

A company of God's people Praying for Kos

November 2007

Dear Friends

Once again our thanks for all your prayers and support, together with the numerous phone calls and emails. Many have come just at the right time. At the end of this prayer letter we will sum up the year.

Church work – The meetings in the hotel have now ceased, and we have been worshipping at the Tower House Christian Retreat together with the local believers in the Kefalos area, this is a different style of service but we have been blessed.

Tracting. – As per the board work.

Mission Board work –

The last day of the season, very few people about, however, **Colin from Finchley** came by, and I had an opportunity to share the gospel as he had little going on, he left with a **Sure of Heaven CD**, as did a **couple from Jersey**.

From the first week of November we started to put up the board in the town centre, as per the picture shown, we have been very encouraged as there has been no controversy, especially as it is **very close to the Mosque** many have encouraged us. In the last few days we have handed out a good number of Greek tracts.

Notable contacts have been an elderly **Greek man** that took a tract and **Ultimate Questions in Greek**.

A **Moroccan man** took Christian literature, a **Pakistan man** took a **Sure of Heaven CD**, a **Coptic Christian from Egypt that has a Pilipino wife** spent time encouraging us and we had a debate as to the differences



between Orthodoxy and Evangelicalism. He left with an **Evangelical newspaper from the US, a Why Believe the Bible and several other tracts.**

Another Greek man took a tract and came back and asked if he could have a **New Testament and Psalms in Greek**, an American called **Jim from Cape Cod** was visiting his mother said that he attended church here in Greece but did not understand much, **took a Sure of Heaven.**

Another American lady that lived in Kos seemed to speak Greek took two Greek tracts and a **Unique Jesus CD.**

A guy called Billy a Greek Australian that spoke good English said that his son went to an Evangelical church in Melbourne, said that looking at the board he realised that we were the people that were putting out the Greek newspapers he said that we were doing a very good work and thanked us, and that he had read it, but he would stick to his Orthodoxy.

Another Greek man called Kim who seemed as though he may be a born again Christian has been to the stand nearly every time I have been there, has asked many questions but keeps saying praise God that Jesus is alive and is risen.

Another Greek man that seems to speak little English, has read the text 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners' and he told me in broken English that we are all sinners, and that only Jesus can save not the church.

An Irish couple took an English tract they live on a boat, and lived through the horrendous storm two Sunday's ago, they were moored in the open sea, not realising the storm was near, her words were 'did we pray'.

Beaches – The beaches are empty, except for seaweed and the occasional bird.

Ministry/Preaching – Hotel service has now ceased until May 2008.

Greek Newspapers – By the time you read this we will have completed delivering the autumn addition of Winners. About 4,500 were sent to us.

We have had one wonderful encouragement from this, we received a phone call from a **Greek man called George that has lived in America and is married to an Italian lady called Tina** both speak good English and on Sunday morning the 25th there was a phone call from George asking if they could meet with us, the outcome was that he came to the service at the Tower House, and afterwards they came to our home and we had a long discussion with them. It would appear that Tina was converted a number of years ago, but has struggled with Christian loneliness as she has no fellowship or services to attend. George is not Orthodox but has clearly been seeking after the Lord, in fact back in May of this year he phoned to come to one of the hotel services but we learnt as he was late for work that day he could not make the service. We are due to meet them again in the next few days, and we are praying that these may be the beginning of many, that the papers will start to move the hearts and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

George told me that he worked for EuropCar a Hire Company, he produced from his wallet one of each of the Open Air Tracts that we had given out, probably 10-15 in all, all were well worn as he said he had read them many times, what a blessing.

Friendship Evangelism – We continue to visit the many café's and bars these give us the opportunity to see and talk to the local people. These include many of the people that we have mentioned through the summer months, we have recently given some papers and **Greek Ultimate Questions to two other Greeks**, and we hope that the

Greek Calendars will arrive in order that we can distribute them before returning to the UK.

Some interesting comments were made the other day, one of the many Brits came past a café where we were and spoke to Michaela and wanted to know if Alec was the Vicar she had heard about, sadly not really the comment that he wanted to hear.

We have continued to **visit Lynn and Pete (newly arrived from the UK) and Trevor and Yvonne.**

Prison– This has had to cease, until we can obtain official permission from Athens.

Helpers – We have had the joy of a short visit from **Enda a lovely South African lady** that has recently joined the Hellenic Mission in Athens who has a real heart for the Lord's work. **Also Roberta a lady that used** to live here in Kefalos visited for a few days last week, this was a great joy as she sat in with our Bible Studies/Quiet times, and this was at her request. How encouraging to hear that she is now regularly attending a church in **Huddersfield, Roberta's early life was to have been brought up in a Jehovah Witness family.**

PRAYER POINTS

1. **Greek Newspapers** that the Lord will bless over the winter period all these papers that have been delivered, no doubt many will still be lying around in homes or cars etc. Give thanks for George and Tina.
2. **Friendship** – Pray for the Greek contacts, Stephos and Poppy, for Jimmy, Katarina, Nick, Ahileas, George, Hassin, Poppy, Madeline, Vula, Alex and the local Christians, Joyce, Michaela, Jenny, Dave, especially that Yvonne, Trevor, Tony and Kelvin will all come to know the Lord as Saviour in the coming months, as many continue to pray for them.
Special prayers for Roger and Fliss at the Tower House Christian Retreat as there are many questions at present that need answers.
3. **Church work** – Pray for the church Sunday services at the Tower House that the local Christians in Kefalos will be encouraged and that the Lord will add to their numbers.
4. **Mission Board work** – That the many people that we have spoken too in recent days, the Lord will water the seed especially the Greeks Billy and Kim.
5. **Beaches** –
6. **Preaching/Ministry** – .
7. **Helpers** – That the adverts which will appear over the winter months, will bring people that are gifted and have the love of the Lord, and that they will have a joy in witnessing for him.
8. **Olga** – Give thanks to the Lord for the time that Olga has spent with us here. That the Lord will continue to keep her over the winter period, and that she

may know God's will in her life as to whether she should return again next year.

- 9 **Prison** – We pray that we will find the correct office in Athens to write to and that we will have a favourable reply over the winter months.
- 10 **Future** – That the Lord will give us a good rest over Christmas, a good time reunited with our family, as well as our church family. Alec especially will have a busy time speaking and presenting the Kos Christian Fellowship presentation.

Summing up for the year 2007

As we reflect on the year, we can see the wonder of God's goodness to us. We can certainly see looking back through the year, as many as have been involved in Mission work over the years there is so much to learn. It is only when we step out from the comfort of our own little lives, that sadly in many cases are so self centred that we understand the teaching of the bible in a real and meaningful way. In recent months, we have read much. Alec says he remembers reading a book by John MacArthur that described the difference between church and real church, between Christian and real Christian. We are fed too much of what a wonderful carefree and victorious life we lead, yet fail to understand that although our Lord was victorious in all aspects of the work the father gave Him to carry out. His life was never a life of ease, Paul told Timothy the young pastor to be **2Ti 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

Suffering and persecution is not most peoples forte, and suffering is not always running from the spear, dagger or gun but can quite often be simple loneliness and a longing in our weakness to be elsewhere.

Just to understand a foreign culture can be very difficult, especially when it involves God's so called people. Understanding unreliability has been part of daily life, i.e. a 6pm start means early evening, I will come tomorrow means before the week end. Living under these constraints can bring loneliness especially spiritual isolation.

The heat has been difficult in the summer this year and yet when it rains everything stops and sometimes its take cover quickly.

Of course, the disappointments are always small compared with the blessings although at the time it is only when you look back that you see the blessings. For instance, this year with those that have come to help we have placed over **13,000 copies of the Winners newspaper** in homes, shops or on car window screens. **Result, there have been a number of phone calls**, and two people attended church. **10,500+ Open Air Mission tracts** have been put on cars or given out, **results 19 people attended church.**

Around 9,000 Postcard from Kos, English, German and Italian have been personally handed out, many have been seen to read them, two have been picked up by others and they have come to church because of the details on the back.

When you consider over 30,000 pieces of literature have been given out, and so few have been thrown away on the road side etc.

Over 70 copies of Sure of Heaven CD, 50+ copies of Unique Jesus CD, numerous Ultimate Questions in different languages, 192 copies of Letter for You, and many other serious pieces of literature like Why Believe the Bible etc.

Jonah could well say from the belly of the great fish 'salvation is all of the Lord' and this is where we must leave it.

Praise God for Olga, for her months spent here, and the impression that she left on some of the Greeks here, only eternity will tell.

Our thanks to the others that have come **to help, for Jacqui and Mark, for Maureen, for Mike, Brenda, Mike from Canada (praise God for him) the South African team, London Emmanuel Choir group, for Enda, Roberta**, and a special thanks for the unexpected visit of **our Elder Richard and wife Carol**.

Of course, visits from Jonathan, Michelle, Pete and Jade our family.

We can never praise God enough for all the emails and all the phone calls we have received, from literally around the world. All the finance that has been sent, which has totally come from the hearts of people without us asking for any, by the grace of God one day this money may be used for a real place of worship for God's people.

We will not be issuing a Prayer Letter in December and January, but should restart in February 2008.

We could end by being like Paul in Athens, he made reference to an unknown God and forgive us our dear Lord if we have forgotten to thank you, and to praise you for some important work.

We plan to be in the UK from early December to late January.

God bless you all, may you all have a wonderful Christmas time, and we thank the Lord for His wonderful gift of Jesus, and may the riches of the Lord be with you in 2008, unless the trumpet should sound, then hallelujah.

Alec and Glyn

As we close we have just received this e-mail from **Pastor Engin** who is the Leader of the nearest Church to us. This happens to be in Turkey.

This is a very menacing e-mail that he has just received, and with the recent massacres in Matalya this needs much prayer for the safety of the Church.

*****First let me introduce myself. I am the Legend of the*****

Blacksea Region--Turan (his first name which also means "where Turks reside") Bozkurt (grey wolfe)

Ozturk (pure Turk)

Ancestor: Hun Turks

Religion: Islam

My Guide: Quran

My Target: Turan (his first name but he also means he wants to clean out Turkey of any missionary work to make it only Islam so that purely Islamic Turks can live there)

My Love: His flag (the Turkish flag)

My Mother's Name: My Country

My Father's Name: My Government

I won't waste my time by writing you a long note. The true and only accepted religion by Allah is Islam. You people use your religion as a weapon and do missionary work and assume Turkey is a derelict nation. Do you think Turks are gullible and stupid? You pass your boundaries when you do your missionary work. You dare to insult Mohammed and Allah's true religion. What do you trust and depend on? Let me answer. Is it one of the articles in the Lausanne peace agreement? Don't make me laugh. I am a soldier of Allah and I don't care either for Lausanne peace agreement, the European Union or the Turkish Constitution. I have one book, one law giver and that is the Koran. Either I will chop your heads off or you leave this country. I don't care if you are Turkish. I am first a Muslim, then a Turk.

(BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO CAN SAY THEY ARE TURKISH AND MUSLIM)