



Ahmad, Anwar and her sister Rannah

(Daughter 12 in school)

Have been here 1 year and 2 days

They were from the centre of Mosul – he had a pharmacy shop and an engineering workshop making parts for heavy machinery – with 12 people working for him.

Some background. Ahmad had been involved as an engineer/mechanic with the army in the war with Iraq and then the war with Kuwait. When the US invaded he was captured and held

as a POW by the US in Saudi for 6 months. He was offered repatriation through the Red Cross – but told by fellow POWs that if he did so he would be reported to Iraqi authorities as a collaborator and his whole family would be decimated by Saddam. He has 7 sisters and 3 brothers.

In 1997 when returning from his workshop with his nephew and his uncle he went into his house and then a masked gunman forced his way in and threatened them all – demanding money and gold. The gunman's hand was shaking so he took the opportunity to play a trick and looked behind him and said 'Don't hit him!' to an imaginary person behind. As the gunman looked behind he threw the table over him – but he let off a burst of fire. One bullet ricocheted and went into Anwar's mouth – smashing her teeth – but not doing any more damage. He was hit in the shoulder, one bullet crossed his chest and another his arm. His uncle was hit in the leg but the bullet went straight through. His nephew was unharmed and able to take them to hospital.

Then he was given written messages – pay the tax for non-Muslims and support the Mujahedeen - - phone this number before noon or you will be bombed at your office and home. He ignored these as best he could because there were so many factions each making demands like this he didn't know who was who and what was what. He was able to build a new house in Mosul and the day he moved in Saddam Hussein was toppled. Then he started getting more letters and one day in 2003 two Christian neighbours were shot as they got into their car in front of him and his wife. Their bodies lying part in and part out of the car with blood everywhere. They fled to Nineveh and started all over again.

He managed to recover various items from Mosul and started another workshop and again managed to build a house. Then ISIS came. They fled in such a hurry to Erbil that they even left cash behind in the house. They sold their car and all the gold they had in order to buy flights to Jordan. His father in law and his uncle are still there – but he has not heard from them at all. His sisters were forced to convert – but eventually they were thrown out at the border near Kirkuk – where the church has taken them back and they have come back to the Lord.

When they got to Jordan he tried to get into Europe twice – once via Russia and once via Ukraine. Each time they were caught, arrested, thrown in jail and then sent back to Jordan. They have had one interview with IOM – but no date for the second interview.

He explained that he had been so busy with work that he only ever went to church once a year to pray for just one hour. His mother begged him to go – and now he has time! We shared with them what was on our heart and Amir shared the good news with them. They hung on his every word. We encouraged them to use this time of waiting to prepare themselves for the exciting purpose God has for them going forward.
