



Dr. Kostas



Work team prayer



CCCF Rally



Scottish piper statue
in Normandy

Dear Praying friends,

In our printed Prayer Letter last time, there was a misprint about **Dr Kostas** and we want to rectify it. Kostas, has become a believer and we recently baptized him in the sea. He is now back in Sweden and has found a church to attend and is growing in the Lord. Thank you so much for praying for him over these months.

As always, **the teams** who came from N. Ireland went far beyond the 2nd mile, in their efforts to see the Camp site opened as soon as possible. There was a lot of fun and banter, but each day we met together around God's Word and prayed for many people. They were like those who returned from exile to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in Nehemiah 4:6 - 'The people had a mind to work...'

They made enormous changes in every part of the camp: plastering, plumbing, building, carpentry work etc etc and we are most grateful for the progress.

The men also **took part in various church services** both in Greece and Northern Macedonia. God really used their testimonies and challenge messages to encourage the believers in both countries. In fact, some of the people here wanted them to produce a CD! Yes, they were that good!

At the final service, David was preaching, but after giving their testimonies, he had the added privilege of **baptizing Stephen and Jason**, in the tank we brought to Berea last year. Not only did we have **refugees** visiting the church, but also **several groups of Hebrew visitors**, who came to see the local synagogue. David spoke to some of them for $\frac{3}{4}$ hr, before they accompanied him into the church for a light lunch.

A father stood with his wife and two daughters and told how he had been spared by a courageous Greek Orthodox Priest, who hid him and his mother from the Germans. Another elderly man shared how he had been born in the nearby ruins of an old house in July 1945 and had finally come back to pay his respects. Several of these dear blinded pilgrims took NT's and were amazed to find friends from so far away who loved Jewish people. Pray that God will open their eyes and hearts to the Good News that their Messiah has already come.

We believe the team being here was a very blessed time, not only of physical work, but also, encouraging and strengthening the believers, as well as convicting the hearts of those not yet saved. David was really encouraged recently, when one dear old prayer warrior and widow of a Pastor told him that she had read the passage he had preached on earlier in the week. Not understanding it, she had asked God to help her, and she added joyfully, '*So God sent you!*'

When the team were leaving, we had about an hour to close up everywhere and get out to the boat. We were headed to the **50th Annual CCCF Spring Bank Holiday Rally** in Oswestry. We made it, and the boat was a little late, which was good for us. The journey over went smoothly and the time we had at camp was greatly blessed.

Each day began with prayer and a sense of expectancy. God was present at every meeting where David spoke on **God's Great Faithfulness**. He blessed us in a very special way with a deep sense of being carried and helped every step. When God is at work, Satan will try to attack, but thankfully, God was in control of every situation. Many people had life and heart issues dealt with and got to know God in a new way. The leaders and workers who made the camp function did a tremendous, selfless job and that of course meant that the fellowship was incredible. Old friends were reunited and new bonds forged. We also had a ton of fun and laughter, which is of course also good for the soul! Thank you to all who made this SBHR special.

Partway through our time in Oswestry, Wilma had to leave to go to **Perth for the Ladies Day of the UF church in Scotland**. She spoke to the ladies and thanked them for their loving and generous support over many years, but most especially for the container of aid and baby boxes they sent out to the refugees last year. This was an amazing help to the Refugees in Greece and so many people have benefitted from their sacrificial giving. Wilma's sister, Nora, came with her to Perth and shared of being blessed by being there.

On our return journey to Greece, we had to get our generator in the van serviced as it wasn't working, before taking the ferry, arriving in the Normandy area of France. This was the 75th anniversary of D-Day, so the whole area was full of celebration and commemoration of that time.

We visited the statue of the Scottish piper who marched up and down the beaches, while under heavy gunfire, playing the pipes to encourage the soldiers. We heard or read of story after story of men, who bravely gave their lives so fellow soldiers could live. One road has witnessed so many acts of valor, it has been renamed Purple Heart Lane. It reminded us so much of the sacrifice our Saviour so gladly paid at Calvary - although not out of duty, but out of love! Someone once said, 'War is a necessary evil, sometimes necessary, but always evil!'



ICBM Global Conference



Neil



Jon Marc & Ashley



Allyn in Thailand

We continued down to Rome for the **ICBM 7th Global conference** and were only 2 out of 900 + missionaries from all over the world. It was a humbling experience listening to missionary reports of those working in very difficult circumstances. There were great times of worship, preaching and workshops every day. John Lennox, the N. Irish apologist and Oxford professor of Mathematics, shared the Bible Lessons each morning, which was a huge blessing to everyone. We loved seeing old friends, meeting new ones and can only thank sincerely all those who made this possible.

Arriving home to clear up what we had to leave behind, we found added to that a defrosted freezer due to Electricity outages while we were gone. It was around 43 degrees in Rome and the temperatures were similar when we arrived here.

It was great to have a Bible stall at the **Book Exhibition in Thessaloniki**. This was run by Jonas Seidel, backed by GBV from Germany, who have been providing calendars for many years and other necessary books in whatever languages are needed.

The day after we got back, **Neil** [Wilma's brother] arrived from Scotland and was a great help in working around the place. They set themselves a goal of 22 jobs in the time he was here, and managed to do 21½ of them before Neil left. Apart from visiting a few of his friends from previous occasions, Neil didn't get a lot of free time!!

We have been busy with ministry, preaching and travelling around Greece and NMK. At the moment **David** is preparing for 6 services, one of which is in Leptokarya for the youth in August.

Refugees don't have it easy here, whether it is in winter cold, heavy rains or extreme heat of summer. During recent elections, the prime minister did say, he was going to make sure it became easier for those who are on the islands, but how exactly, remains to be seen. The one piece of good news is that the UNHCR will, apparently, continue to provide for those waiting on Asylum, up until Dec 2020, when they finally hope to withdraw.

Still, boats are coming and still seamen, who rescue people from the sea are criminalized, with fines up to 1,000,000 euros and the confiscation of their boats, but what can they do? They can't ignore people needing assistance, especially when immediate action could mean survival. We continue to help where we can, still responsible for Berea and Alexandria camps as well as a couple of hotels which host refugees, but finances are very short for giving all that is required. We haven't any clothing left at the moment, but when the container arrives, we will again send two pallets weekly to Lesbos for the dire needs there, in an attempt to get as much down there as possible before winter sets in.

We have a container already on the way, and we trust it will be here, on the property, in time for the next teams arriving on August 30th to September 13th inclusive. The container has many things for the camp work and also clothing for the refugee aid. We have been catching up on some jobs to try and let the team hit the ground running, when they get here.

Thank you to all who called or emailed regarding the severe storms Northern Greece has experienced. Halkidiki, which can be seen from our coastline, suffered the worst of it, leaving 120 injured, 8 dead and much destruction in its wake. We had thunder, lightning, heavy rain, huge hailstones and high winds, but suffered no severe damage at all. We are so thankful for protection and all we can say is, the weather fluctuates very rapidly these days. We know many of you have also experienced unusual heatwaves and Greece is no different, with the added earthquakes and tremors which seem to be part of this time of year.

Jon Marc & Ashley will be getting married on October 12th, and it is a delight to see them so committed, as they serve the Lord, family and the church together.

Iain & Tanja are expecting their 4th child in November and everyone is looking forward to our 13th grandchild's arrival. Tanja is keeping very well.

Bryan's family have had a busy summer, with church kid's camps, tutoring etc and Catalina, who is now a teenager, had a trip to Florida with Tiffany, as part of her birthday gift.

Allyn has recently returned from a very profitable trip to Nepal and Thailand, as he continues working with World Help. He is thankful for all your prayers for him.

Praise:

- For the SBHR and those challenged about various issues
- Ladies conference in Scotland
- Those reached with tracts or conversations during the trip
- Books and Calendars given out in Thessaloniki

Prayer:

- Missionaries from IBCM who returned to difficult fields
- Container to arrive on time
- Team to get here safe and ready for work
- Finance for the camp work and for the refugees
- New translations of calendars and books to be ready for Christmas distribution
- Preparation for the various services
- Visits to refugees

Thank you sincerely for your ongoing support and prayer. We plan to do deputation meetings in 2020, DV., tentatively Jan - Mar in Ireland, April and May in Scotland and England, as is needed; we will have more clarity on our dates when we send our next letter. Meantime, if you wish to book a meeting, go ahead and do so, either with ourselves or Charles & Bertha.

Your servants for Christ,

David & Wilma

Field Address:

Contact & Support

David & Wilma Lyttle

T (Box) 21, GR-60100, Katerini, Pieria, Greece
E-mail: mizpahmail@aol.com, lyttle.davidwilma@gmail.com
Tel: ++ 30 23510-71124
Web: mizpahoutreach.org

Other Contacts:

Prayer Letter & Bookings:

Mr & Mrs Charles McCluskey,
7 Parklands, Magheralin,
Co. Armagh, BT67 OSP
Tel: 028 92611796
Email: mizpah.prayerletter@gmail.com

Financial Matters (U.K.):

Mizpah Outreach
c/o Jennifer Mackin
13 Plantation Road, Lisburn,
Co. Down, BT27 5BP
Tel: 028 9267 7243
Email: jmackin49@hotmail.com

Vehicles & Work Teams:

Martin Bell
17 Ballywillwill Road, Castlewellan,
Co. Down, BT31 9LF
Tel: 028 4377 8430
Email: shamar57@hotmail.co.uk

Financial Matters (U.S.A.):

Stephen Hudson
Thomas Road Baptist Church
1 Mountainview Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502
*All checks should be written out to TRBC, but
place 'For Mizpah Outreach' on the memo line.
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