

Dear Praying Friends,

2 quick things:

1. Here is a link to a video by the BBC about the rising tension regarding the refugee/immigrants situation in Athens. It was filmed by a friend of ours, and the Christian charity briefly shown is Helping Hands...

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7769071.stm>

2. Many are starting to ask about the current riots over the last 3 days in Athens and Thessaloniki. Below is an update written by Athens teammate Susan Pearson.

Thank you so much for standing with us in your prayers.

Grateful,

Scott & Vicki McCracken
Panagiotou 3 Papagou
15669 Athens/GREECE

(30) 210-65-28-191

E-mail: scott.mccracken@iteams.org

From: Susan Pearson [<mailto:pearsos@iteams.org>]

Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 11:34 PM

To: susan.pearson@iteams.org

Subject: Greek Letters: 8 December 2008a

I've been sitting here for about an hour watching the Greek news and occasionally flipping over to CNN International for some English language coverage. Greek news programs feel a lot like visual scandal sheets. Often they are playing dramatic music (as from a movie score) while showing the latest tragic event. The last three days are different because there is no music. There are only words (fast, excited, very difficult to understand) and lots and lots of pictures. Burning buildings, burning cars, Molotov cocktails thrown at police, police throwing tear gas, hooded masked people running, sledgehammers taken to windows, the headlines read "Chaos in Athens"! This is not on the other side of the world in California <grin>. This is less than 5 miles from my house. This is happening 5 minutes away from our center downtown.

Saturday afternoon, as we were cleaning up after a Tea House where 920 people received food, three men walked through our doors. And they walked with purpose and determination. They spoke to no one. They walked into the main room, turned around, and walked out. They were 2 policeman following a detective. They were looking for someone. After having the usual late lunch of pork chops around the corner from the center, we were walking up the street to see several policemen stopping cars and asking questions. They were still looking for someone or something. About three hours later, 22 youth surrounded a police car with 2 policemen inside. Maybe 15 minutes later, a 15 year old was dead and the other 21 youth had run away. Three days later, the city of Athens is still on fire.

Tomorrow is a declared day of mourning for this 15 year old named Alexander. Tomorrow night is our first Christmas outreach. A banquet for 100 of our Arabic speaking friends, families and singles alike. The prayer request is obvious. Safety, wisdom, light in a very dark place. There is no way to contact our 100 guests and if they brave the possible chaos, we want to have a safe

place for them to hide if trouble erupts. Then again, there maybe no trouble and if we are not there ... how disappointing that would be ... for everyone. Pray that God would bring those He wants to hear and see His truth in action. Pray for the speaker and the cooks. Pray for the servers and guests. That He would keep us all safe. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace.

Peace is something that this city needs very badly right now. I don't know what I will see on my way to the center tomorrow. The destruction is not quite complete, but if this goes on much longer ...?? So, please pray and pray hard. Pray for those caught up in the insanity. Pray for God's Spirit of Peace to fall on this city.

We will have 2 more parties this week for our Persian speaking friends on Thursday and Saturday. On Wednesday is the annual Christmas general strike (no transportation, banks and post offices and government offices closed).

Happy Christmas!

For His Glory Alone,

Susan

Susan Pearson

Susan.Pearson@iteams.org

<http://360.yahoo.com/susaninathens>

<http://www.myspace.com/susanapearson>