



NEWS —BY YOU!

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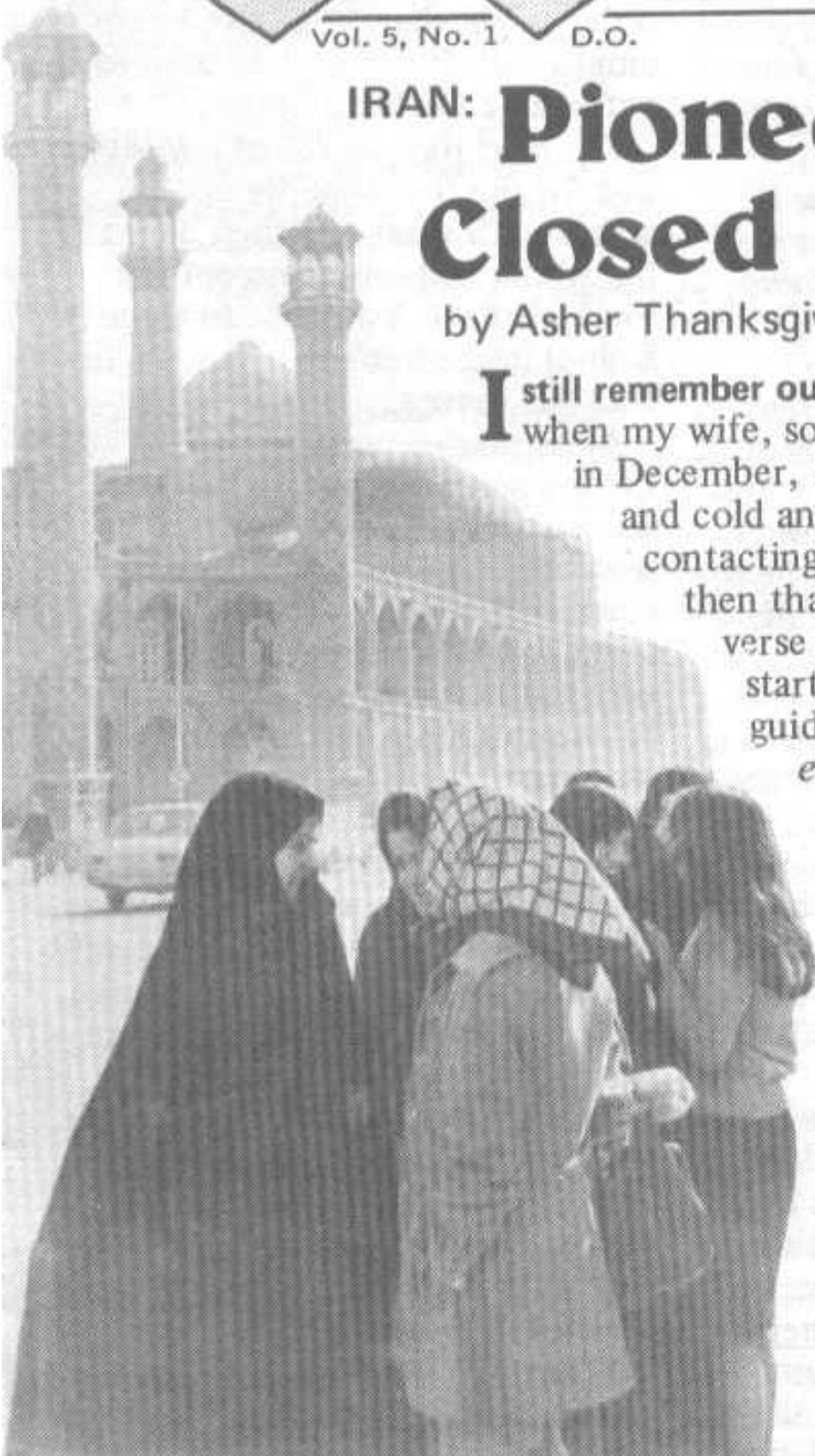
Edited by The Zs.

IRAN: **Pioneering a Closed Society!**

by Asher Thanksgiving; Visiting Servant.

I still remember our first morning in Tehran when my wife, son and I landed from India in December, 1976 virtually penniless and cold and with no apparent way of contacting the other brethren. It was then that the Lord gave us our first verse about the work here and started to give us some light to guide us: *"Don't get stuck with either a name or a message or a method that you can't change from day to day with whatever God has for you that's new, new wine, new message, new method, new way!"* ("New Bottles" 251:42.)

Kenaz had given us the vision of having to go underground and possibly even getting system jobs for a cover. At first we had to continually remind ourselves of this fact, because we had been so ingrained in the old way of thinking and doing



Tehran, Iran: This photo shows the differences in dress and also the changes that much of this part of the world is going through. Many young people are frustrated because their religion does not give them the love and freedom they want. They are waiting for the Love of David! Photo by Genesis.

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things.

Then one night, after ten days of living in hotels and not having even met with the brethren yet, the Lord gave us some more verses we had only read but never experienced before and didn't really relate to until now. They really gave us the faith to take the next step: It was a quote from "Don't Drop Out, Drop In!":

"The old ways we used to do it are not going to work here in a new situation! We have got to do something entirely different if we're going to survive and be able to carry on, something totally different!" (par. 99) And another quote from "Pisces":

"This has real implications for the future too when some colonies in closed countries won't even be allowed to exist! But just one couple with children that lives and works normally within the community may be more and more the thing in closed countries." (par. 62) Wow! Small Families of Love!—Little families living and working in the system and changing their part of the world day by day with their sample. Letter after letter started coming alive to us.

This was God's plan for these countries—to infiltrate them through the system and just hand-pick His sheep out of it and change the world day by day. People we meet would have to use their jobs as a witness, and our Home and the love there would have to be the sample. Our girls would have to be the bait, and our children would become our proof of the pudding. The vision seemed limitless!

At this time Peter was working in a taping studio and teaching English and still living in one room of a hotel with his pregnant wife and child. In order to get a house or even rent an apartment, you have to have a "residence permit", and in order to get that, you have to be employed! But they had been as yet unable to find a house.

The next day we called a meeting, and for the first time we got together with what was then basically the whole Bishopric (except for four people in Esfahan and three in Dubai) in the back of a van, to discuss our moves.

After sharing parts of various MO Letters and praying together, we immediately divided into three separate units—an FF'ing Home consisting of Peter's family and mine; a three-man pubs Home to organise the mail ministry and translations left from the former work, and a road team to minister to freaks and people the Family already knew. This team was made up of people who were already known as the Family and had no contact with the rest of us. In fact, this was the last time many of us were to meet again.

Actually, we were later to decide that the road team outreach was not really needed, as in four years of its existence working from hotels here, I don't believe there had been much lasting fruit.

That night God miraculously led us to a house! A girl Peter worked with said that she was living with five other people in a ground floor apartment and that a couple had just moved out of the basement

room. That night Peter, Eva, Ruth myself and the two children moved right in. We spent our first night cold on the floor, but were we ever thankful to have found housing! About a week later, another couple moved out and we expanded into one of the large upstairs rooms.

Our sample and love started spreading like wild-fire throughout the apartment. Soon we started remodeling and painting and the others started sharing and even praying with us! But at no time did we mention the Family and who we were. Nor did we leave any Letters around! Then another couple moved out in April, and the apartment was virtually ours.

The first time we invited friends over, God started supplying our needs beyond our wildest dreams! One friend gave us a beautiful six-piece living room set and a sweet FF'ed friend gave us the use of a beautiful Persian carpet!

So now we have transformed this house into a real Heavenly Home! Hundreds of people from frustrated American housewives to students, to diplomats, to freaks have passed through our doors to be given a taste of the joys of God's Love.

Even Dennis, who still lives in the apartment with us in his own room, has changed so much in ten months it's unbelievable! He is a 28-year-old intellectual American who has played jazz piano in many big name places in the States and knows Bob Dylan and other musicians. After reading his first MO Letter "The Snake Charmer" (he's a Scorpio!), he received Jesus and has been coming along more and more. In fact,

he now says, "You know, I come from a broken home and this is the only family I've ever had. In fact, I don't hesitate to tell people that this is my family!"

Then the method and message spread to other cities. Joe in Esfahan got a job and rented a house. We have a drop-in brother, Ezra, who we've lived with for over two years and who is continuing to be a tremendous witness and help, not only to our work in Iran, but the entire world.

We've found that in these closed countries it's necessary for someone to make the sacrifice to take a system job so that something can be established. But through one man's obedience it enables the entire Family to operate freely and the salaries they receive are quite sufficient to support the work! As Faithy said, "In witnessing and loving and trying to win souls, use anything at your disposal to do it."

Love, Asher Thanksgiving and the Family in Iran.

Pioneering Bahrain!

by CEPHAS

Bahrain is a small island off the coast of Saudi Arabia. The population is 250,000, it's Muslim by religion and has a fairly high income per capita, a warm climate and is socially fairly liberal for the Gulf area. It's also the banking center for this part of the world.

Petra and I (Cephas), baby Nicolas and Ezra flew in from Shiraz, Iran in late March. Upon arrival, we

checked into a small hotel and began searching for employment. We placed a couple of ads for jobs in two newspapers.

Two weeks later the president and owner of a new private hospital called regarding our ads. We started working a couple of days later, and moved into a three-bedroom furnished house provided by our employer! TYJ!

Ezra is employed as section head of a computerised health check department, and I am promoting the hospital to companies on the Island. The hospital is a "5-Star" luxury private establishment, catering to executives and expatriots.

Through our work we've already met and shared with members of the ruling Shaikhs family, as well as with ambassadors, leading businessmen and bankers, etc. FF'ing also

has so much potential! The Lord has led us to several fish, one of whom has a very interesting testimony:

He is a bank vice-president, 31 years old. He is the eldest son and for as far back as his family can be traced (over 900 years!), all the eldest sons have been members of the clergy. He is the first to break this tradition. He's already hooked on Petra and the Spirit, and we trust that the Lord has an important role for his life!

The Lord said that we would be working with rulers and kings in the Endtime, and we believe He put us here to share with our employer, who is a member of one of the leading families on the Island! We've only just begun!

Love, Cephias
and the Bahrain Family

Touring Turkey with Theatre Troupe!

A DROP-IN JOB TESTIMONY!—by John the Beloved.

Life in a "closed country" can be very exciting and interesting, with many new and unique situations occurring, especially here in Turkey where the people are so friendly and hospitable.

Pandita, one of our national disciples, is a well known journalist and former actress and has many friends in the theatre world. One such friend is an up-and-coming young playwright and author.

Recently he wrote a satire about the economic situation in the country, showing the plight of the

poor. The message was similar to that of the MO Letters on the subject. With this new play, he wanted to incorporate someone who could play guitar into the act. He called Pandita and asked her if "that guy I met in Izmir" (meaning me!) was available.

I started going to rehearsals with some of the top actors and actresses in Turkey. They also needed another man to play some percussion and work on scenery, so I got my "friend", a brother named Philip who is married to Pandita!

With this play, we were on tour for about five weeks, playing in a different town just about every night. So we were able to see many interesting villages, towns and cities of Turkey and improve our knowledge of the language and culture. They paid our expenses plus about \$12 a day, so we were able to help out our Homes back in Istanbul.

After the tour, they wanted to keep the same troupe together to do

performances in the Istanbul area. They want to try and get us work permits and visas and even jobs in the "off-season". We're also becoming good friends with the troupe and see them regularly. We're really praying for their souls and that they will be able to carry God's Message from His Prophet for today to the people in future productions!

Lots of love,
John the Beloved

Visit to Damascus, Syria!

by PIERRE and ROSE, Mideast V.S.'s

We crossed the border from Jordan with no trouble. The sun was going down and we were thankful to have escaped the heat of the day and the crowded customs. We were looking forward to getting to Damascus, one of the oldest cities in the world. Around 9:30 that night, we reached this capital of Syria.

Once we got to the center of town, we made a phone call to a friend Suzanne knew from Jordan—Ahmed. We went to his shop, a juice shop, where he treated us to some fresh juice and then took us in a taxi to a nice cheap hotel he knew, paying for the taxi and carrying our luggage himself.

The next day we went to "Souk Hamidieh", a big marketplace in the center of town, picturesque, lively, colourful and which carried the soul and charm of that city. On the way out of the Souk we met a guy who invited us to come to his shop, where we went out of curiosity. He was so attracted by the Spirit, that we sat down and witnessed to him and upon leaving,

he gave Rose and Suzanne both a little gift, a silver cross and a little slipper made of brass.

That afternoon at Ahmed's juice shop we met Suzanne's fish, M., a top Syrian singer and also a girl that Suzanne knew from a previous visit to Damascus. M. took us all out to dinner to a very nice restaurant on a mountainside overlooking a river canyon. The restaurant owner was so sweet and invited us to come by his place whenever we returned to Damascus. Then M. took us for a drink with some friends, a sweet Syrian family. Then on to our hotel where Suzanne spent the night sharing with M.

The next day Rose and I went to a first-class hotel to deliver a letter to the head waiter, a friend of Artemas and Maria. But by mistake, we gave the letter to the Director of Personnel for the whole hotel and he ended up inviting us to lunch and gave us a grand tour of the hotel. He said if we ever came back to Damascus that he would take care of us—one of the Lord's

set ups!

We found out that this man had also held a lot of top government posts in the past. He was so sweet

and really fell in love with us, and we now have a real open door for us to stay at that hotel. So it was a real fruitful visit! Pierre & Rose.

Thank you for . . .

25 Days of Heaven on Earth!

by HOSANNA; Athens, Greece

Dearest Dad & Maria, 31 May 78

Praise the Lord for His answering our prayers for you! We love you and I miss you so, so much! It's still such a vivid memory of being there with you in your own house. —I know I'll never forget the experiences of that beautiful 25 days of Heaven on Earth!—Those memories I feel like I can almost reach out and touch!—

From first walking in the door of your house and seeing Davidito smiling up at me, to minutes later meeting you both face-to-face in your room., the fantastic dinners together, going out to the club with you and so many more—right up to the night of your packing up and we (Kenaz and I) driving you to the train station! And the sadness we all felt back at the house that night, and the following days till we left!

I remember so vividly following your car on the way to the station in the rain.—It was like something out of a movie—"Gone With the Wind" or something! I felt like I had so much that I wanted to say, about how I loved you and needed you, and felt sad that I couldn't or hadn't more fully expressed this to you! It was like the feeling I had just before first speaking in tongues in a prayer meeting—I wanted to

praise the Lord and thank Him so much more, and found my own words seeming so inadequate to do this!

That night you took me to the club, and you danced with me, Maria! Whew! What an experience! Your love so broke my heart. I remember seeing an aura of white light around you and I think I experienced what a fish must feel like getting flirty-fished! What you said that night about learning to express my emotions more so spoke to me, and is almost daily in my thoughts!

Almost the whole time I was at your house, while I felt so at home, at the same time I felt out-of-place, like a sinner who had slipped into Heaven or something! I felt totally exposed—it hurt so good! I can honestly say I have never felt so unworthy of anything before in my life!

I know that time so changed so many areas of my life where seeds of love were planted, which the Letters are now watering! TYJ! Even though I felt almost ill-at-ease sometimes, I know it took that, as before I don't believe I was accepting alot of the "guilt" and mistakes I had made as part of the "Chain". It has helped me to realise so much more the Lord's grace and love for us! PTL!

I think another reason I was going through it at the time was that things still weren't settled between Rose and me. I know she's doing much better now on her own, more without my direct influence! Rose has visited all the Turkish and Greek Homes and will be leaving to visit Jordan and Lebanon next!—Praise the Lord!

The team in Jordan attended a party where they sang for the Crown Prince and Princess, as well as King Hussein's mother! In appreciation, they were all presented with watches, with the King's name on them, and have been invited back to the Palace!

The Family in war-wracked Lebanon appeared on seven radio programmes and a TV show last month, helping to bring comfort to many! God bless them!

Anyway, just having finished my report, I wanted to enclose a personal note.—That's always my intention, but if I don't do it right away I say, "Well, maybe it's better to wait till next report..." You know how it goes.

I'm also enclosing a recent photo of Abigail (whom I'm now mated with) and myself. During my time in Poggio, we'd always been attracted to each other and spent time together oftentimes. The day I left, I didn't think we'd ever see each other again and had this real pain in my heart about it! As it turned out, Abigail had broken down in tears the day I'd left, after I'd said goodbye. It was funny—neither of us were looking for a more "permanent" situation, so didn't recognise it when it happened! But I be-

lieve God has His way and we're really happy together! Being in love again is a remedy in itself! I love, love, love you, Hosanna.

TO MY DEAREST DAVID!

by Rose, V.S. of Greece and Mideast

(This is the first poem I've written in seven years! The Lord just gave it so strong last night, so I wrote it down!)

I give my heart on bended knee
To one who gave his all for me
The deepest love I've ever known
The trust & mercy that you've
shown.

I feel tearful, joyful to remember
Your smile, your touch, complete
surrender

To the Will of God above
Overflowing with His Love!

You've bared your soul for all to see
For honesty will set us free,
And now I want to live like you
Loving others with love so true.

Giving all without a care
Learning how to love and share,
Your whole life you've given me
I feel so small compared to thee!

My only wish is to remain
A small handmaid in your domain.
To obey your slightest bidding
Gives me my reason for living!

P.S.

Thank you for the Words so true
As day by day we follow you
Our eyes and ears tune to your call
The precious Words you give us all!
We love Maria so much too
For her faithfulness to the Lord
and you!

—Love always, your little Rose.

CLASSIFIED **ADS!**

Change of address for Turkey: The new address for the ad that appeared in Vol. 4, No. 5 should be: D. Hostetter, P.K. 241, Beyoglu, Istanbul, Turkey (Attn: Bani & Mercy).

Wanted: FF'ers to help pioneer Curacao and Netherlands Antilles! We're organising a small FF team to leave here soon! Feel the call? Please write: Elias & Raquel Rosa, GPO Box 3141, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00936 U.S.A.

Help needed in establishing French-German-speaking mail ministry! A couple is pioneering Bienne and the area of French & German Switzerland. We need the help of one brother or sister who could help with the mail ministry in those languages, also with litnessing and FF'ing! Please write with qualifications and burdens to: Albertuzzi, Poste Restante, 2501 Bienne 1, Switzerland.

Single mother with 2 children wants to join Home in Southern Europe: Swedish national, fluent English, some knowledge of Spanish and Portuguese. Talented in housework, typing, singing, playing guitar. Would like to go to a major city for FF'ing and where there are single brothers willing to help out with children. Please write to Lisa, Box 40112, 10343 Stockholm, Sweden.

Thailand is desperate for labourers! Our adult population is now only 11! We've given clearance to about 30 Family members, but where are you? The 45 million people here need you! There's plenty of room for all

of you and more! If anyone desires clearance, please write us "express" today: Family of Love, GPO Box 19, Bangkok, Thailand!

Wanted: One or two sisters to help in pioneer Home in Malaga, Spain! Fantastic opportunities for litnessing, singing and FF'ing and meeting people from all over the world! Please write and send photo to: David Volonnino, Lista de Correos, Malaga, Spain.

Labourers needed in Bergen, Norway! -Norway's second largest city! Please write to: Andreas Viking & Amethyst Shutterbug; Boks 211, 5001 Bergen, Norway.

To Russia With Love! Pioneers & FF'ers, please answer this call for labourers to Russia by writing to: Raymond Boudreau, General Delivery, Vienna 1010, Austria.

Experienced darkroom technician would like to work in pubs operation preferably Eastward. British, single, age 24, speaks some Italian and French. Experienced in copy camera and 35 mm work. Please write to: B.P. 587, 69221 Lyon, Cedex 01, France (Attn: Abraham Steps).

Mother and 3-year-old daughter looking for new Home: I am American, my daughter is Canadian. I speak German, some Italian and a little Russian. I can teach children up to 6 years, provision, sing and cook. I would be interested in joining a Home in southern Europe, Canary Islands or East Bloc. Are there any openings? Please write: Sunshine Newday, Box 821, 50100 Firenze, Italy.