



Grandkids

Dear Fellow Prayer Partners & Friends,

On our way to the USA last year, we passed through central Athens, on the same Day that President Obama was in Greece. It was necessary to close many of the underground stations for security and people like us were rerouted through other stations. This meant many thousands of people rushing to and fro, trying to make up lost time and get where they were going. During the crush, David was pickpocketed of his wallet, which also contained his GB driving license and credit cards. Thankfully, we could cancel everything and since we were enroute to the US, he has a driving license from there. God worked it out for us to be able to get our luggage and get out on our intended flight despite this incident!

We had a great time in the USA with family and friends. Each week was packed with activity, as soon as everyone finished their required obligations, i.e. school, work etc. Often we had over 30 people around our dinner tables and of course, many of these were children, since we have 12 grandkids now. It was a pleasure to spend time with each one and Darts became one of our favorite 'Lyttle' pastimes, leading sometimes to a bit of embarrassment for grandad as he was 'smoked' [defeated, in US slang] by either kids or grandkids. But it was great fun to see that they have obviously inherited some of the Irish DNA regarding throwing things!!!

Our lads arranged family outings from 1 day to 5 in duration and we thoroughly investigated the early settlers and their battles for survival. It was lovely to see that as well as being extremely proud of their British and European roots, our grandkids are very definitely patriotic to the USA. It was a pleasure also to witness **Alyna** going through Believers Baptism, with her pastor dad, **Iain**, having the added joy of baptizing her.

Over this period, we took only a few meetings, but each one was filled with a very definite sense of the Spirit of God and we leave knowing our prayer partners are encouraged. Many now see the potential of reaching Muslim Visitors for Christ, in the face of almost continuous opposition to this perceived 'threat'.

Of course, we do advocate stringent checks regarding those who wish to live in Europe or the USA, but the Spirit of Fear which has been allowed to infiltrate so many areas of Christian living, must be dealt with. It is hindering us and Jesus has declared war on fear!

We have the **Glorious message of Salvation**, which supersedes any other message ever given to mankind. We also have **Jesus promise** 'never to leave us' - Therefore, let us use this unprecedented opportunity to reach those, who are only now hearing the Gospel message, which we have had, and in many cases neglected for centuries, with tragic consequences!

The Eastern church has had to face the horrendous onslaught of murderous Islamic Jihad, which almost eradicated the Christian message in so many nations and with that knowledge, we wonder at the naivety of those non-Muslims, who so loudly proclaim that Islam is peaceful.

It has been a great privilege to see the impact of the Gospel on the lives of so many enslaved by Islam, yet looking for the truth. If we go forth with **faith** to believe that the Gospel is the Power of God unto Salvation and **courage** to proclaim it, there are people desperate to hear this news.

We have been given reports of:

- Some migrants, who aren't in official camps, dying of **hypothermia**, due to the very cold winter in Greece and Italy too.
- Recently, our team were able, with help from World Help, **to reunite a family** with the daughter they had not seen for 16 months. She had been sent on to Germany with an uncle, as her dad, Mustafa, was sick and needed medical attention in Greece. But during that time the border closed and it has taken this



Mustafa, Sana & Family

long to get them together again. They have faithfully attended every church service since going to Berea, and already have a church to attend in Germany, so we ask you to pray they will continue to follow after the Lord.

- **Bible studies** continue with many groups of refugees in various Greek fellowships.
- Before leaving for the USA, news came from a church in Germany, telling us of 17 people who now attend this church and who had requested baptism. These people all said they had **come to** know Jesus while still in Greece, so that is very good to know and a big encouragement to our teams.

In many ways, the situation has changed in recent days:

- **New ruling** has allowed refugee families to have some money every week to buy their own groceries. This will work well if the father is a caring individual and not one who thinks only of himself. There are some logistics involved, since many of the camps are not in areas where stores are available, but hopefully it will mean they can eat what they prefer instead of factory prepared food.
- **Smaller camps** help with control of disturbances etc. Many families are now in **temporary housing** allowing them to live more normal lives while they await the next step.
- **Fewer countries** are willing to take refugees and this only increases the hardship for Greece. Only Portugal has in recent days said they are willing to take a few hundred Yazidis as they are a minority who are often persecuted by other Muslim groups.
- Germany and some other European countries are sending their unwanted **refugees back to Greece**, and who knows what Greece can do with these people. Please pray on that we will be able to reach as many as possible with the Gospel, before despair and desperation set in.
- The claim from the **UK** that they were willing to take 3,000 unaccompanied youths has dissolved into yet another political lie. [in actuality, 300]

After returning from the USA, we stayed one week with David's sister Esther and Robert near Dungannon, whom we thank sincerely for all the care and attention. Now, we have moved to Lisburn, where we will remain for the weeks we are here in Northern Ireland, and have been given the use of a vehicle for that time.

Since arriving home, David was smitten with what appears to be a **virus**, causing severe tiredness, weakness, headaches etc., and to be fit for his meetings, he has had to rest for much of each day. He has seen a doctor who ruled out problems with heart, BP, etc., and ordered further blood tests. Please pray for a speedy recovery for him, as he has more meetings and plenty of things to do with the vehicles, to make them road ready for our return in early March. The days ahead will be intense. Already we have had a few meetings and enjoy seeing some old friends again and even some new ones! Here are the ones still to happen before we leave:

February

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Thursday 16th | 7.30pm – Apsley Hall, (Hazel Knox: 02890485995) |
| Friday 17th | 7.30 pm – North Belfast Y.L., (Dawn Fry: 07759360367) |
| Sunday 19th | 11am – Banbridge Independent Methodist
7.30pm – Derrycrew Mission Hall, (Jim McQueen: 02838334642) |
| Monday 20th | 7.30pm – Mizpah Committee |
| Friday 24th | 10.45 am – 1st Holywood Presbyterian |
| Sunday 26th | 11am & 7pm – Fermanagh Christian Fellowship |
| Tuesday 28th | 8pm – Ballywillwill Gospel Hall, (Martin Bell: 02843778430) |



Refugees

March

Wednesday 1st 8pm – Abbottscross Congregational Ladies

Thursday 2nd 8pm – Coagh Baptist, (William Booth: 02886736541)

Sunday 5th 6.30pm – Abbottscross Congregational



**Bryan, Iain,
Jon Marc, & Allyn**

Seeing our family again, we realize afresh how blessed we are through the sons God has given us, and we love to watch their progress. **Allyn** continues working very hard for many under-developed, marginalized or war-torn peoples. **Jon Marc** is doing a good job of helping his kids through the difficult times of the past year, while holding down a full-time job. **Iain & family** reach out in various ways, to the local community with the Love of Christ. However, **Bryan & family** have the most arduous time as he juggles a demanding job, church responsibilities, and a very complex family. Please continue to remember them, when you think of our family.

Partnering with you for His Kingdom,

David & Wilma

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