

Lloyd & Elaine Cook

Serving the Lord in Jamaica



I recently met a man in his 40s facing a life-and-death challenge. His Hungarian visa is a few weeks away from expiring, and returning to his home country means severe persecution or death. This is only because his family name is associated with the Baha'i religion. He has no belief system but has been persecuted throughout his life because of his family name. His countenance was crestfallen and hopeless; he couldn't even maintain eye contact.

My friend Randall, who arranged our meeting, told me how afraid he was to be forced to return and face all that again. I wish I could say this isn't common, but our whole world is becoming more and more challenged by displaced and endangered people.

Before we began discussing his story, I asked him if he would mind me praying a Christian prayer asking God for Wisdom, Favor, and Peace, along with true Joy to return to his life. He said, "Who wouldn't want that? Yes, thank you."

All I know is that God and His word are the authority that we have in Christ, and wherever a Christian goes, the Kingdom of God has arrived. As we abide in Him and trust in His faithfulness, mountains move. The prayer created a difference in the atmosphere, but no facts had changed.

My friend started sharing the very hard things that are the reality he lives every day. After five or so minutes, his phone rang, and we encouraged him to take it if he needed to.

It was his immigration attorney. He told him that the Hungarian government had not approved any visas for non-full-time university students in over a year. He has hundreds of clients in his situation - but having said that, He had just received an electronic notification that his Visa was approved!

My friend kept saying, The prayer! The prayer! We were at Scruton restaurant, and we became a little loud and excited! Once again, we prayed and gave God the thanksgiving and praise for the deliverance from real danger. I love this part...over the next five minutes, his countenance was completely changed, ten years younger eyes alive, and the Joy was all over us all.

I've seen this kind of answered prayer time after time, especially when there is a desperate situation. We will continue to get together with our friend, and soon, very naturally, he will fully enter the Kingdom of God.

It didn't occur to me at the time, that was the culminating event of an incredibly effective first week back on station at our other home in Budapest.

We send our love and blessings to our friends and ask you to pray for Operation Joseph.