

Salaam, Moayad, Nadra, Salaam's wife Nadra and baby Namer - 'Tiger' and Mukelos



Moayed tells us his family are from a village north of Mosul called Telskuf. ISIS started their terror campaign in Mosul and then started to move out to the surrounding towns and villages. Many people were scared and left immediately – some stayed a little longer. They went to Erbil and stayed in the garden of a church – with thousands of families moving into Erbil it was extremely difficult. Rents were really expensive – around \$800 for them to find somewhere and of course they could not camp out in the winter so October 27th 2014 they managed to get to Jordan. They lost their house and everything in Iraq. Whilst in Iraq the three men were daily workers – doing all sorts of jobs – as required. Moayed thinks Iraq is finished ... how can you live in a place where all trust is broken down and neighbour betrays neighbour? He thinks nobody will want to return.

They have no work here to do in Jordan – although from time to time Riad and the church are able to organize something for them to do. But they say that we can pray!

They have had their 2 interviews with IOM so they are waiting to find out if a country will accept them. They are looking forward to starting a new life. They have some relatives abroad – 4 in Australia, 3 in Germany and 2 in the USA. Australia has recently asked for another 25,000 so many refugees are applying there hoping to get in, but he is also concerned that the Iraqi Christians will be forgotten and the Syrians taken because they are in the spotlight.

Moayed wants to see Mukelos married and for his sons to have lots of children. His 4 daughters each have either 4 or 5 children. It won't be a big wedding – they cannot afford that – just an exchange of rings, the church service and a little dancing outside the church afterwards- that will be it. Lena our translator laughs with him and says no girl is going to accept that!

Moayed and Nadra have been married for 33 years and he reminisces about how he gave his future father in law some whisky to drink before he asked if he could marry Nadra.

He misses his daughters (they are older) who are all still in Erbil. Their husbands were relatively wealthy so could just about afford to stay there. His sons are more than just sons – they are his friends too.

He is excited to learn English and already recognizes some words.

Moayed tells us it is a real joy to have us visit- the only other people they see are Raed and people at Raed's church.

We ask about prayer requests: he asks for the process with UN to be speeded up. Mukelos went to bed one night around midnight and at 1 pm he looked to be dead. He had a seizure caused by a brain infection. We worked out with translations etc that it was meningitis. He was given expensive treatment and is now OK – but it cost their last \$2,800 of savings. Whilst in hospital they put their bible under his pillow.
