



Joan



Baby Boxes

Dear Prayer Partners,

This prayer letter is being written from cold, damp Northern Ireland, as we have already started our bi-annual deputation program. We crossed the continent listening to predictions of dire weather conditions. However, not only had we enjoyed beautiful sunshine and t-shirt weather in the afternoons prior to our departure, but we also seemed to stay a step ahead of bad weather the entire way to Germany, where we encountered a couple of hundred kilometers with snow, followed by clear skies, till we reached England.

A sad note was that we had arranged to meet up with a cousin of David's, whom he had not seen for over 40 years. Joan, had written that she was looking forward to seeing him, although she was terminally ill. It was a time of reminiscing about past events and memories for the two of them, as her husband and Wilma listened in. Although, we had already eaten before coming, one of her uppermost thoughts was to suggest getting food prepared for us. Regretfully, as we travelled on, we got news the next day that Joan had passed away.

Coming through England, a powerful windstorm blew one of the roof vent covers off the van, just in time for a massive downpour, showing us how important a water-tight roof is! And travelling on Loch Lomond side, another camper driver took away one of our mirrors, as he tried to negotiate the tight corners on the road.

While leaving our visit with Wilma's family, the camper slipped off the narrow road in the snow into a ditch and it took a neighbor digging, a 4-wheel drive pulling, and all the family who were able, pushing and shoving to get us on the road again. Thankfully, there was no permanent damage, and once again we provided memorable times for everyone concerned!!!

Otherwise, we had a good journey and were excited to receive a trailer full of baby boxes filled with warm necessities, for the refugees, from the United Free Church office. These Baby boxes have a mattress inside, double as the first cot for the child, allowing them a clean environment to sleep in, rather than beside their mothers on a mattress on the floor. Many thanks to Helena, Famie, John and those who helped collect, deliver, pack etc. There is so much still to come, so we will put it all in a 40ft container, fill the remainder with supplies needed for the camp, and have it delivered to Greece soon after our return. The folks in Scotland have outdone themselves in this venture to help the refugees, which we are very grateful for, and we know it will be of great benefit to so many. Most of the refugees are small of stature and we don't get much clothing or shoes for small men or teen boys, therefore we would gladly accept donations of these items, since the container will be leaving from Northern Ireland. You can contact us on either 07709594498 [D] or 07990983917 [W].

As well as all these wonderful donations, while in Scotland we were given totally free, two absolutely, awful doses of the cold. Sometimes, giving thanks in everything is not so simple, but we were certainly not alone, as half the country seems to have the same problem and are in various stages of recovery. We are thankful to be coming out the other end and its almost gone and so far, the voice has held for the meetings.

Recapping on our final months in Greece, which included two services in our local village of Sevasti and a couple of visits to take the services in Korinos just a few kilometers from us.

These were great times and were attended by some Orthodox people who have been awaiting the opportunity to hear David in the locality. Some were seriously spoken to, saying they had never heard this message before and have promised to return, while others have since said they will be present next time he preaches, including one lady Joanna and her daughter, who has just become a first-time mum.

Calendar Opportunities were again plentiful to share the Good News of our Precious Saviour, but space only permits to tell you but a few:

- Our lawyer, **Ioanne**, introduced us to her parents and another visitor in her office. Her mum said, 'I have heard about you for 15 years and feel like I already know you.' We talked and shared for around 45 minutes and they said they will be over to visit us when we return to Greece.
- A **Motorway Services manager**, who has been reading the calendar for years, requested a NT in camouflage colors for his son, who is in the military, which we were very glad to provide.
- **Theone**, who has been receiving the calendar since 2009, was almost in tears because we never forget her. She also receives a calendar for her boss who is a doctor.
- A chemist **John and his father George**, had promised to attend our local church when David preached, but



Ioanna



Theo



Camp In Progress



Refugee Supplies

didn't turn up. A visit with the calendar brought conviction, apologies and a promise to come this year. George was witnessed to for years by a believer who lived in the same block of houses.

- When going to see a special friend **Theo**, whom we have mentioned before, we noticed he wasn't at his workplace. Enquiring of the person who was now in his place, we discovered that Theo, although still a young man, had since died. We spent an evening with his broken-hearted mum **Anna**, who has been involved with the group who worship Zeus and his cronies, purported to still be living on Mount Olympos. Galini, Pastor John's daughter came along to translate as Anna wept and wanted to know could one really have assurance and peace in their heart. We prayed with her and she will be followed up till our return.

The Camp site has been securely locked up and a young Christian, **Giannis**, is going to make certain the weeds don't get out of control in our absence.

What a joy it is to look across the site now, where a few months ago there were only 3 cabins and a cement foundation and see the shell of the multi-purpose building fully erected and the toilet block roofed and ready for the fittings to be done inside. Teams are already planning to come in the latter part of May/June and September/October. Join us in praying that we get the right tradesmen, with time to come and help, the goods we need to finish the camp put into the container and that we will continue to prove God's Faithfulness as He completes this project in His time.

What an amazing opportunity we have: to bring young folks from Balkan countries, to see them taught the truths of God's Word in an informal camp atmosphere and to watch as they reach out to share their faith with those on the beaches and other tourist areas, not many minutes from the camp! Although we had to slow down this project for the initial years of the refugee influx, the vision has not lessened to see the camp up, running and bringing glory to God through the lives of the younger generation.

Regarding the refugee work, God continues to keep the doors of opportunity for service open. Before leaving, we made sure that the center in Thessaloniki, the camp in Berea and one other center which delivers to all the camps in Northern Greece, were given all the clothing, baby goods, medical supplies, medical aids and literature we could provide them with, to keep them going through some months of winter. This meant loading and reloading our car and trailer and travelling to the various places and unloading. Each of the centers were very grateful for the help and we know the refugees will be cared for.

Just before we left, we were invited to the Berea camp for a cup of coffee. Once inside, we were greeted and warmly welcomed by crowds of people and then being brought to two families, in particular, who we discovered had been preparing an absolute feast for us. They didn't have much money but what they fed us was simple fare, flavored with meat and seasoning, but it was delicious, but very humbling to see how grateful they are for the care shown to them.

Pastor Nikos and family, continue to be in the camp and help where possible, whatever the need, and especially with visits to the hospital, dentist, doctor or chemist, or even weekly market trips. We long to see the Word of God take root in their hearts and that many of them will be born again. Continue to pray for 'this great and effectual door', but remember, 'there are many adversaries.' 1 Corinthians 16:9

In several of the churches, we have the joy of sharing the Wonderful Good News of Jesus with interested Muslims. It is an honor and a privilege we dare not miss! Please pray on!

It has been really encouraging already to meet up with special supporters, many who have consistently prayed for us over 40 years and have no intention of giving up now!!! How thankful we are and so encouraged by you coming to the meetings [in inclement or snowy weather], supporting the work practically and most importantly for praying!!! Even some who have not been able to get out still pray regularly for us and we appreciate it so much. We will try to visit some of those who are housebound while at home. Thank you also to those who have only been part of our support team for a short time. Your task is also vital, as you so often replace faithful servants who have passed onto their reward. Prayer does not equip us for the Work - Prayer is the Work!

As well as having to replace the wing mirror and roof vent cover on the motorhome, we discovered that after many years of faithful service, Greece's unmerciful summer temperatures have melted the rubber insulation at the corner of the roof, by the overhead bed. This has allowed rain to come in and mold has been detected. By a wonderful, God incidence, we were recommended to a fellow believer, who was said to be #1 for this kind of work. True to the report, this brother did a great job at an amazing price for us, and after David rebuilds the furniture into the van, it will be getting ready for its annual MOT.

Allyn joined us for a couple of weeks over Christmas and New Year, which is a wonderful joy for us, especially as this was not our season for the USA. We had a lovely time and Allyn saw many family members and friends as well as giving David a very special day for his birthday! He is now back into work and arranging trips, projects etc for the year ahead. We continue to be thankful for the partnership with his group World Help re the work among the refugees.



Charlize



Ian

Jon Marc is also doing well. Children have been enjoying snow play and snow days off school. They hope to move to a new home in the coming months.

Iain's family are working away in the church and seeing things happen. The kids also enjoyed their snow days although Aydin was a bit unsure what all the white, cold powder was all around her. In April, they will do a trip together as a family to China and Mongolia, so that will be a great adventure for them all.

Bryan's family also had plenty fun in the snow, and being free from School is of course a great bonus to all the children. Charlize has recently had investigations into painful knees and was diagnosed with Osteomyelitis. She is to be non-weight bearing for some weeks, but is on good antibiotic therapy, which seem to be working well.

Please Pray: David's brother Ian is awaiting an operation on a congenital condition, which has damaged his heart. This condition affects mostly males, so the family have been advised to be checked. Pray that the Drs have wisdom and Ian & family know the Peace that only comes from knowing the Lord personally.

It would be great to see you at any of the meetings or to arrange a home visit, as we still have a few dates free, especially in Scotland and England! (Dates listed below.)

Your Servants for His Kingdom,

David & Wilma

David & Wilma will be in the UK from February – May, 2018.

Feb – March: Northern Ireland

- Feb 1st – Edwin Poots Prayer Meeting, 8 pm
- Feb 4th – Ards Evangelical, 10.30 am & 6.30 pm
- Feb 11th – Transformation Church, Lisburn, 11 am
- Feb 11th – pm Bottear Mission Hall 7pm, 07881531193
- Feb 14th – Silverbirch Evangelical Church, Ladies Meeting, Bangor, 8pm
- Feb 18th – Ballyrobert Mission Hall, 8pm
- Feb 20th – Dromore CWU, 2.30pm, 07753253396
- Feb 20th – Ballywillwill Gospel Hall, 8 pm

Feb 21st – Bethany Free Presby., Portadown, 8pm

Feb 22nd – Hill St Presby., Lurgan, 2.30pm

Feb 22nd – Mountcollyer Mission Hall, Belfast, 7.30pm

Feb 24th – Gorey Mission Hall, 8pm

Feb 25th – DCF Beersbridge Road, Belfast, 7pm

Feb 26th – Glengormley Bap. Women's Meeting, 8 pm

Feb 28th – Moira Presby. Mid-week, 8pm

Mar 2nd – Reception for those who've been or who want to come to work in Greece. [Call David: 07709594498]

Mar 4th – Ballymacbrennan Mission Hall, 8 pm, 02892638362

Mar 5th – 1st Portadown Pres CE, 8pm.

Mar 8 – 26: Scotland

Sun 11th – Northfield UF, Aberdeen, 11am

Mon 12th – Aberdeen area

Wed 14th Balintore UF, Midweek, 7.30 pm

16-20th – visiting in South Scottish District

Thurs 22nd – Fort William Baptist, Friendship Hour

Sun 25th – Fort William Baptist, 11 am & 6pm

End Mar – May: England

Mar 29th - Apr 3rd – CCCF Salisbury

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

Apr 15th – People's Hall Evangelical, Bridgnorth 10.30am & 6.30pm

Apr 22nd – Beeches Evangelical, 10.30 am

Apr 25th – Chester Greater Grace, 7:30 pm

Apr 28th – FEM, Hunslet, Leeds

May 3rd – Lattimore Gospel Hall, AL1 3XL, 7:30 pm

If needed, call for details:
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All gifts are tax-deductible.*

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