



Dear Praying People,

In the midst of the political/financial upheaval, which has given Greece centre stage in Europe, if not the world. We have watched, 100's of people clamouring for small amounts of money at ATM's. Because the banks weren't trading, Chemists couldn't buy the necessary medications for the people. Even Post offices, ran out of postage for letters or parcels and everything was put on hold. No wonder the people have no idea how to survive or what will be next! Even the Prime minister, an expert on brinkmanship, seems now to have accepted austerity measures greater than ever before!

Living among fearful and sometimes tearful people, who don't know what the future holds, we are so very conscious of being firmly, protectively and lovingly held by the one who controls the future.

### **Old Friends Revisited!**

In May, Iain & Tanja were informed that they needed to come quickly to Austria if they wanted to see **Christa** [Tanja's mum] again. Due to the Eurovision Song contest being held in Vienna, tickets to Austria were very expensive and it was much cheaper for them to fly to Greece, where we picked them up and drove directly through to Austria.

Christa, in spite of her ever weakening heart, cancer in many areas of her body, complicated by renal and hepatic failure, pulled through and at the time of writing, although still a very ill lady, is alive and coping with the help of morphine and oxygen. Instead of being part of a funeral, as we had anticipated, we had a lovely time together, remembering old times and God's faithfulness through the years.

Another family going through the same situation invited David to join them as **Renate** [kindergarten teacher for our lads] and her husband **Franz** were awaiting the passing of Renate's mother inside the next hours. Imagine our surprise when before we left Austria she was up walking around. David is definitely convinced that no one can tell a woman when she is going to die!!! Please continue to pray for these ladies and especially Renate, Franz and family, as they had another opportunity to hear afresh of Jesus love and promise of Eternal Life.

### **Old Routes Retravelled!**

Iain shared much of the driving with David as we drove through and reacquainted ourselves with people and places from long ago. It was of course an added blessing for us to be able to spend some unexpected time with Iain, Tanja, Shayna and Alyna, despite the initial reason behind the trip.

### **Old Hatred Rekindled!**

Driving through the town of Kumanova in FYROM, right on the Serbian border, we were reminded how recently, there have been sporadic outbreaks of violence from Albanian Islamic Extremists. Several police were killed and many of the terrorists too, but thankfully the atmosphere has eased for the moment, although it could so easily ignite into more.

### **Old Workclothes Reused!**

Arriving back in Greece, with Iain and family for a few more days, we picked up **Neil** [Wilma's brother], from the airport, as he came to work with David on the site. It was lovely timing, allowing Neil and Iain's family to spend a couple of days together before they had to go home

Neil and David donned their working clothes every day, and completed various necessary jobs with bricks, concrete, painting etc. We are very grateful for Neil's sacrifice of time and money to come over, his help with the work and the 100% enthusiasm he puts into everything he does.

The people in the Gevgelija church, some of whom he has met before and helped in various ways, were delighted to see him visit and loved having him there. Friendships formed there have been made for life!

### **Old City Reviewed!**

Shortly after Neil left for home, we headed to Rome, for a missionary conference where 700 missionaries from all over the world were gathered for their 4-year conference. This also gave us the opportunity to see a very old city, which we had never visited before.

It was a privilege to be invited to this conference, to renew fellowship with fellow-laborers whom we met at a previous one, and to make many new friends and prayer partners.

The difficulties some of these national missionaries go through on a daily basis, as they take incredible risks for the furtherance of the Gospel in their areas, is incredible and very humbling.



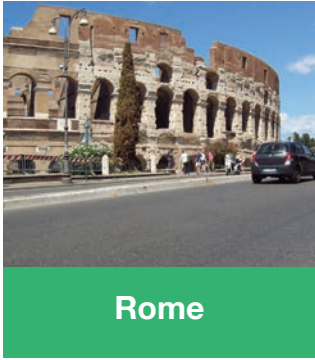
Iain, Tanja, Shayna  
& Alyna



Schonbrunn Palace  
in Vienna, Austria



Neil MacDonald



Rome

Some of them work in lands where to be known as a Christian is asking for trouble, but to be the one who is evangelizing and encouraging people in this faith, is like carrying around a personal death wish.

One young man working in Kobane, Syria, showed us the pictures he brought to illustrate the work, done by his colleague and himself. Before coming to speak, he got a phone call telling him that IS had taken his colleague and beheaded him just a few hours before. Tears flowed, as he showed his courageous friend who had been 'Faithful unto death,' and had now received, 'His Crown of Life.'

We saw afresh that we are living in days like the early church, and only this kind of 100% Christian living will make an impact on our sin-soaked, violence-filled world.

At the end of the conference, since there was no flight back to Greece, we had one extra day, when we were able to look round the ancient city, walk another place where the Apostle Paul once walked, and where so many believers gave their lives, rather than deny our Lord.

An added bonus to being in Rome was that as the banks had just closed here in Greece, we were able to lift some cash to keep us afloat for a bit when we got back home.

#### **Old Opportunities Reopened!**

David has been helping out with **Pastor Mike's** church again this year, both in the mid-week Bible studies and the Sunday Services. God's Presence has been very real and especially one Sunday, when David felt God was leading him to preach another message on a totally different theme to the one he had prepared.

It spoke to many hearts and our telephone was still ringing at 11:15pm about people who had been challenged. An elderly man **Kristos** from Sevasti and his Bulgarian carer, **Sissi**, came along with us to the services and have asked to go back again.

One point of concern is that a number of the Bulgarian ladies now attend a Big Screen church, where well-known prosperity preacher and healer T.B. Joshua shares his messages, broadcast from Nigeria. This is worrying as these vulnerable foreign ladies need pastoral care and won't get it through this kind of service, but because they struggle to make ends meet, one can see why these promises of riches sounds attractive.

We continue travelling to **Bitola**, increasing our visits when **Alex** is absent during the summer months. Recently, some young men, who are deeply interested in Bible study, and one older couple have begun attending, encouraging the believers.

**In Gevgelija**, God is continuing to bless the meetings and we want to thank you particularly for praying for **Magdalena**, who has now broken off her ungodly relationship, and is really showing signs of self-worth and wanting God to have control of her life.

At the moment, Gevgelija is over-crowded with refugees from Syria and Afghanistan, who at the rate of 1,000 per day attempt to pass through Macedonia. They are living all over the streets, eating, trying to shelter from the sun, sleeping, even showering with street hoses.

Of course, many of the locals, especially gypsies, see this as a way to make money, selling them alcohol and other things they may need, as well as supplying prostitutes to serve them right on the roadside.

Some are definitely poor people having fled their country because of persecution or because of their faith. But others are very rich, young, strong men, who carry knives and search for mosques to worship in. Why they are among the refugees is hard to know, but it all seems very dubious and dangerous. Every day, around 1,000 get papers [for a price], allowing them to travel further into Europe and no sooner has one train left, fully loaded with these people, the mess cleared up in an average of 9 rubbish skips, by a crew from Gevgelija, than the next number begin to walk over the border and gather in the same area.

All of this is played out, right in the foreground of our friend Venci [station master] and his family's home. Hundreds sleep in his garden, leaning up against his house walls. It is not easy, not safe for the children and the authorities turn a blind eye to it all, not wanting to get involved.

We should receive a consignment of Arabic Bibles soon and trust some of these people can be reached with the Good news. Please pray for those living in the vicinity and for any opportunity they may have to reach out.

#### **Old Methods Reliable!**

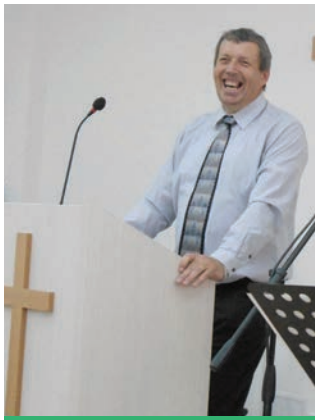
Recently, our closest city, Katerini, became the 2nd in a series of 1 day Crusades by **Tom Mahairis**, a Greek/American Pastor. The local Christians worked very well together and invited a massive cross-section of the people to come. The preaching went well and out of those who responded to receive Christ, one lady is the wife of an Orthodox Priest!



Kristos & Sissy



Tom Mahairis



David Speaking

### Old Missionaries Reporting!

Living in the village where most of the people are able to live on what they grow in their land and with hens and chickens can keep going longer, life is much easier. It is more difficult for those living in the cities, where businesses just haven't been able to keep going.

With travelling regularly to FYROMacedonia, we fill up our fuel tanks, as well as find some banks willing to give us Euros, which help keep the work afloat. Thanks for those who called or wrote concerned for our welfare. Please don't be worried for us, as we know through His many promises that He has our backs!

We will press on with the **camp-site**, as half-finished or half-started [as it appears at the moment], it cannot accomplish what we believe God intends for it here. So although held up, we are not giving up!

Join us in believing prayer for God to fulfill Ephesians 3:20 regarding this project. Your continued prayer and support is very important to us, please accept our gratitude and believe with us for tremendous Spiritual breakthrough in these momentous days. God doesn't promise His people freedom from difficulties, but He promises to walk with us through them and leave the onlookers curious as to how it is possible!

August is the month when many firms close for holidays in the Balkans and summer usually means we have a steady flow of people passing through. We have had guests from Romania and USA, and various guests and mission personnel are intending on being with us in the next weeks. Also, there is a consignment, for other mission groups as well as us, to be delivered by a group from Germany later this week and a couple from Holland visiting in Sept/Oct. Most likely around that time, we will have another team from N. Ireland if there is finance sufficient to get a bit more work done.

We intend to be in the **UK** a bit longer this coming year, since many people have not seen us in a few years. At the moment, the plan is to be in Northern Ireland, ready to take meetings from **January 5th** ending with the Bangor convention and CCCF Easter program at the **end of March 2016**. Then we will begin **Scotland on April 3rd** and continue as necessary through April. We plan to move into **England in May** and remain there as long as there are meetings for us to take, before returning directly to Greece. None of this is written in stone, and will depend entirely on the opportunities we are able to use.

If you haven't already booked a date, please do so with **Charles & Bertha** as soon as possible, and if you have a fellowship we have never visited, or not in a while, please ask your leader/pastor/minister if he is interested in David coming to present the work. We would like to see as many people as possible and look forward to telling you more of His Work here in the Balkans.

Lovingly dependent on Him,

*David & Wilma*

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All gifts are tax-deductible.*

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