



David's Family

Dear Praying Friends,

The weeks we spent in Ireland Feb and half of March was a time of thankfulness, prayerfulness, joy and sadness at times. We did get to enjoy some events with David's family, including Glen's 40th birthday and time for the sister's, brothers and spouses to be together, which were lovely occasions for us.

We witnessed the terminal illness of three of our very important prayer partners and friends over many years. One man prayed for David even before he was saved, and has prayed for him ever since. The two others have already had their heavenly homecall, and we were privileged not only to witness their deep assurance in the Lord and anticipation of Heaven close to the end, but to be present at their funeral services.

Both Derek Follis and Dorothy Orr have prayed for us for over 30 years! We will always be thankful for their faith, friendship, witness and prayers and look forward to our reunion in Glory! But **who will fill the gap** these praying friends have left behind? A relative of Dorothy said, *'I feel especially sorry for all the missionaries. They rely on prayer and she was so faithful.'* Well, our Faithful God is taking care of that, as we notice a number of new requests for our Prayer Letter. Thank you for asking, and we trust you will engage with Heaven, on behalf of the Lord's Work in this area. Praise God the van and trailer were overhauled and passed the test again.

Time was short and we didn't get to see everyone we wished to, but we are glad we got to meet those we did, and we trust it will be more next time, although I don't think we will ever see everyone we want to in one visit, until we reach Heaven! Special thanks to those who encouraged us by coming to meetings where we were speaking.

We were able to have time with some of the people who have been out working here in the past and even some who have decided to come and help in the future with the camp. Plans for this year were made and we look forward to working together in the coming months.

We are very grateful to **Mount Zion Community church, Lisburn**, not only for their many years of friendship, support and prayer, but this year they donated the electrical goods from their café shop to us for the kitchen in the camp. That is an amazing answer to prayer, and we know the camp will benefit greatly from these items.

After we were packed and ready for the trip, we moved down to Dungannon for the celebration meetings for **AD69**. David was so happy to meet people he hadn't seen for over 40 years and some like **Ian Knox the evangelist**, who had held the original meetings 50 years before, he hadn't seen since. Ian was on his first campaign in 1969 as a young man of 25 and over 100 souls professed Christ in that mission. One of his pressing calls to churches and preachers today was to allow the younger men to preach and speak in meetings, that they can get practice and be used of God! It was great to see how many people are now or were in full-time service or serve in their local churches from that mission so long ago. David gave his testimony on the first night of meetings and **2 men trusted Christ as Savior**. We could only attend 2 meetings, as we were booked on the boat from Rosslare, but we have heard that around 50 responded over the weekend, many were blessed and it was a very encouraging time. Special thanks to all who made it all possible in any way! Please don't wait 50 years for the next reunion!

On reaching the docks in Rosslare, we of course were checked by the police. A very chatty police lady **Michelle** talked and listened with great interest as David told her where he was going and why. Later she crossed the entire area to revisit and ask a few more questions. She accepted literature and seemed genuinely interested in the Gospel.

When parking our vehicle on the ship, David had to reverse on and make a few awkward turns to position our vehicles. The seamen were so impressed they offered him a job on the ship, helping other people park.

We already knew there was a storm, as the ship we were sailing on was 6 hrs late in arriving because they couldn't get into port. Half the cabins in the ship were unfit for habitation due to the number of sick people on the previous trip, so we were upgraded to a lovely cabin with a window. Not that it was of any help to David, who spent the most of the time with his head low, vomiting and feeling bad. He was so glad to get his feet on dry land, even though we were hours late in arriving!

The rest of the journey was beautiful, through France, Switzerland and Italy to Greece, although the electrics, and generator stopped working inside the van. We need to get that fixed soon.

Arriving home, everything was fine and the weeds weren't as high as they usually are when we return in May. Still we are battling them over a month later, as we have a huge area to sort and since the weather has been intermittently wet, they grow even faster.

Before leaving Ireland, **David hurt his back** and unfortunately this has continued for over 5 weeks. We had to unload the trailer alone, but we have been paying for some help with the weeds from a couple of elderly men in the church. We needed to have it done before the first team arrive. This week, David is not eating painkillers like sweets, and his back is much less painful, so please pray that it recovers, and he is able to keep going.

It was a **disappointment** to go to the local post office, where our calendar has hung every year since we started giving them out and find out that an Orthodox calendar is now in its place. This is in the local town where David had a run in with a priest last year in the market place!



Ian Knox



Ferry in the Storm



Stip House Group

We immediately got busy with meetings and other work, and it has been good to be back.

Our first trip back to Northern Macedonia was a real blessing. At one fellowship in **Stip**, we had worship, testimonies from those being baptized, [2 ladies and 2 teens], followed by Breaking of Bread and the message. We spent a few hours together, and we have since had positive emails about this service. One lady and the two teens have a husband/dad who is very opposed to them being Christians and yet in spite of his wrath they told him they were getting baptized. Pray for him that he will be influenced through his wife and girls.

The next day, we joined friends in **Skopje** for their service and had a great time together. There we met some folks we hadn't seen for 15 years. We were quite exhausted, but happy by the time we returned home.

Visiting and preaching in **Berea** was again a wonderful experience! Meeting up with special friends and then over lunch in the church, we spent hours sharing with some of the visiting refugees about Christianity. They had many questions about the deity of Christ - thinking He was only a special prophet to whom God gave certain powers. It was very worthwhile! Later we had fellowship with believing refugees and the family for a couple of hours to celebrate Efigenia's 8th birthday!

As well as preaching in the local church here in **Sevasti**, we have now started attending an interdenominational prayer group to pray mainly for the three townlands in our local area. This is not held in our home, but in the next village, as we are so often not here and it needs to have continuity. The village people were very glad to see us back.

A lady called Linda came here as a missionary from the US many years ago. She married **Yioti**, who was the local Clerk of the Court and raised their family here in Katerini. He was well known for being able and willing to help anyone, who had anything they needed to know about the law. After a time of illness, he recently passed on and we were able to attend the funeral.

The next funeral was our friend, **Kriakos**, who loved coming to hear David preach, but to our knowledge had not accepted the Lord as Savior. He had always collected our local post and was very helpful in so many ways when we came here. He had a very short illness and we didn't even know he had died till after the funeral had taken place. When visiting his friend Elena, she told us, if they had known we were back, David would have been preaching at the funeral. So many of our friends have passed away in recent years, it hurts!!

Our second trip to NMK was to the **Assembly in Bitola**. It was one of these services where things just dovetailed beautifully together. Several visitors were present, the worship was great and the sharing from other brothers, fitted perfectly with the message David brought on Fulfilled Prophecy! We spent a few hours together sharing fellowship with them, listening to the visiting youth giving testimony and we all left encouraged and excited at our reunion!

Dr Kostas, who we asked you to pray for, has been attending church in Sweden regularly since our last PL went out. He even asked could he go on outreach with them. Thankfully, they refused, asking him, 'How could you convince others to follow Jesus, when you don't fully trust Him yourself?' He came to Greece and, after a short talk, told us Jesus is now his Savior, and he already told one cousin about his decision and tomorrow we will baptise him. Please continue to pray for him.

On the way with one of our loads of relief supplies, we saw a man illegally crossing the motorway. Many hours later, when David was in Katerini, he spotted the same man thumbing a lift. He was from Turkey, had been arrested by the police for crossing the motorway, taken off and fined, before being set free to find his own way back to his truck. He was so grateful for the lift a few miles down the road and gladly took a gospel booklet. A friend commented, 'It is amazing what God will do to get someone to accept a Gospel tract'

On another relief trip when David was bringing the Director of the Refugee centre home to Katerini, suddenly a huge sprinter van crossed lanes, heading directly for him. He noticed the driver was leaning over, looking at the floor. David blared the horn and the driver quickly jerked back into his own lane, not a second too soon or the result could have been interesting.... Thanks for praying for us on our many journeys, for safety, for alertness and for the opportunities God gives.

This year, we have a lot of added ministry, included with our normal program, so a certain amount of extra time has to be set aside to do the necessary preparations. As this is one of the most important parts of our work, we would value prayer for speaker and hearers alike! Among these programs is the **50th Reunion of Christian Camper and Caravanners Fellowship** and Wilma has a **United Free Church Ladies Day** in Scotland coinciding with that. In June, we will be at the IBCM conference in **Rome, Italy**, where John Lennox is the main teacher.

Around **600 Refugees** are in homes in the Katerini locality, and we have already met several of them. In the midst of English lessons, one of the students was curious to find someone from Ireland being so warmly welcomed, and asked David what he did for a job. Imagine the totally amazed expressions all round, as David promptly told them he had the best job in the world, telling the best news in the world, about the Lord Jesus Christ and how He can change lives. Even the teacher was totally speechless!! We have been helping them with School supplies and have supplied them with NT's in Arabic, and Farsi for those who request one!

Refugees, on being officially granted Asylum, have now got **6 months accommodation and money**, during which they have to learn Greek, find a job and an ongoing place to live. After this time, they are to leave the property [whether camp or home] and if they do so immediately, they are given allowance for 3 further months. If not, they are put out and are on their own!! For most this is an impossible requirement to fulfill! How can they learn this language in such a short time and without papers, who will give them work. Aside from that, there are so few jobs for Greeks, who would employ someone without enough language or experience?

Already some have been asked to leave as time is already up. Another 200 were dumped on the streets of Athens last week. What a predicament for the refugees and there isn't any further openness from other countries to take them in. In fact, some of the countries are already sending back some who have gotten that far. To complicate and confuse the situation, this is **election year in Greece** at local and national level.



Greek election year



Refugee relief going to Lesvos

We have been asked again to help with the critical needs on **Lesvos** and we have already sent them 4 pallets this month. We will continue to do that, as long as we have anything to give them. Various organizations have cut their help to the refugees in Greece, because of situations and disasters in other parts of the world, and there seems no end to this! That means most of those who are trying to help at local level, are doing so with very little financial assistance, if any, or access to necessities. We were able to provide a lot of clothing for one of the **care centres in Thessaloniki**, where they had no more clothing to distribute. Guess who suffers in this situation? Yes, those who have no choice in even being here, the women and children, some of who have three new children, since arriving in Greece in 2015. [Delivery for Lesvos foto]

Recently, we saw the news reports of the inferno at **Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris**. Yes, it was a beautiful piece of valuable Architecture, representing for many Christianity as a religion. But, to have raised almost 1 billion inside a few days for its restoration, when everyone is saying there is no money to feed the starving millions in this world, speaks volumes about what/who we count as valuable.

Follow that with the thousands of acts of vandalism to French and German churches in recent years, and now with the terrible attacks on churches and hotels in **Sri Lanka** over Easter! What a desperate waste of life, months and years of recovery ahead for those injured and the fear it instils in people, is devastating. Muslim radicals trying to wipe out the 'infidel' is a disturbing phenomenon. The identities of the perpetrators are mostly hidden by the media and there is eloquent silence about these scandals for fear of causing offence, or being branded islamophobic. Christians are being persecuted in one form or another throughout our world in these days. But Jesus still saves to the uttermost, and we must not only believe it, we must live like we believe it, and we must be willing to share it, no matter the cost.

Since Christmas we have had a bit of a problem with hackers sabotaging Mizpah emails and sending letters, as if they were us. Recently, we have had dealings with the police and fraud squad, who are sorting this all out. Don't worry, God is in control, and all the necessary precautions have been taken, but please pray for these people to be stopped in their tracks.

We met a number of people recently, who asked why they aren't receiving our prayer letters. Let us remind you again, that if you didn't fill in the note giving us permission to have your data, then that is the reason! Please fill it in or contact Charles or ourselves to make sure you get a copy, either by post or email. We get so many returns when people change their email address, therefore, can you please send a street address along with your email#, so we can contact you. This is only relevant for UK prayer partners.

Our next team, will be here when you get this letter, as they come May 3-17 and we look forward to getting more work done, and already some of the churches are excited to have the men take part in the services. Our container was not ready to leave Ireland to be here on time for this team, but it should arrive before the September team, God willing. This makes it a bit more difficult for them to get the required amount of work done, unless the finances and the stuff needed, is available to buy locally. Please pray they won't be held up by either of those factors or the weather. Since the container is still in N Ireland, and this will be the last container we send out in the foreseeable future, we need to make sure everything else we need for finishing the camp is on board. Should you have anything to be sent out or even are interested in helping with work on the camp, please contact Martin Bell [see addresses] or Norman McCready 07882120325. Thank you.

Your servants for Christ's sake and the Gospel,

David & Wilma



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