



Multipurpose Building



JCB, "Jessie B"



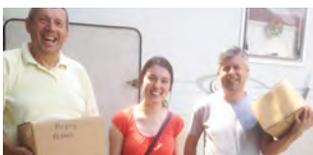
Pastor Nikos



Galini & Timothy



French visitors to Berea



Distributing New Testaments

Dear Friends and Family,

These last months have been a roller coaster ride of experiences, emotions, exasperation, excitement and encouragement. Wilma's sister, **Elizabeth, with Jonathan and 4 young 'uns** visited for almost two weeks on their working Sabbatical. It was really refreshing to have them here and as their visit overlapped with our first workteam, Jonathan became an additional member to the 6-man team, namely **Norm, Trev, Martin, Dave, Phil and Stephen 1**. They worked like slaves and within days the entire steel structure of the Multi-purpose building was finished. Then they started on the roof, using up nearly all the materials we had! It was amazing to watch!

When 2 more professionals, **Stephen 2 and Kyle** joined **Norm**, they completed at least 75% of the brickwork and the cement floor of the kitchen. [Incidentally, the cement truck driver has stated that he wanted to come to church to hear David preach, but so far hasn't]. The men left dire warnings if David should try to continue without assistance. [However, we think they were more concerned with a collapsing building than a collapsing missionary!]

Jessie B, looks like a totally different machine now she has her cab mounted, which has been jokingly referred to as her head covering!!! We were very thankful to get that done and a good deal of servicing, welding and engineering was done by Phil, when he was here. Of course, with windows now fitted, in the very hot weather it is like a sauna inside!!!

Over the last months, **David** has had various tests in the hospital and they have shown that he was hit by a double whammy of 2 viruses at the same time. One of those is now dead and the other is, at the moment, lying latent, so not causing problems. This has allowed him to regain a lot of his strength and energy and he is thankful not to feel so limited in what he could do. Some of the specialists were delighted not to have their worst fears realized. Thanks so much for upholding him in prayer and for the many letters and phone calls.

We have a constant stream of visitors and folks passing through with it being summertime. In this heat, the kitchen is not always the first place of choice, but the fellowship is sweet!!! Please pray!

The **work among the refugees** continues although many have been taken on the next step and new people are taking their places. It takes time to build up relationships with these people before they will attend church, but the work goes on and **Pastor Nikos** and family are very faithful helpers with this work, taking people to hospital and Doctors, and being there as soon as the camp have a problem they can't deal with. Recently, he was doing Bible study with three muslims, who between them had some English, but little Greek. Nikos had them looking up verses, reading them in Arabic, explaining them and the younger brother [who goes to school here], trying to translate his explanation of the verses. Slow, but they seemed to be enjoying it.

Our friends, **Galini & Timothy**, after 10 years of marriage had been told they would never have children. Along with others, we prayed for them and a few months later Ioannis was born. A couple of years later he was joined by Filipos. Ephesians 3:20, 'He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all we ask or even think...' Then Filipos began to have serious seizures and they were told to prepare for the worst. We anointed the child with oil and prayed - that was almost 2 years ago. On June 6th the specialist examining Filipos said, 'You know this is a miracle - this is a terminal illness!' Join us in remembering this child, who has a lovely sensitive spirit and encourages everyone with his Bible stories and shares how he loves Jesus. **Filipos** still has some problems, but God has it all under control!

Church services on both sides of the border continue and God has been blessing. Following one **Berean** service, we met up with a French, Jewish family who came to visit the synagogue. David arranged for the local guide to come and meet with them later and meantime we had the joy of sharing with them about the one Special Jew, Jesus, whom we love and serve! They were really interested and left with a New Testament or Brit Hadasha in Hebrew.

On a more solemn note, the church folks here who have been giving out NT's to many Global Nationalities, had a visit from the **local Police Chief**, warning them not to have any Macedonian NT's, [since Greece doesn't accept Macedonia as a country with that name], or there would be serious consequences. We sorted out that issue by taking a very large load of the 'offending books' across to FYROMacedonia, itself where they can be freely distributed.

At the same time, we have been able to replace hundreds of distributed NT's with new editions, and we know that God will speak to the hearts of their future owners.

Our architect was in England when he suddenly realized that the deadline for the camp site application was fast approaching and had to be paid inside 30 hours. He couldn't even send us the forms till the following evening and we needed to have it done at the bank as soon as it opened. It gets more interesting!!!! David had to go to hospital that morning for tests under anaesthetic 60 miles away and usually the lines at the bank are long and slow. But it all fell smoothly into place - but what joy to have His Peace, when the pressure is on!!!!

Recently we were at the **annual missionary conference** and it was a privilege to be prayed for publicly in our efforts to reach Greeks for Jesus. That evening Christians from many churches and mission groups joined together in an open air meeting in a town close to Mount Olympus. David attended and had some good conversation with teenagers who came along to listen.

In various **youth meetings**, God has been present in very definite ways and David has now been asked if he will do the first sermon, to 'kick off' the youth camp in Leptokaria, on Sunday August 6th. What a joy to recently hear a young teenager pray and ask God to 'help us be nice to each other,' something many of us forget!

We believe the devil is purposely and especially attacking church leaders, in these days! How many fellowships we know where one kind of sin or another is bringing the entire congregation into conflict. Just 2 months ago, in one church, we were warmly welcomed back and asked to please continue to come and, if we were able, add a few extra days during the week to run seminars especially on Evangelism. This we agreed to do!

However, a few weeks later, it came to our notice that one family in this fellowship, had been victimized, in a witch-hunt of false accusations and vindictiveness, by some of the very people in leadership with whom we have been working for so long. Asking for definite reasons for the expulsion of this family, we could be given none, and the family are clueless, as to what they have done, therefore we informed the leadership that we couldn't agree with them and the situation needed looking into. Now we have been told, they love us dearly, but we are no longer welcome! We know it was the right thing for us to do, and have asked to meet with elders and leaders to try to sort out the whole debacle, but so far, this request has been ignored. We cannot support this kind of toxic leadership, where people have to be controlled or they can be removed without reason. Please remember this family and some others, who have also left, or are on the brink of it. There is no other suitable place for them to worship in the area, so they need healing, grace and wisdom, as to how to go on from here without bitterness, but walking in His love. Please remember your pastor and the leadership of your churches who are in the front line of attack!

In another incident, showing how selfish and ungrateful people can be, a family of refugees were offered a brand new built apartment, but they refused it, saying that it was 'more than a 10 minute walk from the centre of Katerini.' Of course, another more thankful family will get this home, but you would expect them to be willing to take this rather than continuing to live in the squalor of a camp situation, all of which are very far from Katerini or any other bigger town.

During the latter part of June we attended two weddings and a funeral, which all took place in very hot conditions, of course. **The weddings** were both beautiful, filled with an air of love & expectancy. Three of the 4 people, were part of the youth we have been teaching, sharing and encouraging for many years, so it is lovely to see them find Christian partners for life.

The funeral was of a very much loved leader of the Pentecostal churches in Greece, who was also a cardiologist. Like a 2nd Dr Luke, he was highly esteemed and will be greatly missed. We did have one shock when his coffin slipped at the graveyard and plunged to the bottom of the grave. What a joy to know that while all this was going on, he was rejoicing in the arms of His Saviour! So many don't and we need to be reminded of that.

After several years, the **Annual services commemorating Pentecost** for Northern Greece, were held again at the top of the hill in our village of Sevasti. Pastor Elias, our friend Giannis from Berea and David were among the speakers. It was a beautiful day and a great joy to renew fellowship with friends old and new.

Alas, we are in the middle of a big project we could have done without, as we have a problem with damp coming into one side of the house. David discovered that the underground drainage pipes between our house and the neighbours, were broken and need replacing, as well as strengthening the foundation of the wall, since it cracked and shifted during an earthquake some time ago.

Tanja's father, Kurt has been diagnosed with Bladder Cancer and is to undergo surgery in September. Iain's family will all be in Austria by the time this letter arrives and they would value your prayers.

Jon Marc & Allyn took Evangeline and Christian to Canada for vacation where they had a great time, visiting sites and national parks. What a beautiful country it is?

Allyn left soon after that trip to go to Nepal with his work and although he has now returned, he needs your prayers for wisdom and workload.

Bryan & Iain's children attended Vacation Bible Schools this summer and some even went to camp. These are great opportunities for them to be with other kids and to learn more about walking with the Lord.

Elizabeth and Jonathan and Family still need a home when they return to Skye in the next weeks. Please make this a definite matter of prayer!



**Jonathan, Elizabeth
and Family**

Ella Coffey, who was our treasurer for 28 years, contacted us recently to ask if people could stop sending gifts, mail etc for us, to her address. Bertie and Ella are involved in a great ministry, which can take them away for many months at a time, meaning your gift/post could be lost or lying around. **Jennifer Mackin** is now our treasurer, her address is on the back of the new prayer cards and every prayer letter, so you can update your records and she will be delighted to hear from you. Thank you so much!

We already have some **bookings for 2018** and here are the tentative plans, so far:

JAN – EARLY MARCH: **In Ireland**

MARCH 12TH – 26TH: **In Scotland**

22nd – Fort William Baptist, Friendship Hour, Fort William

END OF MARCH – APRIL: **In England/Scottish borders**

29-3rd April: CCCF, Salisbury

8th April: Kings Heath Evangelical, Birmingham

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