

A company of God's people Praying for Kos

May 2008

Dear Friends

We must give thanks again for all the emails of encouragement especially those that pray for us regularly, so many that we hardly even know by face. These really are powerful weapons as we seek to serve the Lord here in Kos.

The month of April commenced with the settling in of Glyn, then in the last week of **April for her Blood Pressure** to suddenly rocket up to over 100, this resulted in a visit to the Doctor who informed her it was too high, something she already knew, and sent her to the hospital, they again seemed to help little, a tablet on the tongue it is high but that is all we can do. So we are told to go to a Specialist, that did a very good job, of giving Glyn a thorough check up, a dossier of charts and photos, prescribed some tablets for 28 days, the consultation 100 euros plus the tablets 25 euros, if you live in the **UK do not complain about the NHS**. She is due to return to the Specialist in a few days time, we are not sure if she will have to pay again, but our main hope that whatever the reason for her rising blood pressure this has now been solved.

Generally the month has been full of disappointments and at times hard graph. There have been a few encouragements **one of the greatest blessings has been that the group here in Kefalos** have tried to form themselves into some type of church with regular Sunday morning meetings in a room attached to the local doctor's surgery. Our prayer is that this will one day lead to a properly constituted gathering of God's people; however, much work needs to be done.

One of their discouragements has been that the local council will not allow them to have their sign 'Kefalos Christian Fellowship' displayed on the door.

Two of the main disappointments of this month have been the general unreliability of people, very difficult to explain this and we must not dwell on those involved.

After our encounter with the police which seemed to be positive we have now become embroiled with the **local Mayors office**, which it would seem have more power than the police. At the time of writing we have made application to the Kos Mayor's office this has been turned down, and we are waiting to hear why they have declined our application.

Also we have not heard from the Mayor's Office at Antimahia, they are in charge of the South of the Island, which includes the resort of Kardamena, a large British resort. It is hard to explain that the use of the board brings so much visual effect to the ministry and causes people to stop as against just handing them a tract.

A further disappointment seems to be that the Greek believers have all but disappeared.

The loss of 'The Winners' newspaper at first seemed a major concern, however, it has been quickly replaced by 'Evangelio Fos' two thousand of the expected three thousand have already been distributed, however, the cost of 500\$ in postage will be hard to sustain, this is without printing costs as well. Tom Meador is hoping to have four issues per year available.

The last weekend of April we decided to have four days on the Island of Rhodes as a break, sadly we both agreed that Rhodes seemed to be like any other Greek Island, perhaps living and working on Kos certainly takes away the holiday gloss.

One of the greatest lessons we are having to learn is how to love the unlovable, knowing the scriptures and knowing of the love of our Lord, brings it home to us the verse of that hymn which reads 'What it meant to Thee the Holy one to bear away my sin', we who if we are honest truthfully love ourselves first and the Lord usually further down our list of desires.

Telit that provided our main tract 'Postcard from Kos' have now been kind enough to send us CD's with a French translation this is after the efforts of our brother Tony Hynes from France, which we give great thanks for.

Again the hotel have been most encouraging as you can see from the church comments the hotel Manager Mr Samaris has given his full blessing to an evening service, and the hotel staff continue to be warm.

We have been encouraged by the number of emails and those that have already booked concerning our advert for a 'Working holiday in Kos' three people are coming in May and already one in June.

The website thanks to our dear brother Dave Hall, Pastor at Pound Lane Free Church seems to be flourishing, with hits from literally all over the world. Although through the month there has been less direct evangelism we have spent hours printing Greek tracts (**by the kindness of Tom Meador**) folding, stamping, and guillotining what seems like hundreds.

By next week, we will have visited 75/100 hotels, many have remembered us from last year, and so far none have refused to display our adverts. We have either stapled or pasted our Kos Christian Fellowship poster to lamp posts, telegraph poles and numerous rubbish bins up and down the island, the Lord's command was go, we remember Howard Spencer preaching on this subject and giving us the commandment 'GO' from Matt.28 'The Great Commission'.

On a lighter note, a chicken has taken up residence in our garage, and now is giving us virtually one egg a day. One of the local stray cats somehow, managed to get locked in our house when we were out for the day, on our return she presented us with five kittens born on our sofa, see picture below.



Church work – By the time you read this we will have already commenced the services on Sunday 4th May, with a morning and evening service. Attendances of 10/7 very encouraging for the first Sunday of the season there are usually very few holiday makers around.

One of the blessings of Sunday was to meet with **Louis a Heart Surgeon** from Singapore born in Nigeria, how blessed we are to meet brothers that seem to be full of the Holy Spirit.

Tracting. – Without the use of the board, I have had to stand with my bag in the street and give out tracts, learning a few Greek phrases of introduction. Probably as many have said NO as have received them. **Several copies of Ultimate Questions in Greek** have been received also a number of CD's **'Sure of Heaven'**. Glyn has spent many a morning around the different houses and parked cars with Greek tracts left over from last season. **Also we have printed out over 750 of Tom's tracts in Greek** and it is a joy to see people sitting in café's or walking up the road reading them.

Mission Board work – Here we have had to improvise as we are not allowed to use the Open Air Mission board at present, **I have now adapted our Sunday service display board and on Tuesday this week**, I erected this on the main harbour promenade area for the first time, and had a good uptake of tracts, probably 150 were received, **I had a nice talk to a couple from Birmingham that left with a 'Sure of Heaven' CD.** A German man that could speak absolutely no English came up and inspected the board and as I had run out of PCK in **German he took an Ultimate Questions** and walked off reading it.

Nassos was one of the Greek gardeners tending the lawns he came up and took a Greek tract, then later came up and had a talk, discovered he understood good English so was most happy when I offered him a **'Sure of heaven'**.

Our prayer is that if they will not let me have the OAM board they will find it hard to say no to the smaller one, this would mean they have a grudge against KCF.

Beaches – These have only a very few people on them at the moment, however, on Saturday last, **Glyn taught Alec a lesson** while he was watching ManU, she took herself off to Paradise Beach and was surprised that there were a number of people there, she put out a number of tracts and met several people, that included a Christian family from Chesterfield, that had seen the church sign and wanted more details. We were blessed with their presence on Sunday evening.

Ministry/Preaching – We are continuing through the book of Genesis commencing with Genesis 25 and in the evening by the Lord's help we will go through the book of Hebrews.

Greek Newspapers – As from our comments above we are now **distributing the Evangelio Fos around 1,000 copies** have been put out so far. Some have been discarded a good number have been read, one of the disappointments has been that a Greek man has telephoned concerning the paper but his English was limited, and it is difficult to direct him to a reliable source. **Glyn has delivered** a good number and had the encouragement that one lady that had earlier refused, after speaking to her neighbour, signalled her over to receive a copy.

Friendship Evangelism – We continue to rejoice in our friendship with **George and Tina**.

We are trying hard to get involved **with an ex-Pats Magazine** that has just commenced, they have been most gracious in allowing us to advertise in it.

Donna that we met back in March we have now visited, and had coffee with her, and she has agreed to put one of each of our church adverts in each of seven apartments.

We continue to visit Hassan's family and Katarina's café, meeting several of the regulars, the warmth of some encourages us.

Prison – No further information on this at the moment.

Helpers – As above a good number of enquiries so far this year this is encouraging. One of the most encouraging being Ernest Benjamin a Pastor from India, he may visit us with his son who is studying at Belfast Bible College.

PRAYER POINTS

1. **Greek Newspapers** - that the Lord will continue to bless this new enterprise with the Evangelio Fos, and that the Holy Spirit will stir the hearts of men.
2. **Friendship** – Pray for the Greek contacts George and Tina, that George will be truly converted, that Stephos may move forward, continue to bless our visits to Hassens café and all those that visit there. For Yvonne that her cancer will be fully healed, for Roger and Fliss at the Tower House and their new helpers Mel and Lil, the Kefalos group of Christians, Dave, Jenny, Diane, Gordon, Michaela, Rose, Joyce, also Madeline and George.
3. **Tracting** – that the Lord will use all the tracts that are handed out, by what ever means, a special blessing for the French translation of PCK.
4. **Church work** – Pray for the church Sunday services and that in God's sovereign power perhaps an unbeliever will come to the services and hear the call of God and be saved. Continue to pray for Mr Samaris and the Hotel Staff.
5. **Mission Board work** – That the Lord will intervene here and turn the hearts of the Council members to give permission for the board, and if not, then the other board will be equally a great blessing especially to those that read its comments.
6. **Beaches** – Generally for enthusiasm and boldness in this one to one work.
7. **Preaching/Ministry** – For freshness and God's help and guidance.
8. **Helpers** – That all who have arranged to come, will come with zeal and boldness and with a desire to be used by the Lord, and will go home rejoicing.

- 9 **Olga** – that the Lord will keep her safe, and direct her paths for the coming months,
- 10 **Prison** – That the Lord will open up a path that we will be able to renew this ministry.
- 11 **Future** – That the Lord will save Greeks this year in a real and meaningful way, and they will seek to grow and be used by the Lord here on the Island. Also for the Ex Pat community that God will move there by his Holy Spirit.

Thank you all once again for all your prayers and encouragement, may the Lord bless you and keep you in the coming days, wherever you are serving.

Alec and Glyn