# mizpahoutreach

# Prayer Letter #156 November/December 2023



Dear Prayer Partners, Family & Friends,

To us, it seems no time since we sent out our last Prayer news, as the weeks are flying in. For you, it may seem there hasn't been much news from us, but we have been kept busy and it looks likely to continue that way.

Visits with new and old contacts continue, and as we share the Gospel, we are constantly amazed at how they take us into their confidence with stories of heartbreak and pain. One dear friend, who at one time was verging on atheism, shared a memory of David having visited him and mentioning the need for a dentist. A few minutes later a dentist happened to call and since then he has been convinced that we have a concerned and loving Heavenly Father.

We were invited to a graduation ceremony 300 km South, for Giannis from the Berea church and David was given the opportunity to speak. It was two days of great fellowship, a blessing to see the progress being made by those who want to serve the Lord in Greece, and to have 3 people baptized on the local beach. On the journey we saw many areas completely razed by the fires and it was similar areas that were affected by flooding a few weeks later.

We told you in Prayer Letter 155 of a friend whose vehicle was washed away in the flooding. Finally, they got the insurance money and have a replacement on the road!! This whole year has switched between floods and severe heat causing widespread fires, all of which claimed several lives. On one occasion, David noticed smoke in the neighboring field to our camp. He immediately realized that by the time the fire brigade could come the whole field would be alight and possibly our camp too. So he took the JCB out into the fire and using the bucket, he managed to flatten down the flames and then made sure it was not going to start again. Someone, somewhere was praying for us that day!!!

Also, in our last letter we asked prayer for Gemma, but before it was delivered, Gemma went to be with the Lord leaving behind a sorrowing family and 3 small children. We have been in touch with the family, who are helping with the children and although it is devastatingly sad for them, both Gemma and her mum found the Lord during her heart-rending journey.

God has been blessing the ministry here in special ways and we believe much of it is a result of believing prayers of you, our partners.

It was a joy to have **Bryan and his 3 eldest** here with us for a week in August and we filled every moment, with visits to Meteora, Thessaloniki, Berea, Edessa, Naousa, Athens and the beach!! We made some great memories and ate some lovely food!!

Some very special people, who went more than the 2nd mile in praying and fasting for Bryan, were able to meet with him and this was a huge encouragement to all. He shared his story in Berea and there wasn't a dry eye in the place, so please read his own words of appreciation for all your prayers:

### "And He said to me, 'My Grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness' Therefore, most gladly, I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the Power of Christ may rest upon me' - II Corinthians 12:9

These past years have been difficult beyond what I thought I was probably ready to face, and challenged me in so many ways, physically, emotionally & spiritually. And yet, God's grace has shone through in every area of my life and given me hope through each challenge! Never once, did I feel that God was not right there with me, and I knew there was an army of Prayer Warriors from Australia to California and across Europe, who supported me, and this has taught me such a lot about how this family of God works. To hear people pleading with our Heavenly Father for your healing and blessing is so incredibly beautiful, as well as unbelievably humbling to experience.

Looking back at the past year, especially when I finished chemo, and was told they had found more tumors, which were doubling in size every two months, was a massive punch in the gut for me! It was a scary thought to wonder what challenges my family, especially my kids would have to face over the coming years, when I was no longer there to protect, guide and look after them. It was a real learning experience to realize that I was not trusting God with them and was definitely keeping parts of my life in my own control and trying to handle things alone. I had to give up my anger & bitterness and learn to trust the Goodness of God, knowing He has a purpose. He had given me a promise and I had to trust it as I walked through the challenges ahead!

Since the Doctor visit in February, until my surgery & checkup in August, it has been an amazing blessing to see God step in and heal. I know, the faith of others probably carried me when I was learning to let go and let God handle things. I am so grateful for all the prayers, support and messages from so many who have carried that burden as God worked in my life and has healed any residue of cancer left in my body. The staff have been amazed that up until this point there is no signs of cancer anywhere in my body, although I have



Graduation Ceremony



Bryan and Three Children

been warned, that it is likely to return because of the type of cancer it was. Still, to see the changes over the past 6 months has been nothing short of miraculous, and I know so many of you played a part in this, for which I am extremely thankful.

No matter what happens in the future with this cancer, the promise above from II Corinthians will be my strength as we move forward. I have had the privilege of seeing this promise work as the gift of His Grace and His Strength took me through this entire experience teaching me so much about Himself, His Power & His Love. Thank you for walking this journey with me!"

That says it all!! As a family, we are so grateful for all your prayers & support. It has given us a new empathy with so many people, and has been a great encouragement to many others to witness how much God loves and cares for His Children. He never promised it would be easy, but He did promise to be with us through it all.

The Irish team arrived in September and it was a particular blessing to have old & new friends working here. The sports ground was levelled, high posts installed for covering nets and a spectators shelter erected. Painting, electrics, landscaping, Astroturf, etc all were done. The Fellowship was great, with many choosing that time of prayer and Bible reading as their favorite part of team life, and the craic was mighty too. Thankfully, Wilma had Sharon Bell to help out this time as we were 17 people around the table every day!!! Alas, even with all that hard work, there is still more to be done, so a team will return again in May of 2024. We do have the Greek surveyors working on the camp and we hope to get permits asap, but these things do take a long time in this country!!

At one service where the men attended, Norman shared a challenge on 'Getting your Priorities right' without conferring with David, who then preached on 'Choosing your Priorities'. It was truly astonishing and many were spoken to. We also had a number of good opportunities to witness to Ilona from the Car Hire Firm in Thessaloniki.

David had the joy of baptizing **a lady [R] from Eritrea**. Following her baptism a couple came forward for prayer, they came under conviction and collapsed on the floor crying! It was an amazing testimony to the Promise Jesus made in John 16:7-10 about the Holy Spirit.

There also was an opportunity to speak and present the Gospel to a **multi-national group** at a conference centre. For some, it was their very first time to hear the Gospel and there were folks among them who could be really influential for the Lord, if they became believers.

Please pray for **Irini**, a young nurse who we have helped mentor since she was a child and she has just gone to Bible school in Athens. Recently her mother gave the Eulogy at her own mother's funeral and it was literally dynamic – one of the clearest presentations of the Gospel at a funeral that we have seen. An updated version of 2 Timothy 1:5!

2½ years ago, David was asked to pray for **Maria**, a lady who was terminally ill with cancer. God answered prayer and for the next 2 years every time David visited she was so well. However, the cancer returned this year and she passed away. David had visited her at home, in hospital and was at her funeral. Some of you prayed for her granddaughter also **Maria**, who had gotten saved. She lives in Germany, but was baptized in the sea on a recent visit to Greece

Recently, **Kostas** who moved to Germany, passed away and was brought home – 4 doors away, to be buried beside his dad, who had really loved Jesus. David had a wonderful time of sharing with his closest and wider family members after the funeral.

We continue to visit mostly in two areas of Northern Macedonia, and God has blessed us each time with His Presence. Soon we will do calendar runs to NMK, so the believers can get involved in distribution themselves.

For our 47th anniversary, our boys and families decided to send us to Khalkidhiki for a 3 day break. It was lovely to relax after our busy months, but naturally, there were opportunities to share about Jesus with the guests, most of whom were German.

During that time, on **October 5th Valor Elizabeth was born** to Jon Marc and Ash, making our 21st grandchild. They are all doing well and the other children love their new baby sister.

**lain** has been very busy with various events at church, from Beast Feast to Refuel to Women's conferences and now he goes into the preparation for the Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. There isn't a whole lot of free time especially at this time of year, but he is good at his job and loves it.

**Allyn** has visited some war-torn countries this year and we were very grateful for the Lord's Protection while he was there. The needs in the world are enormous on so many fronts.

David removed the tiles from our kitchen floor, as they were constantly breaking, and replaced them with water resistant laminate. What he estimated to take a day or 2 at the most became very much more complicated and a week had passed by the time we got it finished and all cleaned up. However, it is a great job and well done!

We made a quick turnaround and flew to Scotland for our niece **Lydia's wedding to Harry Palmer-Brown**. Despite all the forecasts, it was a beautiful day and Lydia, a most lovely bride. It was a great time with friends and family and the young couple will continue serving the Lord in England, for at least the foreseeable future. We wish them God's richest blessing on their lives and ministry together.

Calendars have arrived and we will have had the youth come along for Food, Fellowship and Calendar wrapping before



Irish Team



Valor Elizabeth Lyttle



Lydia + Harry



# **Berea Church**

you receive this letter. That is always a good day and everyone looks forward to it. As you can imagine, David can't wait to get out with the calendars and be visiting people all day, every day!!!

The church from Berea came along Sunday Nov 5th and had lunch with us after their morning service. We had a great time of food and fellowship together for the rest of the day and it was a real blessing for the 37 of us who attended.

In January '24 we will begin our services for Northern Ireland, March in Scotland and England and returning to Greece in April at the latest (depending on the bookings we get).

Please get in touch with the Taggarts, or ourselves if you want a meeting/visit.

So far we have the following dates booked:

Jan. 14th (pm) – Dungannon Elim

Jan. 20th, 8pm - The Barn @ The Lifeboat [young people]

Feb. 11th, 7pm - Bottear Mission Hall

Feb. 18th, 5.30pm - Derrykeevan Mission Hall

Feb. 18th, 7.30pm - Derrycrew Mission Hall

Thankful for your continued, faithful prayers & support Your servants for Christ's Sake,

David & Wilma

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