the roadblocks on the way to and from the airport in Larnaca. Currently we cannot leave our Paphos district without proof of a negative test.

We are thankful that we are permitted to have groups of up to ten people in our homes. We are continuing (with reasonable precautions) to open our home for mid-week small group gatherings and Bible study. Please be praying for Carol as she teaches through the book of Ephesians with a group of ladies who participate in the Bible study by Zoom and in-person.

### **Our ministry team is facing difficult days...**

Last time we wrote we mentioned some of the challenges our team is going through. We are thankful that the producer in North Africa who had faced a threat from her father, is doing much better and back into her work. Thank you for praying for her. The family whose father/grandfather has cancer, is doing better in terms of their own health. However, the father/grandfather's condition is getting worse and he does not have long to live. Pray for God's comfort and peace for this dear family who we work closely with in our media ministry to the Amazigh in North Africa.

### **Growing our ministry together...**

John continues to work closely with our partner in the Middle East to provide Biblical content for intended Kurdish Kurmanji audiences through the ministry of a local FM station. This new partnership is growing in strength and scope and there are new opportunities on the horizon for more local content to be developed. Pray for the Lord to bless these ministry efforts. Another group in northern Iraq is looking to work closer with us in monitoring our AM broadcast signal and also broadcast programs for intended Kurdish Sorani audiences.

### **Plans for a relatively short Home Assignment...**

We continue to make plans for a return to the USA in mid-2021. We hope to be in the Pacific Northwest from September to early November. We would most likely be in the southeastern part of the US for the latter part of August. 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 are the dates for our time in the US in 2021:

In the USA (East coast):            August 12 – 31, 2021  
In the USA (West coast):            September 1 - November 8, 2021

Our desire to assist Nicole in settling into her new location for further study along with our visa status (which requires an annual re-application) necessitates our shortened Home Assignment. We are asking God for wisdom and discernment as we strive to honor family responsibilities as well as see you, our valuable 'team members.' We want to express a heartfelt "Thank You!" to you for regular communication whenever possible. Your consistent prayer and financial support is invaluable to us! Grace and peace to you.

Yours in Christ,



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

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