



CHURCH PLANTING IN ATHENS, GREECE



Prayer Requests

- ☑ Revival in Greece!
- ☑ Thank you to all who blessed us with Christmas gifts! We're very grateful.
- ☑ Wisdom & direction for new home. Easy & quick move and transition.
- ☑ Wisdom & patience in finding a store front at a good price & best location. Pray for sufficient funds to cover start up & any rehab / prep to the property.
- ☑ Short-term team arrives Feb. 25. Safety & effectiveness of literature distribution. Ongoing planning & coordinating.
- ☑ Michael's next level of Greek classes begins Feb.26. Pray as he begins ESL training.
- ☑ Continued growth of Thursday night Bible study.
- ☑ Praise to God! John will attend a local International school this fall.
- ☑ Pray for: Christine L.; Anne; Sylvester; Eleni; Vassilli; meeting w/new Greek American couple.

The new year has arrived with unexpected news. Despite assurances the home we've rented would remain available to us long-term, the owner has informed us she will not renew our lease and intends to sell the house. Many of you know we've had to move 4 times because of similar circumstances. This house was perfect for our family & ministry plan but God is obviously leading elsewhere, and we believe it is for good reason. We began services here on Nov. 18. knowing it would be slow going but I was confident people would eventually come. After a month with only 1 visitor, and following much counsel with other missionaries & US pastors, we decided it best to focus on building Bible studies to be combined with Sunday services in the future. This decision also has allowed our boys to join the small youth group at the church we're attending & assisting. The pastor is a Greek national who is committed to helping us start a new church. We know church planting here is difficult & requires time but we hadn't realized the difficulty in overcoming the idea of a "home church". In the Greek culture, a church is a central part of the community. Church is a location in and of itself. Additionally, opening your home to others is often predicated on having previous strong relationships. We continue to learn these lessons which require us to "adjust our sails" accordingly.

Based on our housing change, and after much prayer & counsel, we believe our best opportunity to reach people & establish a work is through a community outreach point. Many Greeks regularly congregate at similar neighborhood places. I interviewed other missionaries who are using this approach & see great opportunity in this plan. We have begun searching for a storefront in our area to rent for this purpose. My goal is to use the property as a connection point for people to attend Bible studies, fellowship over a coffee, & to use as a classroom to teach English (using the Bible) for only the cost of the materials. Eventually, we will begin Sunday services as we develop a core group. Our goal is to build relationships in the community by offering a place people can come for coffee, use the internet, enjoy Greek Christian music, read, and watch Christian related videos on subjects such as Creation & history. Greeks invest much money and time to learn English & we believe offering English lessons at affordable rates will attract many people to connect & build relationships with. Please pray with us for God's direction, timing, & wisdom as we seek to grow the church He has planted in our hearts.