



CURRENT ENCOURAGEMENTS

We are grateful for much that the Lord accomplished in and through His HELPING HANDS ministry last year. Among many other things, we praise Him, and are grateful to His people, for the support that was shown at the benefit concert on December 14th. We are especially thankful for the many Christian artists who freely gave of their time and talent to help us further expose this ministry to the Greek Christians and helped us raise over 400,000 drachmas!

A large portion of that money was immediately put to use buying food supplies for the Kurdish refugees at the camp in Agios Andreas. On December 22nd, more than six cars and one bus full of people and gifts of food, toiletries, and toys arrived at the camp. After unloading the donations, we sang some Christian carols, acted a pantomime, and had an Arabic evangelist (Kamal) share the meaning of Christmas with many open and interested Muslim Kurds. Unfortunately, due to the farmer's road blockades, the Kurdish literature we had ordered never arrived in time for us to hand out in response to the many requests for Gospels after our presentation. However, God's Spirit was at work and He used us to be a blessing of light to many who are in darkness.

We visited the Kurdish camp again with cars and a busload of people and donations on January 26th, and after a program we were able to hand out about 1,000 Gospels of Luke in their own language. Many were asking for more literature, Bibles, and New Testaments. They are OPEN AND HUNGRY people. What an opportunity to reach an «unreached» people group for Jesus! We have been there four times now, and plan to go again soon.

On December 24th, we had a special Christmas Eve Soup Kitchen. The Hellenic Missionary Union already had the hall beautifully decorated. With the addition of red tablecloths, special Christmas plates, and candles at each table, there was a very seasonal atmosphere. Once again, a Greek athletic club donated much food so that we could offer a nice three course meal to over 150 hungry people. In addition to a short drama, the program included a message from Kamal for the Arabic-speaking people and a message through speaking and singing from one of Greece's most loved Christian artists : Xenofon Ioannidis. Because of some very generous donations, we were able to print enough sweatshirts to give out to everyone at the soup kitchen that night. The sweatshirts have a graphic printing on the front (the head of Christ wearing the crown of thorns), and on the back (two nail-scarred hands with the words «HELPING HANDS» in English and Greek. We have received many expressions of appreciation (and additional requests) for these practical gifts that give an impacting «silent witness» each time they are worn.

COMPASSION EVANGELISM

(Opportunities to Demonstrate the Love of Jesus)

God is working and revealing what He is doing. That revelation is an invitation for us to make the necessary adjustments to our lives so that we can join Him in what He is doing. How can you join Him in

what He is doing? These are a few opportunities you may want to pray about:

1. MEALS OF LOVE AND HOPE

If you can sing, do drama (especially mime), help set up, serve, or clean up at our soup kitchen ministry on Tuesdays, please call 721-4936 or 652-8191

2. LANGUAGE CLASSES

If you can teach Greek or English, or if you can just come and help (especially men), please call 721-4936 or 652-8191

3. HIRE LABORERS

If you need some short-term (or long-term) work done such as gardening, house painting, window washing, etc., please call 721-4936 or 652-8191

4. FOOD COLLECTION

If you can organize a food collection program in your church, or if you would like ideas on how to do it, please call 721-4936 or 652-8191

5. MEMBERSHIP

We need more volunteers, so if you would like to join our organization, please call 721-4936 or 652-8191

6. GIVING

If you like to make a donation on a one-time, occasional, or regular



KURDISH CHILDREN FROM AGIOS ANDREAS RECEIVE CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

basis, you can send it to Arnis #3, ILISSIA 11528 or you can deposit it directly in our account (#81/92003/50) at Trapeza Ergasias.

CONFIDENT EXPECTATIONS

We praise God for the way He is continuing to raise up Christians in Greece to help demonstrate God's hospitality to the foreigners! We look forward to 1997 being a year that will see significant developments for His ministry to the foreigners in Athens.

Please pray for the following needs...

...Our dependence on the Lord alone as our Source, and that we would be faithful

...English and Greek teachers

...A BUILDING THAT WE COULD USE ON A FULL-TIME BASIS for such purposes as a temporary shelter for homeless refugees, a soup kitchen, a coffee bar ministry, a clothing center, language classes, video presentations, meetings, and so much more!

If you have any questions, suggestions, ideas, or constructive criticisms, please don't hesitate to contact us at Arnis #3, ILISSIA 11528, or call 721-4936 or 652-8191.

God bless you as you help us reach the nations for Jesus! Together with you, we are His HELPING HANDS.