

the DELUCA family 2COR.1:24

CHURCH PLANTING MISSIONARIES TO THE PEOPLE OF GREECE

HAPPENINGS



Off and Running

2016 is shaping up to be a busy year. Our ministry & family calendars have filled up quickly. We're anticipating a great year but also one of transition. Our eldest child, Claire, will be heading to Bible college in CT this fall. We're excited for her but it's bittersweet as the distance between us makes regular visits difficult. Our 2 "middle" kids will be spending June with their YiaYia in the USA too. We're also beginning to develop & implement a church planting plan that will be keeping us busy for quite some time. Please pray for God to direct us as we seek to build "lighthouses" to bring people out of the storm and into the safe arms of the Lord.

Our family enjoyed a long weekend getaway to Athens in January. It was the first time since our arrival that we traveled off Zakynthos together. We had a great time relaxing & making memories. The kids were excited to go shopping at a mall and experience some familiar things like a food court. Thank you to the many churches who've given our family Christmas gifts. We were able to find some great deals on many things they needed (clothes) and many they wanted (Legos & books). We also connected with our friends & fellow missionaries, the Dimakos & Sinde families, for fellowship and talking about missionary life in Greece.

The economic state of Greece quietly continues to sink. Prices continue to climb on most items, especially food. Many Greeks opt to "creatively" limit their tax exposure which forces the government to raise taxes wherever possible. We've experienced this first hand with our rental situation. Although we signed a lease, our landlords didn't file it with the municipality as required for taxation. This became a problem when we asked for official receipts of our rent & bill payments. We love this house but we're not willing to compromise our testimony for the Lord to stay here. We didn't want to move again for the kids sake but it looked as if we would have to because of the situation. We began

praying and God provided. We found a legal solution to the tax problem they faced and were able to keep the rent the same. Better still, our steadfastness to honor God in every area of our lives became a great witnessing opportunity to them. Pastor Taki has been a great help & blessing in communicating for us in business matters as our Greek is still limited (but quickly improving!). He effectively witnessed to them during our discussions and we're praying God will work in their hearts and be saved.

We hadn't heard from our residency lawyer in awhile so a phone call was in order. Pastor Taki again stepped in and helped grease the wheels. We've been told my residency is complete but there is a disconnect between 2 gov't offices. He assured us it will be done "within a week". *Please keep this in you prayers!*

I gathered with 5 other IFB missionaries / pastors in FEB for a time of fellowship & iron sharpening. God used this time greatly to open our eyes to the reality of church planting in Greece. God is definitely showing us a path to follow in this process. We're praying to use the resources He has provided us already with greater skill & wisdom to effectively begin new works and develop indigenous leadership. There will be more to come on this but please keep this work in your prayers!



Prayer Requests:

- ❖ *Greek language acquisition.*
- ❖ Greeks to seek the Lord.
- ❖ Grace for our kids as they homeschool/ More Friends/ Summer travel plans.
- ❖ ZBBC- Growth & Edification.

- ❖ Upcoming radio work in April.
- ❖ Wisdom for future ministry: Long term plan development, wisdom, resources, & laborers.
- ❖ Michael's residency permit- Nearing completion! March???

- ❖ Summer Camp- July 3-12.
- ❖ Faros Newspaper- Impact.
- ❖ Salvation- Lena /our Greek teacher & family; Taki, Litza & Family; Costas-Cancer; Many church members family/friends.

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