

Sad Loss but Happy Ending

In the early nineteen sixties a young man from Boston named George decided to join the US Army. It wasn't long after boot camp that he received his first set of orders; Izmir Turkey is where he would spend his tour of duty. While in Izmir he met a young Turkish girl and fell in love. She was a beautiful young Muslim girl and he was a Christian boy that had fallen away from the Lord. Eventually they were married and started their family. It wasn't very long into the marriage that he fell under conviction about his life style and the example that he had been setting for his young Turkish bride. He rededicated his life to the Lord and started on a journey to help her find the Lord. During these long years of trying to win his wife to the Lord, he also began a journey to help young families such as ours get started with their new life in a foreign country. Countless numbers of families have come and gone but he always managed to help them all. He was also very instrumental in starting a couple of small churches that we would attend. He also worked hard with his kids to start a tourism business to bring people to Turkey so that they could visit the many biblical historical sites. For those of you that know my wife and what a great cook she is you will understand why George has spent the last twelve years at our house for an American style Thanksgiving meal. He was always happy and always a huge encouragement to those around him. I am sure by now you can tell where I am going with this story. The sad loss that I mentioned in the title is that George has left us now, we of course will miss him and his contagious laugh at church and around the dinner table, but he is with his Lord and Savior now. He will no doubt be missed, but the seeds that he has planted will go on forever.

And now to the "Happy Ending". Last year George called me so excited "I've got something to tell you Troy" what is it I said; my wife is now a believer he shouted. We of course rejoiced together as he began to explain what all had taken place. Our God is so good and he cares for us so much that we will never be able to understand it this side of Heaven. After fifty five years of witnessing to her, he was finally able to see the fruit of his labor before he left this world. I know that this may seem very small to many of you but please understand that the work in this type of country is very slow. Discouragement is real but our God is faithful. Please continue to pray for us and our loss, for his kids and grandchildren and of course for his wife. Also continue to pray that we would be able to see this type of victory many times over in our own lives.

Thanks and God bless

The Williams family in Turkey