

Monday visits: Khalida



3 children Ramah (f) 16, Daniel 14 and Dumien 11

Amar is a mechanical engineer. Khalida has a brother in Sweden. They have two brothers and two sisters still in Karum, in Kurdistan.

They talked about the cities ISIS controls – they focused on the oil

centres in Northern Iraq, Mosul, Tikrit and Ahar. Mosul is described as being very rich in history and also Christianity.

They lived in a smaller town about 30km from Mosul in an area where most people were Christians. Initially after the fall of Saddam – things were reasonably peaceful but then there were two bombings outside his shop. In the first everything collapsed about him and he was worried for his 5 employees. He was right to be. The second bomb killed his brother in law.

They had several businesses:

Mechanical engineering business

Family business selling domestic appliances – worth \$500k

Farm – with all its own machinery etc. – This year's crops harvested and worth 120k – but not sold

8 1,00A Gen Sets to provide auxiliary power for homes

3 shops for construction supplies

Khalida had been building up a children's clothes store and had just spent \$8k on an order for stock

Muslim Sunni's were making attacks on Shia and Christian alike.

Children were a real target for kidnapping as they were successful and wealthy, even getting to school was dangerous.

In 2014 they woke up to hear about ISIS – the first city to fall was Mosul. Seems that Muslims within Mosul forced the army out before ISIS arrived- initially they were saying all is OK – but then the black flags of ISIS started to appear everywhere. Christians in Mosul moved out from the centre – mostly to the Ninevah valley. This area was in dispute with Kurdistan government and central government as to control/responsibility. A large 2m x 3m ditch was dug to try and prevent ISIS incursion. They had warnings that ISIS would attack them – but unable to sell their businesses and move as no one had money

August 6th ISIS crossed to where the Yazidis were. Kurdistan didn't fight to protect them – and they suffered hardship on the mountains for 2 months – most were killed or died of starvation or illness.

We just left in our small car leaving all behind. Most of family stayed in Erbil. The government tried to open safe route to Baghdad spent a week in Erbil then got thru to Baghdad despite road being controlled by ISIS and then on to Jordan

When in Erbil, Amar received a call from a Muslim friend back home asking "why did you leave it all?

Come back it is easy, simply pay the taxes and convert. Amar replied that he left for Jesus - and that He was the best thing in life. His friend said he now understands what it is they follow.

Their prayer requests – please note: none are for themselves!

1 For Christians left in Iraq and Erbil

2 For Khalidas mother in Erbil who has op for kidney stones

3 For their son Joseph - left behind in Erbil

The story then came out that their brother and sister had tried to have children for 20 years and failed, they had Joseph 6 years ago and gave him to them to bring up as their own. What love, what sacrifice, what pain, what loss!

Khalida slept with a knife under her pillow and had terrible dreams. She still wakes at 3 am with nightmares.
