



Dear Prayer Partners,

Concluding our meetings in England after the last prayer letter, we had a couple of things go wrong with the van in spite of just coming from its annual MOT. The hand brake wouldn't hold and almost ran through the front of a minister's home. The second incident was on the ramp of the ferry. Not pleasant! The tyres including the new ones] appeared to us to be particularly low, but when they were checked, it turned out the gauge, the previous garage had used to check them was faulty.

While in the Leeds area, the gear lever no longer went easily into gear, and we were sent to a 24-hour Mercedes repair shop. They just keep working on vehicles day and night in shifts and gave us a slot for 6 am. Turned out we had to get a new gear lever and linkage, but while they were doing that, they also fixed the handbrake. We could have done without these problems, but God knows and He gave us many opportunities to witness in the garages. Because we got all these small problems out of the way while still in England, we had a very safe and good journey back, despite hauling a very well laden trailer. Thanks for praying for our safety on the roads!

David has always wanted to research a girl mentioned in Paul's writings called Claudia [2 Timothy 4:21], a Welsh princess, who was captured and taken to Rome. Eventually she married Pudens and after becoming a believer, they encouraged the apostle Paul, prior to his execution. Since we had to go through Colchester [the oldest Roman town in England], for the first time, he took the opportunity to search the records and sure enough the story is recorded. He had the town's most prolific readers, researchers, librarians etc checking the books for information, and they were extremely fascinated to discover, that a girl from GB would be mentioned in the Bible. It was a great opportunity to witness!

As soon as we arrived here, we had a visiting team arrive to work into the camps. Now things were very different, since the migrant centres have been split up into 20-30 smaller, easier to handle camps of varying sizes. Some are in disused factories and the people live in tents inside the factories and all around them. Others are in warehouses or even disused military barracks and facilities. The police and army, don't really want a lot of people coming in and out who don't belong, as they guard most of the camps. So far journalists etc have been totally banned, as have most organizations, which don't offer some particular kind of necessary help. Most people bring the needed goods and leave them with the military or Red Cross for distribution.

Refugees have many wide and varied medical needs, many were sick from bad water and ended up in hospital, others have hepatitis A, and still more need help with heart conditions, diabetes, asthma etc. Food is scarce, not very tasty or satisfying and the mosquitoes are making their presence felt in droves!!! Still the people have to trail every family member to register for Asylum over 400 kms, either to Athens or Alexandroupoli and we have been defraying these costs for as many as we can, while also providing the medicine needs for those without money. Even those who go through this process are told it could be a year before they are reunited with family members, while those who don't have relatives on the other side, will wait even longer.

The Berea camp continue to allow only the World Help team to give the needed aid and quite a number of the Muslims come to church every time the door is opened. On one such visit to Berea, Giannis should have been David's translator, but just before the service his young son, Pannes, swallowed two hair clips that his big sister was going to put in her hair. So they ended up in the hospital to have them removed. Another young man, who works in IT, was volunteered to do the translation and so we managed to get through the service.

Later, a tour group of Jews arrived to see the synagogue and one couple from Israel took home a New Testament after a talk with David.

One of the young Syrian men, recently, got a video sent from Aleppo of his destroyed home and his dead parents. How very sad for Ahmed!! Pray for a young friend A, who despite having no money to pay, has been taken by people smugglers into Europe. We worry about what they will expect him to do in return for free passage!

In another camp with Christina's team, we visited the contacts they have made so far. A Yezidi family is particularly pleasant and between them the family care for the mother who is not a very healthy person. Their main treasure is a Bible in Arabic/English, which they all take turns to read out of. They had lied to the IS about who they are, by quoting the Quran, giving the impression they are Muslim, and were forced to witness the slaughter of their whole village except one other family. In some ways they are ashamed of having to do such things to escape, but David told them, it has given them the opportunity to hear the Gospel. Many are very grateful to receive copies of the Scriptures in their own languages.



Colchester Castle



Refugee Girls



Gladly Receiving
God's Word

- Not all the refugees are thankful for what they have been given. One example is the lady who wanted a dishwasher fitted in her new home. Another 2 small families of Christians were finding life hard, in a tent, in a camp full of Muslims, so were offered a house with three bedrooms, two bath rooms and a living room between them, but they refused asking for 2 separate apartments.
- We need discernment, as some people will tell amazing untruths to get preferential treatment. One man tried this recently, supported by 11 others. But some things didn't add up in his story and he was sent back. Later it was all exposed as lies!
- We have been trying to help find a Syrian man for his family. We knew he had gotten as far as Skopje and asked Bore to help find him. But the holding centre he had been at was now closed and everyone gone, but we don't know where they have been. However, the family, still hold hope that he has made it through and will hear from him soon.
- 3 Gypsy men were asked to help clear out a house following a death. As payment, they were told they could take anything they wanted, as long as they left the house empty. They found a hidden treasure of 70,000 and 16,000 euros and a few hundred dollars. That is when the story gets interesting! The 3 men knew it wasn't right to keep this and went to the police. Nobody believed them, this was not normal behavior, and wasn't logical, practical or in the genes. When asked why, they replied that 3 years ago they would have kept it, but since they have been attending the Roma fellowship in Katerini, they have been born again and follow Jesus. The police contacted the Pastor of the Evangelical church to confirm the story. It has been an incredible witness to the Police, the neighborhood to the other gypsies and to the benefactors of the Will. It even made the newspapers!

We have been travelling to Bitola & Gevgelija as usual, but sometimes, because of lack of time, we did both areas on one Sunday. This is over 500 kms and two preaching services, but it has been good to renew fellowship and meet some new people.

The Bitola Assembly recently lost their premises because of a nasty divorce between the landlord and his wife. But the Evangelical church in the city only have evening Services so they now meet in these premises on Sunday morning and in homes during the week. Because of the outreach from the café, they would like to still have the possibility of reaching out and are looking around for premises.

Gevgelija is going well and have recently had a few people come alongside to help with outreach etc on a short term basis. Mile, Zoran and Hilda's son was recently married, to Katerina and we wish them all the best in their married life. We weren't able to attend their wedding as we were at a series of seminars to help us understand how to work with Muslims, which was a very big eye-opener in some areas and confirmed a lot of what we had discovered as we went along too.

Elizabeth from USA, working in N. Ireland has been here to see the camp work recently and she has travelled with us to quite a few of the camps. Some camps were welcoming, others are closed to visiting NGO's and in still others, it depends which police or army officer is on duty.

- **Privileges of the Open Door!** One camp, to which we still have access, simply removed a Christian group who were holding Bible studies inside - so it is not always easy. We still believe God keeps the doors open and as long as He does, we will go through the doors. Revelation 3:8,
- **Prayers for the Open Door** – Please pray [Colossians 4:3] 'for an effectual open door' - through which we can still get God's Word into hands!
- **Protesters at the Open Door** – Violence is a part of every day life [1 Corinthians 16:9] 'And there are many adversaries.'- although some camps seem more susceptible than others. Unfortunately I.S. influence is not limited to Syria and Iraq! Recently, in 3 days of violence, frustrated migrants destroyed an entire warehouse of goods, meaning that women and children, primarily, have to do without! In this camp 60 babies will be born in the next months!

Mark & Heather Trouton have just left us after working on planning and documenting the Mizpah camp, in preparation for a team of 9 coming to do building work on the site. They also had the opportunity to see the Veria camp first-hand.

Ian & Jackie [David's brother and his wife] came this week and have been doing work round the place, as well as visiting some of the refugees. Not really what you would call a holiday!!!

We have a container with materials arriving hopefully on time, to allow 'the 9' to maximize their time here. We are so grateful to all of these people who gladly give of their time and talents for the privilege of helping in this needy country!

Recently, we had a series of totally amazing experiences, which had to be seen to be believed. Prior to one service, two young couples from Poland stopped to talk. They had a bus to catch to Meteora [most famous religious centre in Greece], so they couldn't stay, but listened attentively and took away copies of the New Testament. In the service we



**Troutons with
Refugees in Berea**



Three-way Translation



Flooding in F.Y.R.o. Macedonia

had about a dozen Greeks, an American, many refugees and three Ethiopians. David was preaching on Hebrews 10, comparing the inadequacy of the Old Testament Sacrifices with the completeness of Christ's sacrifice when a group of Jews and Palestinians arrived. They listened with the doors opened onto the street and read the verses in Hebrew New Testaments, which were available at the entrance.

The service had been translated three ways, English, Arabic, Greek and David's Arabic translator, until recently despised Christians, believing they only did things to profit themselves. Before the Lord's Supper, the young Ethiopian told his tour bus driver to wait for him, as he had to share in the Breaking of Bread, with his fellow believers! Afterwards as we all shared together, there was absolutely no antagonism or animosity between these people, despite coming from nations who hate each other. Many of the visitors from Israel took New Testaments with them as 'souvenirs' of their visit.

What a privilege to serve!

Sunday August 7th, there were torrential cloudbursts in Skopje, quickly flooding the city and 22 people lost their lives. Thankfully, our believing friends are not among the 100's injured but it was a very scary experience! Now the churches are appealing for help with clean up and we're trying to do as much as possible.

Opportunities abound in both Greece and Macedonia and we look forward to ministry in various fellowships, and in the Leptokaria youth camp, inside the next few weeks.

One special prayer request is for an Arabic speaking pastor, who is finding the legal procedure for staying here quite an ordeal. God called him, so he sold his home, gave his church to a worthy successor and has been greatly used in discipling followers. Pray that permission would be granted for him to remain and continue the work. No more details would be safe to share!

Since our last letter, Allyn has served in Nepal and Haiti, as well as making some other journeys for his work. Jon Marc and the children had a week in N. Ireland and Scotland, when the kids got to meet their relatives, most for the first time. Everyone pulled out all the stops to meet up with them and give them a great holiday!!! Iain and Family went on a tour of the United States in their camper, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Bryan and his family went to Ohio for Tiffany's family reunion, so they were all on the road this summer and we are very grateful for journeying mercies for each one of them. Now the children are getting ready for the new start to the school year!!!

We have found the summer weeks hot and draining, although we are very thankful for good health, [Isaiah 40:3] and look forward to what the Lord will do in the coming months, now that the weather has begun to cool off.

Incidentally, FYI, we will, Lord Willing, be in the USA for December 2016 and January 2017, as this is our year for family reunion and grandkids time, some of whom we have not yet seen! There will, of course, be another prayer letter before then.

We appreciate all you do for us and especially your faithfulness in prayer. Many have written for updates and we have felt the benefit of these prayers.

Your servants for Christ's Kingdom,

David & Wilma

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