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# ★ McCracken Memo ★

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ATHENS, GREECE

MARCH/APRIL 1993

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Dear Friends and Partners,

Here are just a few glimpses of some happenings from the last couple of months...

**" A DIVINE APPOINTMENT" ...**

Recently the pastor of our church preached on the Christian response to current issues. He asked me to preach on one of those days, and I preached on the Christian response to homosexuality because I had many opportunities of ministry to homosexuals while I was in the States, and have done research and study on the subject. Anyhow, a few days before I was going to preach I got a phone call from a Polish friend here who was supposed to have called me back in September (she had lost my phone number and just now had found it). She said she wanted to come visit me at my church on Sunday and she wanted info about the time and place. I told her, but did not mention that I would be preaching or the topic I would be speaking on. On Sunday, she came and brought another Polish friend.

"Coincidentally," he is a new Christian who also happens to be a homosexual. Consequently, we are now meeting together each week for discipleship. I get excited about these "divine appointments" that are so "obvious" and I praise God that He's using me in this way with a refugee who is homosexual. But I need LOTS OF PRAYER for a number of things about this situation that are too long and involved to go into right now. Just pray for my wisdom and patience. And pray for Christopher.

**"HELPING HANDS" ...**

For one year now I have been attempting to form a Board of Directors for the friendly "takeover" of an existing Greek association ("Filallilia"). Although I have found five willing Greek Christians to serve as board members, we have decided that rather than taking over an existing organization it would be better to start a brand new one of our own. The main reasons are:

1. I had expected more fulltime help by now, but because that hasn't happened I am very reluctant to take on more responsibilities than I can handle (i.e., the responsibilities that Filallilia is already committed to).
2. If we can start "fresh" and recruit members who are committed to our vision and goals, there may be greater potential for unity and less potential for conflict.

It will be an interdenominational organization dedicated to meeting the physical needs of refugees in Athens, and will probably be called "Helping Hands." Becoming a legally registered association will also help us in acquiring a ministry building and will expand our support network.

### **ALBANIAN ENCOURAGEMENT...**

Even though the pastor of our local church, another friend, and I recently went to Albania to encourage Gregory in his ministry there, I think we left more encouraged by him than he was by us. He is involved in many ministry opportunities including teaching and leadership at two fellowships in two different cities, street witnessing and friendship evangelism, translation projects (including an Albanian translation of the Old Testament, and a contract is being drawn up by Josh McDowell Ministries to have him translate More Than A Carpenter into Albanian), and now that the weather is improving he will be more involved in mountain village ministry.

NOTE: Gregory is having problems cashing checks that people send. Therefore, he is requesting that if anyone desires to send a check to him that they MAKE IT OUT TO SCOTT McCracken AND SEND IT TO SCOTT McCracken, INDICATING IT IS FOR GREGORY. I will then cash it and send the cash with people I know who often go into Albania. Thank you.

### **THE ADVOCATE...**

The first edition of The Advocate, our newsletter for English speaking foreigners in the Greek prison system was printed and sent in March. From the response so far, it seems to have been a real encouragement to many. Therefore, we are thinking about producing it more often than on a quarterly basis. The newsletter includes short devotions, answers to questions that prisoners ask about the Bible or personal issues, comics, creative writing from prisoners, advice from prisoners for other prisoners, testimonies and prayer requests, etc.

At our March prison visitation 3 more people decided to follow Jesus! One was a man from Barbados and the other two were women from America and England. Please pray for their spiritual growth.

### **MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT...**

We are currently meeting on a regular basis with a young Albanian couple for a series of Biblical studies and discussion on how to enrich our marriages. It is a time of great benefit for all of us as we are motivated, encouraged, and empowered to GROW AND IMPROVE in our marital relationships.

### **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!...**

We are VERY GRATEFUL to God and to you for your partnership in our ministry here. Thank you for letting Him use you to help us reach others. **YOU ARE MUCH APPRECIATED!**

Love,  
Scott and Vicki