



*George & Luisa*

Dear Pastor and friends,

This has been an interesting year so far. George had his corneal transplant in January and it was a much harder surgery than the first one 2 years ago, but he is doing good, today he had 3 more anchor stitches out and 46 more to go.

On April 22 we reflected of God's blessings and how many had been saved and baptized in the past 6 weeks. I posted on Facebook pictures of 4 different baptism days with over 50 people who have come to Christ. We gave God all the glory and honor and went home after Sunday service to rest. Little did we know that after such a short rest, George would be battling for his life. We did not recognize the signs of a heart attack. At 6pm I drove him to the hospital to have an EKG because his BP was 182/110. I had plans to travel to a 4 day ladies conference with our daughter Cristina so we wanted to make sure he was ok. I dropped him off at the ER entrance and went to park the car. By the time I came into the ER to meet him, the doctor was calling my name and everyone was frantically running, he informed me that my husband had a severe heart attack, and they were taking him to the ICU. What just happened? What happened to just have an EKG and go home. The doctors came back out to see me and assured me that he was in good hands now and that had I not driven him to the ER he would not have made it alive. We live 30 miles out and the ambulance would not have made it there in time. (Today a friend told me that he was having a heart attack and called 911. They told him to get himself to the hospital or he would die, so he drove himself on a motorcycle and passed out as he walked in.) Back to George, Praise the Lord, he had some damage to the heart and had one stent put in but the week after this he got back behind the pulpit, preached, and has been preaching ever since. We covet your prayers for a full recovery and back to his normal self as he longs to get back on the streets and evangelize. I want to thank everyone for their love and prayers during this time, so many of you reached out through social media and let us know that you are there holding the ropes and we deeply appreciate it.

James and our daughter Cristina Sinda and their three kids were scheduled to leave for the states on furlough, and it was a time sensitive issue, they could not put off their departure date, and God has shown us that the ministry will go on because it is His and not ours. Siamak, the Farsi leader, has stepped out and taken the responsibilities and teaching of the Farsi ministry. Steve has been faithful to open and close for all the events, setting up, cooking, serving, and cleaning up, and just making it easier for us to step back and recover. An independent Baptist missionary that just moved to Athens to start a church, took this time to step in and fill in to take some of the pressure from us, knowing that someone is there if needed. He is also teaching the Sunday School hour so George will only have to preach one service. God is good and has provided good men and we are so thankful, and thankful for you all who have had a part in this ministry in Athens.

*George + Luisa*

*"For I'm not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto Salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

*Romans 1:16*

**Birthdays:**

George - March 26

Luisa - September 12

**Anniversary:** July 12

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