

Thurs pm



Samma, Insam and Sermont and daughter Carmen – (aged 1 year 4 months),

The family came with their sister – but she has returned to Erbil as her father who could not travel to Jordan, has become sick.

Samma explains their story. On August 6th 2014 there was shelling onto their village outside Mosul, they thought it might be the usual hit and run process –

but when shells started hitting houses and people were killed they fled to Erbil. They had been there less than a month when they heard that the Kurds has gone back into the region – so the brothers went too. There was no power or water but things seemed safe so they sent for the women and children.

On the black day of August 6th the family were sleeping on the roof when the shelling started. They made an immediate decision to send the women back to Erbil. The men stayed for a while – but shells killed local children and a couple of rockets landed very close to their home shattering the windows. At 11 o'clock, everyone started to leave. They got a message from their church leader that the Kurdish forces were pulling out and were surrendering the area.

They arrived in Erbil the next day and stayed in various churches, public spaces until a man came by, and saw that Insam was pregnant with just 2 months to go. He offered them the use of a shut up dirty old bakery. They cleaned it up and moved in for 4 months before getting to Jordan.

(Carmen suddenly starts crying – she is not used to seeing anyone else in her home)

Their rent was 200 JD per month, but the money they had saved has run out and they approached the property owner who agreed to reduce it to 150 JD. They have paid this month – but are now left with just faith to live on. They approached Caritas – but were refused, as they are not part of that church, (Catholic) and another priest who refused them too. They have never had to ask for money in their life and they find it very difficult.

I noticed a table with a light over it and what appeared to be some craftwork going on – and asked about it.

Samma then showed us some amazing little mosaic crosses made with tiny pieces of stone glued over olive wood. They cost him 4 JD in materials and he sells them for 7 JD. However, he has 10 or so on the table unsold – and he says he cannot make any more as he is unable to sell them.

(We buy 7 immediately, then order and pay in advance for another 30 a couple of days later)

Samma was a physics teacher and his brother worked in a soft drinks factory. Samma then show us a portfolio of the most amazing artwork he has done. All very large scale – exterior work on walls, panels and houses. Skilled and creative!

They too have had two interviews and are waiting for the next step in the process.

Prayer requests: for safety and their home here, for the future – for their father Yusuf and mother Muna and sister Miriam who has gone to help them in Erbil.