

Naghmeh Meets with President Obama

Supporters Rally to Bring Saeed Home Story by Jessica Russell

“Mr. President, can you please bring my daddy home for my birthday?” seven-year-old Jacob Abedini asked President Barack Obama on January 21. The President asked him when his birthday was, and Jacob told him March 17. “I am going to try very hard to make that happen, Jacob. I am going to try very hard,” the president assured him.

Jacob’s father, Saeed Abedini, has been imprisoned in Iran since 2012. Saeed’s wife, Naghmeh, has relentlessly sought his release; on January 21, she and their children, Rebekka and Jacob, met with President Obama as he visited Boise, ID. “The kids and I were in a small office room with him,” reported Naghmeh. In anticipation for the meeting, she prayed and fasted for three days. “I told him that the children and I prayed for him and loved him—that as Christians, that is what we are to do. He said that getting Saeed out is a top priority, and he is working hard to get Saeed back home to our family,” Naghmeh related. “Praise God, we had a great conversation! God was so evidently present in the meeting. At the end, he gave me a hug, and we took pictures. Let’s continue to pray and see God move and free Saeed. I am blessed to be in the body of Christ.”

A Thankful Heart

Saeed’s father shared the news with him during a visit to the prison on January 28. He was encouraged to hear

about the meeting and to know that so many people have been interceding for him. Below is an excerpt from a letter Saeed wrote to the president:

I was personally encouraged that you were in my hometown of Boise, ID, and made time to visit my wife and children. ... I also know how encouraged Christians around the world were to hear of this meeting. Nothing is more valuable to the body of Christ than to see how the Lord is in control and moves ahead of countries and leadership through united prayer. ... I pray for God’s guidance, wisdom, and blessing for you as you lead this great nation. 🙏 (Source: aclj.org)

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Right: Naghmeh Abedini with her children, Jacob and Rebekka.

File photo by Tom Price

Below: Supporters gather to pray for the Abedinis.

Photo by Aaron Hodges

