



Dear Praying People,

Since you last heard from us, the refugee/migrant situation in Europe has escalated drastically. 1,000 + daily, suddenly became 3,000 + and on one occasion at least it was 6,000 in one day. Greece was in total chaos, especially some of the islands, who were in the middle of tourist season, so as quick as humanly possible, they were shoving the people over to Macedonia. Gevgelija, which is the closest town to the border and has the first railway station, was over run, often with more migrants than locals. Close friends of ours who have 2 teenage daughters, have had to run the gauntlet, from very dangerous men. Thanks to prior military training, their father was able to disarm assailants, who tried to attack him twice when, being in charge of the area, he was trying to tell them what to do.

With severe complaining from the community about the smell, lack of toilet facilities, people washing in public, the build up of rubbish, the fighting and yelling, camping in their front gardens, lying on their doorsteps etc etc, the mayor soon had to take action. Police and troops were drafted into the area and the town of Gevgelija was put off limits to the migrants. A holding centre was made along the Greek side of the border and people were only allowed through, as trains or buses [purchased solely for this purpose] were available to bring them further on the journey. It was a horrendous time for all concerned and only the warm weather averted a total catastrophe.

Recently, 5 large tents have been erected to cater for the 1,000's of people who wait to get through every day [often peaking at 11-12,000 daily.]. Red Cross and Doctors without Borders are providing medical help. We are among the groups involved in the Humanitarian aspect of providing for their needs. Along with others, and in partnership with World Help [group Allyn works for in the USA], it has been possible to provide food, water, hygiene packs, baby needs, clothing. We have been the only ones supplying thousands of raincoats, [which Iain managed to get ordered from China], shelves for supplies [previously left lying on the ground], beds and blankets for the elderly and pregnant women in the tents.

In our neck of the woods, we are the only group distributing **Arabic Scriptures** to those who want them. All other Christian organizations have agreed to show caring examples of God's Love, without evangelizing, to avoid causing offense! Some have tried in various centres and been stopped or removed from the program, others have been warned of a large fine for doing it, but so far we have not had any major problems from the migrants or the officials. In Lesbos and Kavala, two colleagues of ours requested Bibles to be sent to them and have thus far been discreetly sharing the Word without problem. We feel this is an opportunity, which, although we did not foresee or even expect, is nevertheless an imperative need we cannot ignore, to reach the migrants with the Gospel. Under the guise of war and victimization, these hoards of people have been brought to us and as believers **we must** present them with a 'better way' of living, although we know that a Trojan Horse of monumental proportions is being unleashed into Europe, which will influence our future generations. Satan has his hateful agenda in all of this, but God is still sovereign, still on the throne and working out His purposes.

The gospel is the 'power of God unto Salvation' and is the only solution to turn the tide of depravity. We discovered this when David met a soldier from Syria, who had fought with the British army in Iraq. Having met with another believer on Lesbos and then finding out the reason we do what we do, he said, 'I hate Islam and IS in particular. Can you tell me how to become a Christian?' David explained that one is not born a Christian, the difficulties involved for a Muslim becoming one and that it's not a matter of changing religion, but a relationship with Jesus Christ and being under His Lordship. On his own affirmation, David led him to the Lord and before he finished praying, without any prompting **Mahmut**, asked the Lord to help him lead his wife and family to salvation. He was so thrilled to get a Bible for himself in his own language.

Another evening, we met with several migrants who were **Orthodox and one Roman Catholic 'Christian.'** According to them, they were fleeing from a land where you never knew when you would be the next victim. David explained that religious labels don't make Christians and he had a wonderful, emotion-filled time explaining how to know Jesus personally. Via two translators David prayed with them, line by line, and they were delighted to receive personal copies of the Arabic Bible. One lady began reading immediately such was her hunger and she said, 'I have waited so long to get one of these.' Two of the ladies thanked him and kissed his cheek, as he went off to meet other needy people.

A man whose son was murdered in Baghdad, still has three other sons missing, but was escaping with his daughter, gladly took a New Testament and hugged David. He wanted us to thank Allyn for the help he has given to the people of Iraq in recent years. The leader of the group also came over asking for a bible. **A lady from Iran** who married a Macedonian has led a few people to the Lord in the Gevgelija camp in spite of the evangelism ban. We look forward to continuing to work together.



Migrant Crisis



Mahmut & Family

Through many years of travel behind the iron curtain and in dangerous situations, we have known that many of you prayed faithfully for us and carried us through. 'God has set before us an open door and no man will shut it' Revelation 3:8 is as true today as it was then, so we ask that you keep praying for this door of opportunity to be kept open, as long as it is necessary. Partly, the reason why we can affect so many people is, that Allyn's group **World Help** has been paying for most of the supplies we are able to bring over. This has been an amazing help to us and to the people we get to reach. There are also tremendous opportunities for national Christians to witness to these people when they get to their final destinations, and we know that many Arabic Bibles are being printed to meet that need. There is talk that possibly the governments will attempt to stem the flow of people coming through for the winter months, but we will see if that becomes a reality.

Our other preaching opportunities continue! God has been working in hearts and encouraging our brothers and sisters. In **Gevgelija**, we had a baptism, which was attended by many and a good witness for the Lord. Unfortunately, possibly due to loneliness and need for attention, **Magdalena** has begun her relationship with Igor again. Our last meeting together was not appreciated and she exploded with anger, at not being allowed to behave as she wanted. The situation got so bad her mother, a lovely Christian lady, ended up in hospital for a week.

We had been going to **Bitola** bi-weekly in Alex's absence, but his knee is now well and he has recently returned. Olive is also working away with the people there, and in the last few services we have been in, there has been quite a few people attending, which is nice to see. One elderly man has asked for baptism, but since the weather is now cold, he will most likely have to wait till warmer weather, as it will be done in the open.

Locally, in Greece, there are opportunities for David to work with the **youth here**. One evening was particularly blessed, as 35 students from Moody Bible School in Chicago joined us. David was able to meet them again the following week, before they left to go to various other sites in Greece.

At one service in **Thessaloniki** a few weeks ago, several people responded to God's call on their lives. One lady, who married an unsaved man and totally fell away from the Lord, was totally broken, repented openly for her choices, which also had kept her family away from Jesus.

The church in **Verea** is also continuing its work among the Jewish people or visitors to Verea, and for that particular purpose a Hebrew N.T with the synagogue in Verea on the front cover, is being printed. David has enjoyed fellowship and preaching opportunities with the folks there too.

Calendars for 2016 have arrived and although we don't know where the time will come from, we look forward to the distribution among the locals every year. The work in our camp has virtually come to a standstill at the moment, since we are so involved with the refugees, but we feel this has to take some priority, being that it is a temporary opportunity for us. We hope to resume as soon as we return from deputation in 2016.

One day, David came across an accident where a Romanian driver had struck a Greek car. The people were visibly distressed, but no one seemed interested in helping them, and it took the Greek police over an hour to come to the scene. David was able to arrange for a tow truck to pick up the car, bring it to a friend's garage and 4½ hours later, leave them at their hotel.

The next day we both met with the **Romanian family** for coffee and to check that things were in order for transporting them and their car home. Many opportunities were given for sharing and we left them with literature. Pray please that they will meet up with other believers in their own country. Another joy was being able to give the evangelical residential home, **tripod walkers** to help them get around. They were very delighted to get these aids, which are not available here in Greece.

As we opened the front door one morning we had an unpleasant intruder. A snake had hidden behind a pair of shoes and decided to investigate the inside of the house. Not a good idea, especially when we have a steel door, which became a very effective guillotine. Thanks for your continued prayer for our safety, not only on the roads!

Because of the aid coming through World Help, **Allyn** came with a videographer to assess the situation, for 2 days this month on his way home from Iraq, via Turkey, where he also visited with partners working among refugees and other needy people. This was an exciting time for us and we ask for prayer as we continue to assist in the migrant program and especially as we try to find locals willing to help out in our absence.

Jon Marc now has an equal share in the care of their children, which is a huge answer to prayer for him and the children are adjusting to the situation very well. God has anointed him with a special kind of grace and patience, which has been evident in every situation concerning him. All others are doing well and grandchildren continue to grow and learn!!

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and New Year. As you celebrate the **miracle of this special season**, may your heart be filled with joy and peace, and Christ's blessing linger



Katerini Youth Group



Romanian Family



Allyn

in your home and stay with you throughout the year. Thank you for your **prayers and support** again throughout this year.

Yes, this is another reminder of the fact that we will be on deputation in 2016. So far we have a few meetings, so if you haven't yet booked a visit or meeting, please do!! The itinerary so far is as follows:

JANUARY—N. IRELAND

Except 5th, totally open for meetings

FEBRUARY—N. IRELAND

3rd Wednesday - Newtownards Congregational
7th Sunday - Disabled Christian Fellowship Belfast pm
12th Friday - N. Belfast Young Life
14th Sunday - Botear Mission Hall pm
24th Wednesday - Mt Zion, Lisburn
28th - Sunday - Portrush Mission Hall pm

MARCH—N. IRELAND

4th Friday - Tansy Mission Hall
6th Sunday - Ballymacbrennan Old School 8.15pm
9th Wednesday - Scrabo Gospel Hall 8pm
13th Sunday - Derryhubbert Mission Hall pm
25-29th Easter CCCF & Bangor

APRIL—SCOTLAND

10th Sunday - Kelso Evangelical am/pm
17th Sunday - Fort William Baptist am/pm
24th Sunday - Larbert Pentecostal am/pm

MAY—ENGLAND

1st Sunday - Kings Heath, B'ham am/pm
8th Sunday - Beeches Evangelical, B'ham
15th Sunday - Kingshurst Evangelical, B'ham
29th Sunday - People's Hall, Evangelical, Bridgenorth
Thereafter, we will leave directly for Greece.

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At time of printing, over 200 buses are waiting to be processed at the Greek border with over 10,000 extra refugees on board. Pray for continued good weather to make the wait less difficult and for some better arrangements for their hazardous journey at these times.

Lovingly dependent on Him,

David & Wilma

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