

MIZPAH OUTREACH

Prayer Letter #108
May/June 2011



Dear Praying Friends,

Our time at home already seems distant in the flurry of activity which accompanied our return to Greece. We did manage to fit in visits with family, dentists and doctors as well as a few meetings. It was great to see some of you and we look forward to seeing many more on our 2012 deputation trip (for tentative dates see end of this prayer letter).

David having 'flu for the first 10 days did hold us back a little, but we are glad the van passed its MOT again this year with no major problems. However, since it is now 11 years old, we are anticipating a change in the near future. If a bus ever got a 'well done' it would be this one, as it has proven to be very reliable, but having had our share of older vehicles breaking down in the most awkward places or when you rely on them most, we have begun looking for a suitable replacement. We also passed our recent medical MOT's, but in our case, it means we will not be looking for a replacement just yet!!!!

'Weep with those who weep.'

Among the many wonderful experiences we had with friends at home, there were times we shared in their sorrow. David's mum lost her closest friend **Jean** in the Residential home and this left a big gap in her daily life. It is nice to see the families of those departed friends come back to visit. We have some friends who visit regularly, holding meetings for the Residents, and would appreciate you remembering this important work in prayer. **Jacob Marshall**, one of our oldest prayer partners, went to be with the Lord on his 107th birthday and we certainly miss his prayers for us and the work.

Jonathan Simms, the longest surviving VCJD victim, passed away just a few days after David had been to visit the family. Unknown to us, David's niece Charlene, had been one of Jonathan's nurses in these last months and David, had at one time lived in the home of Jonathan's grandparents, and has always been treated like one of the family. Please pray for Don, Karen and the wider family circle at this time. One special friend **Bessie** whom we visited, was very ill, but in spite of her weakness, she presented us with a book of her special memories and spoke of how she had remembered us faithfully in prayer every day and was only sorry that she would not be able to do it any longer!! How can we replace such prayer warriors? Her final words to David were, 'I'll see you in Eternity', and a few days later she was with her Savior!

On the Road Again - Remember your Handbrake!

As usual, we have been thankful for loving hospitality, humorous banter and the provision of our every need. God's protective hand has never wavered, even when David's concentration has! We had parked in icy snow in Fort William, and David immediately set about clearing the path to make it easier for Wilma (collecting Brownie points!!). Next afternoon, Wilma's mother said, 'I thought I saw your van moving!' Of course, in disbelief, we looked out to see the van disappear past the window frame! It was travelling backwards down the normally busy road in the direction of a rather nice looking SUV. The sun was out, melted the snow and the handbrake was not on! Wow, David moved faster than for a long time and chased after it! We said a few emergency prayers, while slowly the van swerved away from the SUV, across the normally busy main road (which was mercifully empty), hitting a neighbor's fence before coming to a stop. God answered prayer with only minor damage caused to the fence, which David fixed. Never a dull moment for His guardian angels!!!

During the time in Fort William, David was thrilled to officiate at the Dedication of Jonathan & Elizabeth's little **Nathaniel**. We had a great time of with the folks from the church and a lovely time together as a family during that weekend. We wish them every blessing as they bring up their family for the Lord, while serving on the Isle of Skye.

- Respect Traffic Wardens!

Rarely, do you hear anyone with a positive story about traffic wardens, but we have one! This time in London, in an area where parking was almost impossible, we happened to meet a born again traffic warden, not afraid to talk about her faith. After telling us about herself and that it was unlikely we would get a parking place for more than an hour, she went on her way. However, a few minutes later she returned to inform us that the Holy Spirit had revealed to her one place, where because of line restrictions we could park on that one day only. She said since we were ambassadors for the Lord, He had made that place available for us!

- Recognize Police Officers!

We don't have space for all of the travel experiences, but this one is a must!!! Evangeline, our three year old granddaughter was sitting in the back of her American Grandma's car, playing with Grandma's phone. Suddenly, they were pulled over by a police officer, when Evangeline, cool as a



Nathaniel

cucumber snapped a photo of our ex-colonial relative's embarrassing moment – and we all get another memory to be treasured!!! Children today are so technically aware!!

Actually, we have seldom had so many near misses on the road as these past weeks. Drivers making misjudgments or being pre-occupied have almost obliterated us on at least 4 occasions. The worst being when one sped out of a darkened alleyway, and only David's quickened reflexes and the blessing of the three lanes on the road being free, allowed us to swerve so fast that the car went into a spin but still remained on the carriageway, avoiding the offending vehicle being T-boned. Thanks for faithfully praying for our protection!

- Realize God is still on the Throne!

We had expected to have a few days on our return to get settled before we were expecting a team of folks to empty the container, which had arrived in our garden just before our USA departure. However, the day after our return, a German missionary called to say he was on the way. When he did not arrive, we found out he had broken down, so David went out to find him. The car was brought here, but has since not moved! We took him to Thessaloniki, that he could fly to Germany, from where he informed us by email, that he had 4 pallets of literature urgently needing delivered and before Easter!! Already, we had these weeks planned and booked up, but the literature in BG was needed in the University of Sofia for a Bible Exhibition. So we had to be a bit more flexible.

The container was emptied quickly and truck loaded without any problems until they hit customs! While there, it became apparent that it required a taxation number from another charity and for that David needed a phone number. He called home but the number we had proved to be an old one and directory enquiries had no record of him. Meantime, at home, Wilma had a phone call from the son of the man they were trying to contact! This man has never previously called, but had received a text which was mistakenly sent to him instead of us, so he was calling about that. Although, not knowing the number she had given David was wrong, Wilma asked the caller for his dad's telephone number and them realizing this was a different number was able to call David at the customs office and the problem was solved! What are the chances of that happening without God's orchestration?

The customs papers were organized free of charge by one of our calendar contacts **Christos**, who has promised to come out here to Sevasti for a visit soon. He said he intended to go to a monastery on Mount Athos over Easter for reflection and prayer, and he is not even a Christian yet!! We had good fellowship with the folks who came from MK to do the work and with Val from Ireland who stayed here for a few nights and oversaw the transport. These goods will be distributed by a missionary in MK, who is loved and respected by everyone in a wide area, for his evangelistic efforts as well as humanitarian help for the needy.

As soon as the container was gone, we began our deliveries, combining some trips with ministry visits in FYROM, and coming back in between to cater for the guests we were expecting. In Bulgaria, it was good to be back after many years, meeting with fellow believers from different fellowships and seeing the **Bible Exhibition** (celebrating 400 years of the printed KJV). All the literature was safely delivered and they had given out the last literature just as we arrived. So, although we had not planned it that way and were totally exhausted afterwards, it was a few weeks of very successful work, which no one else could/would have done. Praise the Lord!

Continuing Ministry—Registering the Economic Effects

Greece now has the most expensive fuel in the whole of Europe, so it is pretty bad. Most people cannot afford to travel far and we also need to carefully try and combine tasks when we travel. Other missionaries are also claiming that the rising fuel costs are hindering their ministry. When trying to insure our Skoda, we first had to have an expert come and decide it was a viable car to insure, before being allowed to pay for **6 months insurance only**, as there is no guarantee the company will still be there in a year! There were 6 insurance companies in Greece when we came, now it is only 5, so who knows!

Since our return, we have noticed that about 30% of the businesses we visit regularly are now closed down due to lack of finance. People have no money to buy and of course the rising fuel costs mean that the food, travel etc is all more expensive. For example, milk costs as much per litre as fuel and is **more than double the price of GB!** As a result people are depressed and suffering stress, those without work for daily survival, and those with businesses as to how they will keep afloat! David went into one store to ask advice of a young married businessman with 6 small children, who has helped us many times since coming to Greece and has accepted our annual calendars. When he found a stranger in the store, he asked after his friend, to be told by his brother-in-law that **Heracles had died suddenly two months ago**. Six wee ones left without a dad! You never know when you witness to somebody for the last time!



Unloading
Container



Christian
Literature



Alexandra

- Reaping the Opportunities

However, there are positive things happening even in these hard times. One group of friends who run the charity called **Hellenic Bank of Christian Love**, have recently been asked to provide clothing and shoes for a men's prison, which was desperately in need. They have seen this as a great opportunity to reach these men and some of the clothes from the container were given for that purpose.

A young **store assistant** told us that the calendar we left last Christmas was the best one she has ever seen. She reads it daily, alongside the Greek NT we gave her. Pray that God will open her heart!

In Gevgelija, one lovely young teen, **Alexandra**, offered three friends a NT, which they gladly accepted to help with their historical study of religion. Imagine her delight, when all 26 of her classmates on seeing the NT's also asked to be given one. This was a huge encouragement to her faith!

Today, we got a message from Gevgelija to bring Greek Bibles, as they want to distribute them in the Casinos and Hotels on the border, visited by many Greeks in the hope of winning the big jackpot!!! We trust they will find the greatest Gift of all, through reading God's Word.

- Reporting for Duty

Over the next number of weeks, David will be preaching at Pastor Mike's midweek Bible study while they return to the USA for their daughter's graduation, a family wedding and ministry. This little fellowship is in the midst of various battles, with **Pastor Jonson**, spending a couple of weeks in prison and now facing deportation unless his permanent visa is granted. **Virginia**, who helps with translation work, was hit by a car and badly hurt a couple of weeks ago, **Antonio**, is in hospital for tests because of sudden vision loss, and **Pastor Mike** himself is recovering from recent major knee surgery. We are also hoping to find some **language school** which runs through the summer, although not much is available in the immediate proximity, and with time being of the essence and rising fuel costs, it may not be possible to travel to Thessaloniki.

Thank You so much for your continued prayer, which we deeply appreciate. In this time of hardship and crisis in many parts of the world, we do not take it for granted and indeed, as we try to help ease so many situations, we know we could do nothing without His guidance and your help! Please pray on!

Your Servants in Christ,
David & Wilma Lyttle

Tentative 2012 dates for GB

N. Ireland: Jan 10th – end of Feb, Jan 23: Glengormley Baptist Ladies meeting

England: March 1-17th

Scotland: March 18th -April 2nd

N. Ireland: Easter- CCCF Bushmills – end of April

These dates/areas could change depending on requirements.

You should contact Charles McCluskey with reservations.

Contact & Support

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All checks should be written out to TRBC, but place 'For Mizpah Outreach' on the memo line.

Field Address:

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