



## Health Improvement

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

Finally, the Dr. gave David permission to travel, and although not completely recovered from his virus, his blood showed definite improvement, enough that we could leave with the promise to have bloods redone in Greece. We were touched by so many who wrote or telephoned out of concern and know your prayers were vital for his recovery. We appreciated all, especially family who helped in many ways.

We managed to make it to every meeting which was booked, even though David was sleeping or resting at least 18 hours a day. We were very encouraged also when a young man trusted the Lord after one of the services and has been a regular attender of the Prayer meetings ever since, carrying his Bible and letting people know whose side he is on!

Having lost so much time at the beginning, the last couple of weeks at home were very busy. Camper passed its MOT and is driving like a dream. A lot of work had to be done on the trailer to make it roadworthy this time, but finally all was ready and the loading was complete. Thanks to all who helped by providing, baby buggies, wheelchair, medications, food, clothing and many other needed items. Above all thanks for your continued prayer and support through another testing time. If we didn't see you this trip, either because of illness or rushing to make up time at the end, we missed you, but we will take meetings early in 2018, Lord willing. Tentatively, we plan to be in Ireland Jan & Feb into March, Scotland last half of March and England in April after Easter, which is already booked by CCCF near Salisbury.

We travelled to Scotland first, visited family and friends there and spoke in a couple of meetings. Then it was down through England and across the channel. We paced ourselves for a less strenuous driving program than usual, allowing David some time for rest. Unfortunately, he still managed to come in contact with people, who weren't fully recovered from 'flu, and of course, they generously passed it on. In his weakened state, these bugs had a party and the remainder of the journey wasn't easy.

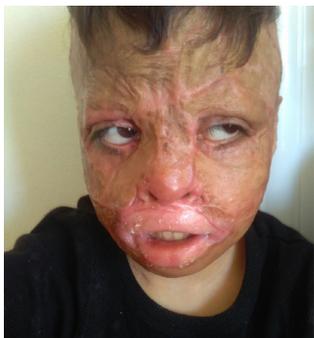
We had missed the cheaper ferries to Greece from higher up Italy and there was no way we were going to pay the price they were asking for our 40' load. So, we drove the whole way to the foot of Italy and caught a much cheaper, shorter ferry. Thankfully, Wilma's immune system held up like the Rock of Gibraltar, the vehicles took the journey smoothly and eventually we arrived safely back in Greece.

The winter here was particularly severe this year, many have been ill and elderly have died. Most homes had burst pipes and problems due to the cold, but we were very thankful nothing was amiss in our house, much to the amazement of our neighbours, meaning that draining the pipes and filling them with antifreeze was obviously a good idea.

It has been terribly difficult for the refugees, and for those trying to care for them, as heat, blankets, warm meals etc were never enough!!

While trying to keep warm, an oil heater was overturned and **one young boy Mannat was badly burned**, when the whole tent was enveloped in flames. After 4 months in hospital, the family were transferred to Athens, where some of our team, who were following up on another transferred Syrian came across the little boy. When asked, the desperate parents agreed to have prayer for the child, which our friends did gladly, anointing the child with oil. Not only was his face and head so badly burnt, but he also lost most of his fingers. We are looking to God for a miraculous intervention. Please join us!

Soon we began visiting contacts around our area and were astonished to find so many people have died since we were last here. We were especially saddened to find, our gravedigger friend **Kostas**, who helped us so much all through the years we have been here, passed away in January, after a long battle with cancer. **Dimitri**, local hardware store owner and good friend, **lost his father** suddenly last Monday from a cerebral aneurysm. These families are not saved, but were touched by our open concern. Many, who don't know what to say, avoid the subject or stay away, but we find caring is always the best approach.



Mannat

**Christos**, another unsaved friend, whom we have previously asked prayer for, is still terrified of dying, but talks of the hypocrisy he has seen in many orthodox friends, causing him to doubt if God can really forgive and change someone. Not only, did he lose his wife a couple of years ago, but in recent months 5 of his neighbours have died and he knows his time is also limited.

We have visited 4 fellowships and 3 cities so far, but David has only been to one camp, although we have met up with different groups of refugees at church etc. Those who knew us from before were especially delighted to see him, as were the new ones, who had heard positive things about us. It was a great joy to see their warm inviting smiles and feel the hugs. Some more families have been housed in our area and are being greatly helped by members of the church. One man who hadn't seen David since last year, ran up to him, hugged him and told him he loved him. He now comes regularly to church with his children. Most refugees still want to be relocated to other countries, as Greece is so bankrupt, but we are not sure if this will ever happen. Others have moved on, as the slow process of reunification of family members takes place. A few, have actually been granted status in countries they requested to be sent to. Some of those whom we knew are:



Ahmed & Narin



Hannah

- **Ibrahim**, who had previously translated for David, has since put his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and he is going to be baptized in Portugal where he has been assigned. His wife and children love the little fellowship, who also arranged a lovely birthday party for their daughter's 4th birthday.
- **Ahmed**, with his wife **Narin** and 4 children have been given visas to live in Dortmund, Germany, but having moved three times in 9 months they are still looking for a fellowship. Not yet saved, but close!
- **Hannah**, with her 4 kids is happy to be with her husband in Germany. She loves Jesus, has a lovely sunny disposition and calls with updates every few days!
- **Mahmut**, was probably one of the meanest men in the camp, beating his wife daily. Instead of giving him the punishment he so richly deserved, our team shared lovingly with him and even paid for dental treatment. After being transferred to Athens, he called back thanking the team and telling them he loves them. His whole demeanor has changed, including his treatment of his wife. It is wonderful, but he still needs salvation. He has a New Testament. Please remember him!

**Our co-workers** continue to have a wonderful open door in one camp, but although loved by the people, there are side effects!!! One brother going 2-3 times a day into the camp was suddenly hit by a severe bout of uncontrollable diarrhea, which lasted for 24 hours, and left him weak for a few days. Please pray for protection!

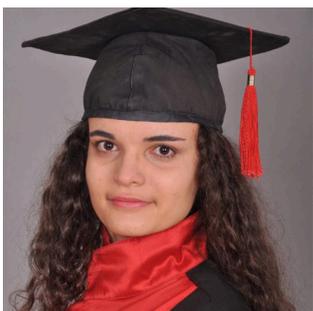
Now that winter is passed, **refugee arrivals are increasing** in the islands. An average of 120-150 people came weekly during winter, but this has risen to an average of 80-120 per day now, many coming from African countries. Not numbers like before, but still a lot of people to go into already crowded accommodation and to become part of an increasingly despondent, discouraged and disruptive group of people. Most **camps have now refused all volunteers** especially foreign volunteers, which is a bit disconcerting, as many of the foreign people were providing education, crafts, skills, sport etc, which don't seem to be provided for by any NGO's. There are also increased clampdowns on those who would share the Good News! Pray on!

We've made a trip over to FYROMacedonia and had great fellowship with folks there. We were able to catch up on the news of many friends and to find that amid the many blessings they have experienced, deep wounding accusations have been made that really hurt! Those who are really being used by God, will always be targeted as they are thorns in Satan's side!

Our college kids are doing well. **Belinda** has graduated as a nurse with very good marks, and **Aleksandra** is coming to the end of her 3rd year, with one more to go, also with very high grades. Both continue to witness faithfully for the Lord! Recently, **Alexander** [Bitola] came home from Church to find out his house had been broken into and among other things his passport and car papers were stolen. He was able to go from Skopje to Germany and take care of renewals of these vital documents, but it is very unsettling to realise, that it was most likely someone who knows him well enough to know when he is not home.



Refugee arrivals increasing



Belinda

The **Mizpah campground** was well overgrown, with weeds over a metre high and thistles as thick as your wrist! For payment, one of our neighbours agreed to do the hardest part of the yardwork, which he has a machine for, and David by doing a few hours a day, managed to clear the debris and pull up the most resistant weeds. Meantime, we got the van cleared out and trailer emptied of the most immediately needed goods.

Now David is working on getting the JCB going and preparations made for the May teams. Meaning that by the time you get this letter, we will have begun a very busy month of hospitality and work on the camp. **Wilma's sister Elizabeth, Jonathan and family** will be here in the first half of May and then from the 11th till the end, we have **various work teams** coming to the camp to help get the multi-purpose building up and possibly make a start on the toilet block, or finish some of the cabins. Pray for their safety, the weather and good progress to be made.

Thanks for continued prayer for our family. We are thrilled that **Catalina**, Bryan & Tiffany's eldest, was baptized on Easter Sunday and we trust she will walk close to the Lord. **Iain, Tanja & family** were recently in Austria, which was a real delight for Tanja's folks, although Christa is very unwell. **One young man** trusted the Lord at Jon Marc's Bible study last week, which he was rejoicing about. **Allyn** is on the road a lot, with trips planned to Nigeria and South Sudan border in the near future and would value prayer for effectiveness and safety! Please keep praying!

**Alan, with Linda** his wife, who recently came on board to help send out our prayer letters, had a heart attack last week. His quick thinking took him directly to the hospital and he had a stent put in, but thankfully, there is no lasting damage to his heart. Please remember them in prayer, as he gets medication to remove smaller blockages and for a good, quick recovery. Charles & Bertha very much appreciate their help, as do we, that you will be informed and continue your vital ministry of prayer for this work! Thank you!

Yours because of Him,

David & Wilma

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