

S E P T . / O C T . 2 0 1 6

the

# DELUCA family

2COR.1:24

CHURCH PLANTING MISSIONARIES TO THE PEOPLE OF GREECE

## Happenings



### The Eye Affects the Heart

Recently Joanna and I attended a missionary retreat in Thessaloniki. Although we've lived in Greece for 2-1/2 years and have visited quite a few places, there is still much of Greece we haven't explored. We made the 8 hour drive to Thessaloniki with an overnight stay in Ioannina. The scenery was beautiful and the history rich but we mainly saw cities with no Gospel preaching Baptist churches. Town after town filled with souls without a witness to God's amazing grace. We often forget the people we do not see everyday and we've been stirred to pray more fervently for people, not only in Greece but, all over the world. We are seeking God's direction in where He will have us to minister in the coming years and these 'mini-survey trips' are truly impacting us to look beyond the convenient and comfortable to see possibilities in places starving for truth and freedom in Jesus Christ.

One Monday, I received a call from a couple in our church asking if I'd share the Gospel with a visiting friend of theirs from Holland. I spent 3 hours explaining the plan of salvation to Melissa but in the end, she admitted she wasn't ready to trust Christ yet. Late Thursday afternoon I received another call from the couple informing me she was ready to be saved and wanted me to pray with her. I was preparing to leave for Athens to pick up Joanna returning from the US (she accompanied Claire to college) but I jumped in the car, went through the Gospel with her again, and she readily accepted Christ! As the sun was beginning to set outside, she asked if I would baptize her in the sea as she was returning home on Saturday. So we packed up and 7 of us went to a little public beach and in front of 5 or 6 curious Greeks, she publicly declared her faith in the Lord. We couldn't be more thrilled for Melissa and her daughter.



The summer work season has ended and we've recently made some changes to our church schedule. We've

moved our English morning service to 8:30am and have added an adult Greek Sunday School class. This allows Pastor Taki to continue teaching the Greek children's Sunday School while affording me and a few of the Greek men opportunity to teach the adults. Please pray these changes are beneficial to both the Greeks and our English speaking church members.

September 18th is a day I will never forget as after 2 years of diligent language study, a lot of prayer, and the help of our language teacher, I preached for the first time to our church family in Greek! While my pronunciation and accent definitely need more work, everyone told me I did a good job. Of course, all praise and glory go to the Lord as He continues to prove Himself strong despite my weaknesses.



We had many visitors throughout the summer and early fall who blessed us in many ways. Some are blood family but all are our Christian family and we praise God for their impact on our lives. We also developed new relationships with two couples who regularly attend church as they summer on the island. We're already looking forward to their return next year! **Thanks for praying!!!**



### Prayer Requests:

#### ❖ Greek language acquisition.

- ❖ Greeks to seek the Lord.
- ❖ Grace for our kids; Claire @ NEBC; Wisdom in planning; Christmas outreach / programs.
- ❖ ZBBC- Growth & Edification.

- ❖ The Greek Bible Radio station is available on Google app store!
- ❖ The Faros newspaper will be expanding beginning Jan. 2017. Pray for resources to continue expanded production.

- ❖ Salvation- Lena /our Greek teacher & family; Dionysi & Marie; Neighbor- Clare; Gus; Kostas, Vaso & kids; Many church members family/friends.
- ❖ **Michael's residency permit!**

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