

WITH US?
DO YOU WANT TO COMMUNICATE WITH US?

For any questions you may have, you can write to the DIRECTOR of HELPING HANDS:



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Nikos & Maria Stefanidis

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US?

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Look at our web pages:

<http://www.helpinghands.gr/>

www.ITRefMin.org
(click "Teams", then click "Athens")

www.iteams.org

<http://refminathens.blogspot.com>
(some refugee stories)

You can write directly to Kate Cami who is the Athens contact person for the Short Term Teams. Her e-mail is: ilir.cami@iteams.org



YEAR 2006, Vol. 1

NEWS NEWS NEWS

HELPING HANDS

A full-service station, demonstrating the care of God for the refugees on the Athens exit ramp of the Refugee Highway

"Sacrifices, a forgotten art of modern Christianity"

The people of God of the Old Testament were required to offer many different sacrifices. With the death and resurrection of Christ these sacrifices stopped. Living as children of God, it is not any longer expected from us to offer animals, birds, incense, etc. Does this mean that we are totally free of every sacrifice to the Lord?

NO! WE ARE NOT FREE!

God expects us to worship Him daily and to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to Him (Rom.12:1-2). More specifically God is pleased when we offer to Him:

I. The sacrifice of praise...

"Through Jesus, therefore. Let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise..."

(Heb. 13:15)

With our lips, voice and from our hearts we must offer to God our sacrifice of praise.

II. The sacrifice of witnessing...

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God... the fruit of lips that confess his name..."

It is not enough to offer to God only some hymns of praise. We must use our lips and voice to testify, to confess, to witness to others about our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

III. The sacrifice of doing good and giving

"...and do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

God is blessing us in order to bless others in His name. Following Jesus' example we are required to serve God by serving people. God is pleased to see us praising Him, confessing Him and sharing the needs of others.

Yes, many Christians have forgotten the art of sacrifice... BUT we are so thankful for many who are living a sacrificial life and are serving God by serving others. Helping Hands is a proof of this.

We are able to give the sacrifices of praise, witnessing, and giving among the refugees in Athens, Greece, because so many of you are participating in these sacrifices, and making it possible for us to serve the refugees.

May the risen Lord bless you all richly as you serve Him by offering the sacrifices that please Him.



With Love and prayer
Your partner in God's ministry
Nikos Stefanidis
Director of Helping Hands

UNBELIEVABLE TRUE STORIES

An Afghan in Constantinople...

Many times we have been asked by believers questions like: "What is happening to the refugees who accept Jesus and then leave Greece?" "Are they sincere?" "How do you know that they are truly saved?" An answer to these questions is what our Team Leader **Scott McCracken** reports:

"H" is one of the many Afghans who have come to Christ through this ministry. While here, he struggled in his new faith. However, he went on from here to Belgium where he became an active part of a church in Brussels, growing

strongly in his faith. Then, after he received his documents from the government of Belgium, he went to TURKEY with the purpose of trying to establish an AFGHAN CHURCH. His first meetings were in October in his small apartment but it is always full, **and already more than a dozen Afghans have come to believe in Jesus through his ministry there!** He is in regular contact with mature Persian believers in the U.S. and in Athens, humbly requesting and receiving their "long-distance" investments of discipleship in his life!

Please pray for this brother, as he is an extension of our ministry, reaching the nations through Athens!

UPDATE

UPDATE ON DIFFERENT MINISTRIES



The year of 2005 was difficult from some aspects. Even though we faced some challenges, we have seen at the same time God working in our lives and in the lives of those we serve. By God's grace and the support of many believers from Greece and abroad we were able through various services to show Jesus' love to many refugees.

TEA HOUSE

As you probably know by now, three times a week (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays) we provide food to approximately 500 refugees each day. Here is how **Scott McCracken** describes one of his Tea House Days:

Today was a "good" day at Tea House. By "good" I mean that **there were more people I personally helped than I personally turned away.** I was able to share the Gospel with two Afghan men, play ping-

pong with a Somalian, pray for a Nigerian brother who needs work and a place to sleep, play chess with a Libyan refugee, give away several sleeping bags to men and women, and I gave out 25 tickets for men who will come back tomorrow morning to take showers. Between these opportunities and the clothing we gave away, the videos that were watched, the literature that was taken, the food that was eaten, the conversations that were enjoyed, and the classes that were attended, **I thank God for a "good day" of sharing His love with the nations.**



CLOTHING MINISTRY

Our teammates **Ilir** and **Kate Cami** report: "We thank God for the many clothing donations we receive from churches, schools and individuals throughout Greece, Europe and North America. We give them out as quickly as we get them, and still we don't have enough storage space! **And what a blessing it is for refugees to have warm and clean clothes to wear.** I particularly enjoy giving clothing to

parents with growing children. One day, a young girl spilled all over herself. She couldn't go out in the cold with wet clothes. I was able to enter our neatly organized clothing room and find an outfit just her size. I wish you could have seen her smile of grateful relief."



HOW TO INVEST

If you want to invest in this ministry from

USA, CANADA, UNITED KINGDOM or AUSTRALIA,

you can make the check out to:

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS,

clearly indicating IN A SEPARATE NOTE that is for the "HELPING HANDS" ministry in Greece and sent it to:



INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

411 W. River RD.
Elgin, IL 60123-1570
USA

OR

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

PO box 11
Brecon, Powys
LD3 9WJ
UNITED KINGDOM

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

1 Union Street
Elmira, Ontario N3B 3J9
CANADA

OR

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

PO Box 1123
Baulkham Hills
NSW 1755
AUSTRALIA

All financial donations in the above locations are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

DO YOU WANT TO COME TO GREECE AND HELP?

If you want to invest time you can do so. We are thankful to God for many Short Term Teams, which are coming and providing great help in this ministry. If you are interested to come to serve the Lord among the refugees in Athens for any length of time please write to us for more information.

COME TO GREECE AND HELP?