



PRAY FOR GREECE

**Wildfires Rage in
Greece**



**David & Stephen
leading the mission**

Dear Friends & Prayer Partners,

Greece, in the middle of an upper 40's heatwave, has emergency services fighting fires around Athens and on the islands of Rhodes and Evia. Many people have been evacuated from their homes, crops are destroyed in the countryside and ash and smoke are causing huge respiratory problems. Please **pray for Greece** and remember **the refugees** who are in less than adequate shelter.

Months have passed since we had our vaccinations and still there is no word of clearance for going out again to Greece. The most we have heard is that vaccination passports should become available and will then be accepted by some of the countries. Unfortunately, France is so far not one of those countries, and we did want to drive through and go directly to Italy. However, it may yet be that we can fly in and out. We know God has it all under control, [even if no one else does] and can intervene when and where He chooses. So we simply have to trust His timing, realizing afresh that, 'Serving God is not a matter of location, but of obedience!' [Nik Ripken in 'The Insanity of God', which we highly recommend to any believer interesting in making an impact for God]!

Our proposed 3-week mission was preceded by 2 weeks of visitation in the locality and a few of the local believers who had time, joined in with that, getting pleasantly surprised, by the positive reactions we had on the doors. The testimony of the local fellowship in helping people with counseling, giving a hand with work, when necessary, and serving in the café over a number of years, went before us, making people very open to our visits.

The meetings in the marquee were smaller to begin with – but soon we had a tent filled to regulation – allowed numbers every night. People in cars parked outside could turn on their radio and listen to the services through the transponder, which worked very effectively. The atmosphere inside the tent really had to be experienced to be believed, as in many of the meetings the Power of God was so real, meaning once people started coming they simply did not want to stop! One lady even commented, 'When I get into my car in the evening, it just steers for the marquee!'

Altogether, 3 men committed their lives to the Lord, 2 more came back to Him and countless believers had various issues dealt with, which were seriously hindering their walk with God. It was thrilling to see God at work! One family, who David knew from 50 years ago, really burdened his heart, and through a string of God-incidents, he finally found them and they came to the tent.

We prayed for **one man on the doors** who was still dragging his oxygen bottle from having long Covid for 8 months. A couple of weeks later, his father assured us that he was so much better and preparing to return to his own home. Another **broken-hearted lady** shared how she had lost a child and her church affiliation were more interested in making money out of the tragedy, than showing compassion. We watched God working in many special ways as they faced challenge after challenge throughout the entire length of the mission. They were so thrilled to be given a copy of God's Word!

Different individuals assured us that there would be serious repercussions in their community if they even dared to come to the tent, and although not everyone was delighted to get an invitation to come, we were encouraged by the thought of 'maybe next time!' Much prayer was made before and during the mission and we believe that responses were in answer to these believing prayers. Most of the local clergy have been sympathetic to the meetings going on and some prayed and advertised it to their congregations, while others came along to encourage. One minister, who had been absolutely compromising regarding the Scriptures and its moral issues -



felt he had to resign his charge in light of local resistance to his interpretations of God's Word, and there were not a lot of tears at his announcement.

David's family did a sterling job of supporting us during the mission, some of them coming multiple times, and Wilma's sister **Nora** watched most nights from Edinburgh, which was a real blessing to us. Every meeting was reinforced by prayer in an adjacent building and every evening ended with refreshments for all who wanted, including those in the drive-in who were served tea and coffee without having to leave their cars. This allowed time for those in a party who needed to talk to one of the staff to be able to do so, and not worry about those who had come with them having to wait. Because of the deep interest and God's power in blessing each night, the mission was extended by a further week and indeed, it was necessary to do so. Everyone loved being there and remarks were made that we don't see enough of that kind of mission anymore. One young lady was actually fired from her job for asking for the time off to go to the mission, and yet chose to come anyway.

Since the nightly meetings ended, God continues His work, and we are still seeing fruit coming from these days! Thank you for praying, we believe God is not finished with Stewartstown yet!

Special thanks have to go to **Alfie and Florence Willis**, who not only allowed their field to be used for the marquee, but helped in so many ways by providing electricity, water, toilet facilities and in any other way possible, while at least one of them attended every night.

Personally, we were very thankful to have been provided with temporary accommodation in Stewartstown by **John & Shirley Sinclair**, who allowed us to live in the family home, right in the centre of town. It has been lovely to get to know their family as friends, as they attended the mission many evenings, and being on hand throughout that time made such a difference to how quickly we got to know the townsfolk, as well as allowing us the comfort of not driving home late at night, after meetings.

Another lovely memory was when, after the dedication service for Elijah James, we got to meet with his great-grandmother and other relatives from Bulgaria who came over for the ceremony! What a thrill it was to find out that 35-40 years ago, we had delivered Bibles and Christian literature to her pastor & our friend Simeon Popov, who had been tortured in a communist prison for 5 ½ years!

Since the mission, weekly Discipleship courses have commenced for those who were recently saved and others, especially those from unchurched backgrounds to help them understand not only the ethics of the Christian faith, but how God expects us to live as believers, according to the Scriptures. So far those who have been coming enjoy the studies, and we trust that some of those on the brink of decision will come right through for the Saviour. Please pray to that end!

The week following the mission, we spent **6 days in Scotland** to see Wilma's folks, and pick up goods which had been collected for the refugees by Fort William Baptist church friends and family. Again God's timing was perfect, as we arrived to find Catherine, Wilma's sister had been taken into hospital in critical condition. The Doctor solemnly discussed her case with us, but did say that she needed blood and would get it the following day. We prayed for/with her and by the time, the Dr returned after the weekend, he said he was frankly astonished to see her, and it was like a different person in the bed, such was the improvement. Since then they have sealed her bleeding points and no further leakage has been apparent. Now, she is not a well lady, but is coping and doing better, although no longer able to be home alone. Please continue to **pray for Catherine**, that there will be a good possibility of accommodation to meet her needs.

Other co-incidental events convinced us that the timing was entirely according to His time-keeping schedule, as we were delighted to get to see the church folks in the Fort, close family, and some extended family. We wish it could have been more, but appointments waiting on us over here, necessitated our return.

Sunday August 1st was the date picked for the **baptism of those who trusted the Lord** recently, and others who had never been baptized before. It was a lovely service, with each of the candidates having gone through difficult times in the previous weeks in one way or another, yet overcoming with the Lord's help, publicly testifying to their salvation and going through the waters of baptism rejoicing!!! It was a celebration for the church as well as those being baptized, and we enjoyed food and fellowship together afterwards.

David has had a growing number of services to preach at recently, since things are opening up and churches are beginning to meet again more regularly. It is great to have these opportunities, but a little difficult to know how far in advance to book meetings, as we want to be free to go to Greece when/should the door open for travel.

We had asked prayer for a man called **Ian** who lost his wife recently, but since that happened his mother fell and hurt her back, meaning she hasn't been fit to go out for weeks, his sister-in-law passed away, followed soon after by his mother-in-law, and to crown it all, he has had a bad dose of shingles. He reminds us of Job and we ask that you pray for strength and help for him at this difficult time of grief and pain.



Baptisms



Hatun Tash

On Sunday, July 25th, in Hyde Park Speaker's corner, a friend of ours, **Hatun Tash**, a MBB and evangelist who was attacked and stabbed while speaking for Jesus. Her injuries, while not life-threatening [she was slashed on her head and arm], were not attended to quickly, and although the police arrived on the scene, they were not able to catch the perpetrator, despite him being on foot. Hatun is one of the bravest young women we know, debates continually with Muslim clerics about Islam and presents them with the Gospel. She speaks with authority, having come from that background and has an intimate knowledge of the Koran, as well as the Bible. She is not Islamophobic, but loves Muslims and wants to see them set free in Christ. Please pray for, Hatun, and her colleagues.

Our immediate family are doing well in the USA, although still the country is not open to us for travel. Most of the grandchildren have been involved in summer camps of one sort or another and have enjoyed that. Shayna was working at a Children's camp associated with the church during vacation, and Catalina was volunteering in the hospital. Both these teens are now learning to drive. Growing up seems to take less time these days!!!

Ashley, Jon Marc's wife is having to take things easy, since she has a myoma growing alongside the baby they are expecting in the coming months. Also, they have adopted two of their foster children recently, meaning that by October, God willing, we will have 19 grandchildren!! We are so thankful that these children are having the opportunity to be brought up in a godly home. Please remember them in all their challenges

Thanks you again, that we can count on your continued prayer and support, no matter what field the Lord has us in. We are most times content to take each opportunity as it comes, but of course, we are looking forward to moving day!!!

Your servants for the furtherance of the Gospel,

David & Wilma

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