

Greetings Friends,

We are sitting in the back seat of an ancient Russian taxi in Kabul. In the front sits our Afghan Doctor colleague who works in our ground-breaking Primary Mental Health Project in Herat. A good man with strategic abilities, he is leading the charge in writing the Afghan Government's first ever policy for Mental Health. If our Primary mental Health Project had not started 14 years ago, he would not have discovered his passion. A passion for seeing change in the lives of marginalized Afghans.

One mother-in-law poured boiling water on the feet of her son's young wife because she had periodic fits. After realizing the girl was not shamming, the mother-in-law declared that the bride was crazy or had an evil spirit. The son divorced her and after sending her back to her poor father, he remarried. Somehow the disturbed girl found our clinic. She was treated successfully by our Doctor friend and now she has a new proposal of marriage.

"So you are a Doctor," the taxi driver asks, with a note of expectation in his voice. When credentials are correctly established the driver vociferously apprises the Doctor of his problems. He pulls out his tablets to confirm if they are the right ones. Then he reaches under his seat and drags out the x-ray of his problem foot. The Doctor checks the x-ray in the improvised consulting room. The driver babbles on as he weaves his way skillfully through the crazy, late afternoon traffic. Everyone is hungry. Everyone is rushing home to break the Ramzan fast.

We reach home safely and give thanks for safe travel and for the blessings of the Mental Health Project and the commitment of our expat and Afghan colleagues. We give thanks that things are fairly settled despite the threat of more kidnappings and the need for us to be operating on a higher level of security awareness.

Join us in giving thanks for those things. Join us as we pray for a Clinical Psychologist to come and assist in training. Pray that those who are really seeking God during the fasting of Ramzan, will find Him.

Cheers & blessings,

