



Dear Prayer Partners and Friends,

Greetings from Greece! It has been a good and busy summer, in fact, this year has flown by and it's hard to believe that this is the last letter we write before Christmas. David continues to have good health since he was told his results were 'much improved' in September. He doesn't have to return to the hospital till end of November for a blood check. Now, even with some very full days, he is no more tired than is normal for his age! Thanks for prayer concerning him!

LOCAL NEWS!

Over the summer, we have had many guests passing through from one place to another. We have had folks from Germany, Croatia, Austria, FYROM, Holland, Scotland, Ireland and of course other parts of Greece. Some came to be refreshed for their further journey, encouraged on their pathway, others for holidays and still others to work in the camp site. It was good that we could enjoy fellowship and get to know each other better too.

David has continued to preach in different services around both Greece and FYROMacedonia, and it has been wonderful to experience the Lord's Hand in protecting and providing for travel, as well as blessing in the meetings. **Mike** in Thessaloniki had knee replacement surgery and is doing very well with it, thanks to many prayers and a good surgeon. David is preaching for him for the next 3 weeks to let him get a bit of recuperation. After these three weeks, he has a couple of services in the **Evangelical Church in Sevasti**. Until now, no one showed, who was willing to translate for him, but now the opportunity has come and some of the locals have said they will be along to hear him.

Youth Camp in Leptokaria went very well this year and David enjoyed a great atmosphere in the meetings and very good question time afterwards. Pray for this opportunity, as more than 1/3 of over 200 young folks are from Orthodox homes. When the new year of **youth services** began in the Katerini Church, David was asked to be their first speaker and since we had **Gary Kearns** from Fermanagh here with his accordion, he went along to play and testify, which was an encouragement to the young folks.

Some of our guests also went with us to the **Berea church** and thoroughly enjoyed fellowship with the people there. They are always delighted when someone from another country testifies or gives them a word from the Lord and our men were very willing to take part. Many visitors to the Synagogue or even simply tourists pass by the church, and recently **Melpo** was able to give a Turkish Biker from Newark USA a New Testament which he promised to read.

Evgenia, their 6 year old daughter, when she sees a group of visitors or a tourist bus coming, runs over to find out what nationality they are. She then runs back to tell the pastor and get New Testaments in the correct language for them. She also delights the Jewish background people, by reciting Psalm 122 in perfect Hebrew, from memory.

However, the leaders of the **Jewish community in Thessaloniki**, have taken the keys from our friend Evi, who was the official guide from the city. They have decided to open the synagogue 2 /3 days a week and they will do the booked tours themselves. This could restrict our possibilities of reaching the Jewish tourists with the Gospel and giving them New Testaments, if they don't have a guide who is sympathetic to the church. No matter who we try to blame for doing this, we know Satan is the mastermind behind it, as he tries to close an amazing door of opportunity. Join us in praying, remembering God is still Sovereign and on His Throne. Many Jewish parties don't come with official groups and will still come along to see the Synagogue. Although they won't be able to get inside, they'll still be met by the team, offering Scriptures in their own languages.

ON A SAD NOTE...

If July was the month for weddings for us to attend in Greece, September was the **month of funerals**. First, we were shocked when **Dimosthenis**, a long-time friend, who was very faithful over many years, suddenly was hospitalized for a small procedure and didn't wake up. He had been in church one Sunday and before the next, he was buried. We miss him still, but his wife, **Tsoula**, is present every week cooking, especially for the refugees.

Stefanos, the 42 year old son of Yiannis and Alees, who are very good friends of ours, went to be with the Lord on our wedding anniversary, after a battle with stomach cancer. He leaves behind his wife Alketa and daughter Chara who with the wider family have borne a great testimony for the Lord through this whole illness. His mother was singing one of his favorite hymns to him when he passed from this life. At his funeral, one of the speakers said, 'When a baby is born, he cries and his parents are delighted. At the funeral of a believer, he is delighted and his friends and family are weeping.' Thankfully, we know, 'our joy comes in the morning' when we will all be together again!

Christos, [83] whom we have asked prayer for a couple of times in the past, took very sick and ended up some weeks in hospital. David visited him regularly, continually reminding him of his need of a Saviour, but he wasn't willing to listen, although always glad of the visit. One day, when we visited, we were told that he had passed away and no one had let us know. David did get the opportunity to visit and talk with the family afterwards, but our hearts were sore to know he had heard the Gospel so many times without acceptance. A reminder of the brevity of time and so many unsaved!

Pastor Nikos, in Berea, has just lost his father, whom they had nursed for many years at home.



Youth Camp



Youth with Gary



Melpo & Turkish Biker

REFUGEE WORK

Pastor Nikos and Giannis are continuing the work in the Berea Refugee camp and we are very thankful to them for their work and that this door has remained open for us. We noticed when we came back that slowly, all Christian NGO's were being removed, and then eventually Christians working in secular NGO's were being replaced or told their services weren't any longer necessary. Therefore, in accordance with the new laws from the UN, Nikos was asked to sign a paper to say he would not talk about his faith or give out Bibles. Of course, he refused and because the work is so much needed, for a few weeks nothing more was said. But eventually, the day came when he was refused admittance into the camp unless he sign the form, so he returned home. He was 10 mins in the house when he got an urgent call that there was an emergency and would he come and take someone to hospital. 'No, I am not a taxi driver, You stopped me coming into the camp, sort it out!' They were amazed at his refusal but after some discussion, they answered, 'Ok you can come inside as usual. We need you. No one else is willing to come day or night to help like you do.'

Several Muslim men have begun being very aggressive about their faith, but the love and care of our team has won them over, resulting in visits to the church and 100's of New Testaments given out.

One Syrian, Muslim man, suspected of having Hepatitis B, needed a test which we paid for, and thankfully it wasn't as serious as first expected. He was so thankful for the care given to him and has totally changed his attitude as a result. Later we got a telephone call from the hospital in Thessaloniki to say that a lady who had been brought in the day before for treatment had lost her baby and now needed to be picked up and returned to the camp. Giannis and Melpo went to get her and comfort her on the loss of her child. Most of the help we give to the refugees, would not be possible without our partnership with World Help and, on the whole, people are very grateful for what they get. The United Free Church in Scotland is partnering with us this year in providing many necessities to make life more comfortable for the refugees, and we are very thankful to have this help and look forward to distributing it to the people. With winter coming in now, we will distribute the warm things brought over from GB this year and we know many will be helped.

In our local area, where most of the refugees are now in homes, we have been asked to help a Greek pastor's wife, who has opened a small school to teach the kids in English in preparation for the next step. David had the joy of baptizing one refugee, who had accepted the Lord and wanted to be baptized before moving to Germany.

FURTHER AFIELD!

Bitola fellowship, has seen some growth in recent days and we are thankful they have found premises, allowing them to open their café and bookstands to the public during the week. Although, it was helpful to use another church's facilities, [services held at different times], there are better outreach opportunities in the centre, where people can come in, as the members can reach out to the community.

We have been visiting with the family, wrongly excommunicated from church in another area. To add insult to injury, they are being ignored by all, but two church members, should they meet on the streets of that little town. Twice they all came here for a few days break from the tension, as it is not easy to live constantly with stress. They have been meeting with a few people in another village close by for prayer and Bible study, where one lady has prayed for people to come and begin a church for years, but no one ever did. Recently we have heard a murmur that maybe now the church in the town will begin meetings in this village too. We are seeking the Lord's Will in this situation, as it is only a little village. Sometimes it seems, Christians are the only creatures that kill their wounded!

AND SO ... TO THE CAMP PROGRESS!

Brian & Carol from Fort William came for a week at the end of August, following their short-term sailing mission adventure. They helped us with some jobs, took part in church and just generally were an encouragement to us. Lovely to see them and catch up mutual prayer needs etc.

Then the **Magnificent Seven** arrived from Northern Ireland in the last week of September and thankfully the container had arrived a week or two before them this time. So they got to work and finished off the roofing on the multi-purpose room, doing the scratch coat of plaster on the outside of the building and getting it ready for doors, windows and shutters which should be installed before we leave at Christmas. The ground was levelled, marked for cabins and a place for sports, plus an Electrics control Box is fitted inside the camp. Jessi B was serviced by a professional mechanic and enjoyed being used by experienced folks for a change! The craic was also mighty and seemed to help the work get done!!! George Verwer once wrote in a prayer letter, that those manual laborers, when they reach Glory will hear, 'Weld on, Good & faithful Servant!'

Three of the men stayed on for 9 more days and managed to get the toilet block almost roofed and David with a local man, **Stefanos**, finished it off. **Dimitri** who works with solar heated water will come and put in his tanks and panels in the next weeks. He is the unsaved husband of **Maria** the lady from our village who accepted the Lord before she passed away a couple of years ago. We are very grateful for all the progress which has been made and the provision of the equipment and finance to pay for it. Special thanks to Norman Macready for all his help in so many ways in this project. The men also willingly helped by testifying, preaching and worship in a few fellowships in this area. This is such an encouragement to the Greeks, who don't realise the extent of God's Church in the world, and how we are inextricably bound together from the moment we meet each other, because of what Jesus has done for us all! And it is a great witness to the unsaved who are looking on!

Jonathan & Shari Falwell, [Iain's Senior pastor] were in Saint Martin for their silver anniversary when Hurricane Irma came over and destroyed so much of the island. Like everyone else they had to shelter and wait for it to pass allowing some good opportunities to speak for the Lord. Samaritans Purse arranged for many of the grateful survivors to be brought back to the US, and he has since joined with them and other organisations, returning to help with aid and assistance.

Also due to Hurricane Irma, **Bryan** had over 80 extra young folks sent to his institute from the Florida area as their own place was destroyed. This has meant a lot of extra work from Bryan, which he says he is delighted to be able to do, but we're sure he would value your prayers.



Refugee Family



Magnificent Seven



Camp Progress

Iain is busy with many events which happen between now and Christmas as outreach from the church. Both of his older girls will be taking part in the Christmas play. In the recent Beast Feast held recently 160 men trusted the Lord [thanks for praying]. He also has a lot of follow up work to do in that regard.

Kurt, Tanja's father has had two operations by epidural to remove tumors from his bladder area and is now undergoing 6 weeks of chemo. We solicit continued prayer for the physical situation of both her parents.

Allyn has now added Korea to his list of visited countries and although he doesn't get much time for sightseeing, he is seeing a lot of things happening to help many people all over the world.

Jon Marc is enjoying really great times with the men's bible study group he is leading, and one unsaved man came after one study with many questions!

Both **Jennifer Mackin** and **Bertha McCluskey** have had health issues this past few months. But we are glad to report that both are improving. Please pray for those who have our back in so many ways. We appreciate all their help in the work.

IT'S CALENDAR TIME AGAIN!

Visiting a local post office, it was lovely to see our daily calendar on the wall behind the post-mistress, opened and read that day! One pastor's wife asked the post lady where she got it and she told her all about David coming every year with it. Already, another lady has been to the door asking David to be sure and remember to give her and her grown up family calendars again this year. This is an amazing open opportunity to visit homes and David loves every minute of it. Please pray for safe delivery of the calendars, the logistics of getting them prepared, and most especially the conversations resulting from this outreach.

We hope to see many of you during our time at home in 2018 and we have a few meetings already booked. *Dates below.*

We will return to Greece as soon as the bookings in England are over, Lord willing! Meantime can we take this opportunity to thank you all for another year of prayer and support and wish you a blessed Christmas Season, as you use the opportunity it affords, to reach out to friends and family. May He richly bless all our efforts and widen our vision for 2018.

Your Servants in Christ

David & Wilma

Jan-Early March: Northern Ireland

Sun Jan 7th – Derrycrew Mission Hall
7:30pm 02838334642

Sun 21st – Derryhubbert Mission Hall
7:30pm 02838851840.

Sun Feb 4th – Ards Evangelical 10.30
am and 6.30 pm

Sun 11th – Bottear Mission Hall 7pm
Margaretpatterson82@btinternet.
com

Wed 14th – Silverbirch Evangelical
Church Bangor 8pm

Sun 18th – Bally Robert Mission Hall
8pm 028 90832524

Tues 20th – Ballywillwill Gospel Hall
8pm 02843778430

Sat 24th – Gorey Mission Hall 8pm
07875959748

Mon 26th – Glengormley Baptist
Women's Meeting 8pm

Wed 28th – Moira Presbyterian Mid
week 8pm

Mon March 5th – 1st Portadown Pres
CE 8pm 02838356469

End of March – April: England/Lower Scottish Region

29th Mar- Apr 3rd – CCCF Salisbury
April 3-9 – [when free] Shrewsbury
CCCF

Sun Apr 8th – Kings Heath Evangelical
Church, B'Ham 01214445291

March 12-26th: Scotland

22nd – Ft Wm Baptist Friendship Hour

Sun Mar 25th – Fort William Baptist
Church 11 am & 6pm carolfallows@
yahoo.co.uk



Calendar at local
post office

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*All checks should be written out to TRBC, but
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