

A company of God's people Praying for Kos

April 2008. Prayer Letter.

I remember over hearing a lady recently describing the Christian Life as she saw it, she was saying 'I do not know why there are Christians that are downcast and look tired'. It is a wonderful life being a Christian; we should always be on a Godly high. I later heard a little bit about her background, of course, she had little involvement with spiritual battle, she had a comfortable lifestyle, sadly this seems to be the position with many in church today especially in the UK. God is a Sunday accessory; biblically the Christian life is difficult.

Joseph a Godly man experienced many dark days, sold by his brothers and imprisoned for doing right.

Moses endured a Nation that for long periods did not want him as leader.

David a great King knew what it was to trust nobody, even his family he could not rely on.

Read Jeremiah what a great man he must have been.

The Apostle Paul just after he was converted was informed by Ananias that his life would now be full of suffering. To top it all the Lord of Glory when He entered this life was never congratulated for any of the wonderful deeds He did (short of a few that he healed) He preached the greatest sermons ever, and the gospels never tell us that anyone came up to Him, saying 'Sir that was a great sermon,' and the outcome of His life was that they killed Him.

I was recently speaking to a couple in Turkey that are on the frontline against Islam, they were saying what a battle it is, far from home and children, few Christian brothers and sisters around, you must also be very selective who you speak too. Only the other night speaking to a pastor, he said 'the congregation do not really want me,' if the truth's said.

Sadly, the lady above did not understand frontline work; she was more than happy to have her meals in luxury, in safety of the cook house while the battle raged on the frontline some two miles away.

We must always begin our prayer letters with our thanks for the telephone calls and emails from friends around the churches, only the other night we were about to go to bed, when a phone call from a brother in the North of England lifted ones spirits, of course, he knows what frontline work is. If you are one of those that has phoned us or emailed us in the last few weeks, we praise the Lord for you. I remember, someone saying preaching and giving out tracts just never gets easier in fact it sometimes seems harder.

Now to reflect on the last six weeks, five weeks without Glyn has been difficult with joys and disappointments. The joys perhaps being able to have refreshing quiet times, serious sessions of prayer, even this early in the season a good number of contacts. The disappointments from recent harassment with the authorities and other situations that have arisen but we are unable to mention.

This item was on a recent prayer letter from Turkey.

The black carrier-bag

When I was going to the church yesterday morning I stopped to talk to one of our neighbours. There was a young man with him named Mahmut. When I was talking to our neighbour, Mahmut heard that I was talking about the church. He seemed very happy to hear that there was a church in Bodrum. He wanted to see the church so we went to the building and chatted for almost an hour. I gave him a NT, some Christian books and the cd of the life of Jesus Christ. He wanted me to put all these materials into a black carry-bag as he didn't want other people to see what it was inside. He told me that the other people where he works and also his brother were devout Muslims and he told me if they saw he had a NT and Christian books they would throw them to the bin. He also said he would watch the Life of Jesus Christ cd when his brother was not at home. Please pray for Mahmut to have faith in Jesus and to have freedom from all his fear.

Friends, be thankful next you find fault with trivial things in Church.

Glyn arrived back on the 29th March this has made us complete again, although with a grandchild due in July and the loneliness she feels sometimes with the work involved things can be difficult.

We both continue to have great distress at our slowness to pick up the language; this has to do with several reasons, one our age and memory retention, but equally as important is that so many people here have a fair vocabulary of English words. You ask a question in Greek and you get your answer in English, or they reply in Greek thinking you speak it well and you cannot understand a word they have said, because their dialect and pronunciation is so different to various manuals, as they speak island Greek.

One of our encouragements is that Tina and George, the couple we met at the end of last year, who spend much of the winter time in Sicily, have returned and we have been warmly welcomed to their house on several occasions. One of our visits coincided when George was to meet a cheese distributor that was offering him a job. Only to discover when he came to the house, it was Demeatre the husband of Helen the Christian lady we had met, we had visited their house last year for a Sunday evening service. Needless to say he was very surprised and phoned his wife to tell her.

As we mentioned above the authorities have taken a dislike to our Mission Board and although this has been up for about 18 months around different parts of Kos town. Alec was approached by two men on March 19th, as he offered them a tract they informed him they were the police, they asked many questions, the outcome was, he had to take the Mission board to their car and accompany them to the police station.

On arrival there he was met by the chief of security police (CID) and asked to open the board and a sample of literature was taken from it. They were to be taken to the Judge, at the same time I was to be interviewed by a police man called George, concerning my passport details etc, and the reasons for me being in Kos and so on. After an hour plus the other policeman returned with the literature to say that the Judge found no reason as to why we could not continue to hand it out. Then once a report was made out, I was able to take the board and leave. I asked permission of the Judge if it was OK for the board to be put up again in the coming days; this he said was no problem. Two days later when I put the board up again, one of the first persons to pass by so happened to be the Chief of Police, who greeted me and I returned the greeting. At this point, I praised the Lord for his intervention and the outcome.

Then on March 31st two men from the City Police came to the board and asked if I had written permission to put the board up, I told them that the Police and the Judge had said that it was OK and no problem. Their reply was that the Police had no jurisdiction over this part of the town, this comes under the mayor's office and without written permission it will be impossible for you to use the board. If it is not removed it will be confiscated. One of the men Chris knew that I had been putting the board up for a long time; he was very sympathetic but said he was only carrying out instructions. He gave me the office to go to, also the form that I had to fill in, and said that I must do this.

At this point in time, the form has been completed in Greek, George as above has been with me to the mayor's office and handed it in, we are told that it will appear on the council business within the next 10 days and will be discussed in chamber and an official decision will be made. We have also made out application for the Mayor's office at Antimahia as this covers the resort area of Kardamina. This application will be handed in tomorrow. Our prayers are that the Lord will allow this advertising board to go up, as it draws people's curiosity as they pass by.

The two City Police men seem to have different opinions as to whether the tracts could be handed out without the board; one said yes the other no. Whilst we are waiting for the board permission, Alec continues to stand in the same place and hands out tracts. We also have returned to putting tracts on the window screens. It seems a backward step but we cannot do anything else at the present time. I think it is pretty clear that Satan is starting to ruffle people here.

Over the next week or ten days, we will need to visit as many hotels as we can with the church service times for this season, and start to put up advertising posters around the island.

We must thank the person that anonymously gave the gift of £200 which was paid into our account recently. We note that it was paid in at a bank in Bury St Edmunds, so we would love to know who you are so that we may personally thank you. Also a big thank you to all those churches that have given us kind gifts together with the individuals that have sent us gifts also. These have all been added to the church account, if any of you that have given, would like to know the account position we would be open to release these details to you.

Church work – The Christians here in Kefalos are now meeting in a room that is adjacent to the doctors surgery in the centre of town, and have taken the name of Kefalos Christian Fellowship. So far there have been three services and two or three of the British residents here that as far as we know are not Christians have attended.

Tracting. – Apart from the tracts that have been given out at the board, as mentioned previously we have had to return to placing tracts on car window screens, however, several hundred have been distributed.

The cost of printing the ‘Postcard from Kos’ as with most things this has escalated, fortunately we have found a printer here on the Island that will print at a lower cost than the one we have previously been using, and he is happy to print smaller quantities should we require at any time.

We are currently arranging for the **‘Postcard from Kos’ to be translated in French.** This will mean that we then have the tract in English, German, Italian and French.

Mission Board work – Fri Mar 14th was the first day I put up the board, good response with some 80/100 tracts given out, some encouraging contacts.

Yenna a Greek man took an UQ after we had a good conversation that really centred on heaven is gained by works,

An Albanian lady showed interest in the things I had on the board, she spoke little English yet was happy when I offered her UQ in Albanian & an Albanian Bible, she then went off reading the UQ.

Elsa a Swedish lady living here took JG, SOH, I have since seen her on a number of occasions.

Donna an English lady married to a Greek said to be a Christian took Bible reading notes.

Donna gave me her address and we have been to see her, we have been invited to have coffee with her next week.

Most other times I have been out 50/70 tracts have been taken

Two Pakistani men after a short conversation took UQ, UJ cd. + English tracts.

I had an encouraging talk with a Dutch Christian lady who was in Kos on a visa renewal stop

A Greek man after a debate on good works took a SOH.

Two Greek ladies that first thought I was a JW, stopped and we spoke about salvation they had clear leaning towards Orthodoxy, but listened well as I tried not to put them down but to encourage them to read their Bibles and pray that the Lord will show them the truth. **Rosy and Alexandra** both took tracts + one took a SOH and the other took Salvation 4 messages.

Two Albanian men stopped to look at the board, one taking an Albanian UQ the other a Bible.

It was good to meet two Turkish Christian ladies from Istanbul. It was lovely hear them talking of the Lord in personal terms.

I met a lovely Canadian couple that are tentmakers, working in eastern turkey Sanliurfa.(Difficult area near to the Syrian border, close to where the three brothers were martyred last year.) They were out of Turkey on visa renewal days I promised when I met them that I would not mention there names.

Only last week a Greek lady that said her name was Chelsear?? I had a long talk with her. So many are lovely people but are steeped in works, this is Orthodoxy through and through. Chelsear left with a Greek NT, UQ. Tract

Beaches – Should re-open about the 1st May, of course this depends on the weather.



As this picture shows this is not beach weather.

Ministry/Preaching – Having visited the hotel it has been good to have a time with the Hotel Manager Mr Samaris, he has given the go ahead for us to have services at 11 am and 6 pm.

Greek Newspapers – We have mentioned **Tom Meador above, with the ‘Winners’** newspaper having ceased publication, we were left without this wonderful tool, however, the Lord is the provider. **Tom Meador and his wife Cheryl**, served for 27 years in Northern Greece, they had to return to the USA as his wife Cheryl needed medical treatment, Tom remains committed to Greek evangelism and has for several years been publishing a newspaper called **‘Evangelo Fos, primarily it is aimed at Greeks living around the world it is being published in Greek and English.** Following a long conversation with Tom who knows and understands the reason for the Winners ceasing publication he has agreed to change the format of the paper, to 4 pages English, 4 Greek. However, one drawback is that as this is published in America, also he is supported only by gifts and his own means, the carriage/post costs are also high from the **US to Greece, it will cost about 1,000 \$ per issue, this will be for about 3,000 copies, four times a year.**

Whilst we do not like asking for financial assistance, we are hoping not to have to use the church account money. If anyone feels that they would like to assist we have **Tom’s US address and bank details are available**, alternatively, if you would rather send any monies to us direct then please stipulate it is for the newspaper distribution.

Friendship Evangelism

March 7th. Was an interesting day as it was time for the yearly procession through Kefalos, of all the school children. All the local people come out to see this, interesting to see the different families.

A new Supermarket has been opened in Kefalos, Mike who is a partner in the business whom we spoke to last year, as we were checking out at the till he asked

what type of Christians are you, this gave us the opportunity to give him some literature to read.

We continue to meet many of the Brits, the numbers are continuing to increase, just the other day Andrew + Irene from Ashford, Kent.

Mary and Andy have just started to try to establish an Ex-Pats magazine for the island, this has given us the opportunity to visit them, the magazine is now carrying an advert for Kos Christian Fellowship.

Recently at the board in Kos town, I had a warm welcome from one of **the waiters John we meet him each Sunday at the Hotel.**

Hussan who we have mentioned before, has the best value Café in Kos town, continues to be a good place to meet people, Albanians, Greeks and Brits. I recently met a Scotsman who I think had, had a bit to drink, he seemed to have a very irritating character, he ridiculed me to think that I was here on Christian business, his name is Clive (the first three times we met he would not tell us his name) yet the other day we met him and invited him to our table, seemed a totally different character, in fact we think he is very lonely.

Prison– We are hoping that George will be able to come to the Prison with us, and find out the full name and address for the authorities that we need to write to in Athens to enable us to distribute bible packs.

Helpers – A single lady and a couple have booked to come along in May to help us, and we have other enquiries for later in the year, so we have an encouraging start to the year.

PRAYER POINTS

1. **Greek Newspapers** Evangelos Fos will be well received and the distribution will go well in the coming days, when it arrives from America.
2. **Friendship** – Pray for the Greek contacts as above, especially for George and Tina who have been a great help to us, but above all that George will be wonderfully converted. Also Hussain, his family and all the contacts plus many that have been mentioned above.
3. **Tracting** – As the new season starts that the Lord will again greatly use the tract ‘postcard from Kos’.
4. **Church work** – Pray for the two church Sunday services as they resume commencing Sunday 4th May. Pray for Mr Samaris and the Hotel Staff, that the Lord will bring some of the island residents into the services.
5. **Mission Board work** – The many people that are spoken too, and especially Chelsear, Rosie and Alexandria.
6. **Beaches** – When they open that there will be many people on them to speak with.

- 7 **Preaching/Ministry** – That the challenge this year will be to continue with Genesis 25 and Hebrews in the evening.
- 8 **Helpers** – That all the helpers that come along this year will receive a blessing.
- 9 **Olga** – Continue to pray for Olga that the Lord will continue to help and guide her. As many have enquired after her.
- 10 **Prison** – Pray the Lord will open this ministry up again.

Thank you all for your continuing prayers and support.