

# A company of God's people Praying for Kos

June 2008

Dear Friends

**First we must give thanks** for all the kind emails and encouraging phone calls from all God's lovely people. The season has started in full flight although at the Kefalos end of the Island, there seems to be fewer people around, however, Kos town seems to have been busy from the word go.

**One of the first tasks** was to go and find telegraph poles and rubbish bins to display our church posters which have already proved well worth the time, as many have come to the services from these adverts.

**We have visited between 75 and 100 hotels**, with our hotel posters it has been a joy to have been well received, there was only a handful of hotels which said that they would have to consult their advertising Manager before displaying most of them remembered us from last year and said that they would be more than happy to display many took them immediately and put them on their display boards.

**The Manager of the Sunset Hotel** in Kos town, told Alec that he did not advertise anything in his hotel, however, when Alec mentioned it was for the church services his comment was 'for Jesus anything'. George mentioned below knows John well as he went to school with him, and told us that John had lost his wife tragically in a road accident which happened very close to the Marina. We only wish that we had appropriate literature or CD's in Greek to give him.

**Whilst visiting the old Master Sun Hotel Kalimara Mare**, Alec had a long conversation with **Maria, the Desk Manager** as to the difference between Orthodoxy and Evangelical Christianity; Maria was very gracious and accepted a SOH.

**Last year, we discovered that the Eduardo Hotel** was actually not a place for guests but was where the staff from several of the big hotels lived. We were approached last year by two Romanian ladies that lived there, rather disappointed to have missed the church services as they did not know about them. So this year we made sure that there was a poster up in the old tour reps racks, prominently displayed. Alec discovered that they had a small area where there were a large number of reading books for the staff so we took a range of CD's and booklets such as Ultimate Questions in several different languages and left them there. Alec went back last week and to his surprise all the CD's had gone and only three of the booklets were left. Our prayer must be that somebody is listening or reading them.

**Update on the Mayor's office** and the Mission board, the **Mayor's Office at Antimahia** have said that they did not want religious material on the beach area.

**The Mayor's Office in Kos town** after numerous visits still have not given a reason why. Always seem to make an excuse why the document is not ready.

**Alec has been to see the Magistrate/District Attorney** concerning the whole saga, his advice was that using the small board and giving out literature I was breaking no Greek law and should continue and leave the mission board issue.

### **Church work**

**Last year we started the idea** of inviting those that attend the services to come and have lunch with us around the pool bar. This year it has proved very successful and spiritually uplifting to sit and have our meals and discuss the things of God with so many of the **Lord's people from around Europe**. The Dutch or as I am told like to be called the **Hollanders** have been a real encouragement. I think of all those that we have spoken too, the highlights surely were **Alain & Miriam a lovely couple from Switzerland**, Alain virtually blind and works for a blind organisation and has contact with the Torch Trust, of course, Ron and Stella Heath are from my (Alec's) early childhood days at Shrewsbury Hall.

**A lovely Christian called Louis from Singapore** a heart surgeon. It was a joy to spend time with him, below is an e-mail received from Louis. We are sure he won't mind us publishing it.

Pastor Alec. greetings in the precious and victorious name of our Lord Jesus. I thought I should drop you and Glynn a few lines of encouragement. God is faithful to see you through as you stand in the place of your calling and lean on Him. Weeping only endures for the night but joy overwhelming joy always comes in the morning. Regardless of what you are going thru now, Pls keep your eyes albeit no matter how difficult it will be on Jesus. He is closer than you think and is in it together with you. we will continue to pray for you and the ministry

Shalom

Louis Singapore

Oh how precious are God's people.



**Tracting.** – **Car parks visited daily**, well over 1,500 tracts have been given out, with many short conversations, Dutch, Germans, Swiss and Brit's

**Mission Board work** – This has proved to be a very profitable area of the ministry we have often erected the small board (Alec has converted one of the Sunday display boards) we have met a good number of Christians of which many have come to church on Sunday's, a large number of the Open Air Mission magazines have been given out together with an update on the work here.

**Many conversations have taken place**, of these two stand out a **couple Diane and Gordon from Goole, York's** stopped, Diane listened very attentively and said that she would not be favoured by God that her life was not good enough, Colin listened but was not as intense, I asked if Diane would accept a **Sure of Heaven CD**, which she promised to listen to when she returned to the UK.

**Ron and Monica stopped** had a long conversation with them, which developed into a serious talk, Monica said that she used to go to a Methodist church many years ago, but had little understanding of the gospel especially when she was confronted about her sin. They accepted **4 messages of salvation**, I saw them on three other occasions while they were on holiday, saying when they return home they would listen to the CD.

**Two Dutch ladies** sat on the bench close to the board; this gave me an opportunity to have a good talk with them, resulting in one called **Ann accepting a Sure of Heaven. Noel was an angry ex army** man from Northern Ireland, had been to several of the Free Presbyterian church's knew much scripture but said he had never really accepted Christ as Saviour, I challenged him that he must get right with God, especially as he was now in his early sixties, he took **4 messages of salvation**, saying he would listen to them.

**Two Pilipino crew man took SOH, a Dutch couple took SOH, a Dutch lady took a UJ CD, and a Danish couple seemed thrilled when offered a LFU in their own language.**

**A German couple from Hanover accepted an Ultimate Question in German as did a German man from Stuttgart.**

**A Turkish letter for you was accepted.**

**Tina a Greek** from South Africa living in Kos accepted a tract and gave me a telephone number hoping that Olga when she returns would be able to phone her.

**The Captain of the Bodrum Express** the daily boat from Turkey accepted a Sure of Heaven, since then I have had further opportunities to speak to him as he comes past regularly.

**To end with**, I had a lovely conversation with a girl that I did not realise initially was Greek until she told me she came from Thessalonica, she was very open to the gospel listened and asked questions, **her name she told me in English was Hope**, what a lovely name, and of course, the question was 'do you have hope' to which she really could not answer. She accepted **4 messages of salvation**.

**Beaches** – There are few people on the beach at this time, so we have put this ministry on hold at present especially as the board work is so profitable.

**Ministry/Preaching** – **There has been a very encouraging start to the season**, first and most important **George a Greek man** ( a contact from last years newspaper deliveries ) came the second week and has come each week since. Numbers have been well up on last year. **With May 18<sup>th</sup>** . being amazing as at ten to eleven over **40 from**

**a Dutch Christian** holiday arrived to fill the room and much of the foyer; the singing was wonderful especially when our service was over. Their leader asked if they could sing from their own hymn books, the result was the song of heaven rang out throughout the hotel, as 64 + sang.

**Alec has continued through the Book of Genesis** with varying comments.

We started an evening service this year realizing that in many parts of the UK, evening attendance is falling. The Lord has blessed us with attendees, 11 one week. Alec has chosen to go through the **book of Hebrews**.

**Greek Newspapers** – As we reported last month, ‘The Winners’ newspaper that has ceased publication has now been replaced with **Evangelio Fos**. **Most of the 3,000** received have now been delivered with varying degrees of response. One of the best responses was when **Sue Parker (one of our helpers)** was approached by **Seva a Greek hairdresser who left her Hair Salon to ask for a copy**, Sue had the joy of witnessing to her, and it appeared that Seva has Christian parents and a sister in Australia. Sue returned the next day with literature that included 4 messages of **Salvation + three Gerard Crispin booklets How can God accept me, How can God accept me, How can I become a Christian**.

Sue then returned on the day she was leaving to introduce Glyn to her, our prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless this relationship for His glory.

**The Evangelio Fos newspaper is going to cost approximately 1,000 euros** per issue, and obviously we will not be able to sustain this indefinitely, at present, we are in conversation with **Tom Meador the publisher as to the possibility** of printing it here in Kos.

### **Friendship Evangelism**

**Thanhasis a café owner in Zia has accepted a SOH**. We continue to visit **Hassain, Katarina**, many of the men on the harbour front are well known faces to us. As we have said above **George and Tina** are regularly visited, and our prayer is that we will be able to visit **Seva** also.

**Prison**– No further information here.

**Helpers** – The month of May, started with a lovely lady **Sue from Inverness**, she was a joy to work with a true conversion out of the world and someone that had a joy in sharing the Lord with anyone that she had the opportunity too.

**Ken and Pauline from Suffolk**, spent three weeks with us, they had many opportunities to share their faith and were a great help in delivering newspapers, and seemed to have had a good few days in Athens visiting the Hellenic Mission. Although air fares are making it more and more of a problem for helpers to come, we still have several that have indicated that they will come this year. Praise the Lord.

### **PRAYER POINTS**

1. **Greek Newspapers** pray that as we deliver the new paper ‘Evangelio Fos’ that the Lord will continue to challenge those that pick it up and read it, and if they are thrown away then someone else will retrieve it.

- 2 **Friendship** – Pray for the Greek contacts, Stephos and Poppy, George and Tina, Seva, Hassain and all who visit his café especially Alex, Katarina, Safa the Turkish boat Captain, Rapheal bead man, Nick the Artist, and the Christian group in Kefalos.
- 3 **Tracting** – Since our last newsletter, we have reprinted 4,000 copies in English of the tract postcard from Kos and added a French translation these have been successfully printed here on the Island. Pray that as literally thousands of these are given out the Lord will bless them for His glory.
- 4 **Church work** – Pray for the church Sunday services that Alec will be fresh each week as he continues through Genesis in the morning and Hebrews in the evening, that he will be bold with the gospel as a number that have attended are more than likely unconverted. Continue to pray for the Hotel Staff especially for John the waiter.
- 5 **Mission Board work** – The many people that are spoken too, and especially this month, for **Diane and Colin, Monica and Ron, Safa and Hope**.
- 6 **Beaches** – Pray that the Lord will make it clear as to whether we will continue this ministry or just concentrate on the car parks.
- 7 **Preaching/Ministry** – For freshness and God’s help and guidance.
- 8 **Helpers** – Pray with thanks for Sue, Pauline and Ken and Mike from Lancaster as he arrives.
- 9 **Olga** – Pray that the Lord will continue to sustain her in the coming days until she returns.
- 10 **Prison** – Pray that the Lord will open an avenue for us to go back into the prison.
- 11 **Future** – Pray that the Lord will help us as we think about the future, especially with the high cost of fuel and the number of miles that we are travelling each day as to whether the Lord will make it clear should we be moving nearer to Kos town.
- 12 **If you would like to contribute to any of the above publications, please would you email us or telephone us.** As there have been new internet regulations placed onto our account.

**Thank you all once again;** I hope that it is not long for some of you, there is always so much to report. May the Lord bless you all in the coming days! Remember the Lord said to us **Lu 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.** Surely times become more difficult.

**The blessings of the Lord, Alec and Glyn**