

Subj: **Christmas Outreach 2005 Update**
 Date: 11/19/2005 8:23:20 AM Central Standard Time
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 To: scott.mccracken@iteams.org

Dear Praying Friends,

I am sending this message a second and final time since we have raised about half of our goal, and there is still time to make a year-end investment!

Please pray, and please give if you can, and please e-mail us to let us know if you are able to send something so we can make our plans appropriately.

Grateful for you,

Scott McCracken

Dear Friends,

This summer, we took **28 refugee kids** to a local retreat center for a **three-day camp**. Everyone had a wonderful time! We took the kids to the beach, made crafts, sang songs, and did our best to keep the kids busy morning until night. We were able to deepen our relationships with the children and their families, and had opportunities to demonstrate and proclaim the love of Christ to them. We also sent 7 refugee children for 21 days to the Christian Camp of the Greek Evangelical Church.

As the weather changes, and the children have returned to school, it is time to start thinking about our next opportunity to demonstrate and proclaim the love of God to these families, as well as others we meet at the **Athens Refugee Center**. The Christmas season offers us a great occasion, as questions and discussions about the reason for the holiday naturally arise. It is also a time of year when the giving of gifts can illustrate the compassion and generosity of Jesus Christ. This Christmas, we want to celebrate with **three parties for various groups of people**.

First, we are planning a **Children's Christmas Party for up to 300 children**. Along with enjoying an evangelistic program, the children will each receive a gift and have a snack. The gifts will include mittens, hat and scarf, school supplies, a small toy and sweets. We estimate that all of this will cost us about **\$11 US per child**.

Second, we will host a special **Christmas Dinner for 250 people** who will hear testimonies, music and drama, savor a tasty meal, and receive a gift before they leave. Each adult will be given a sleeping bag and a bag of hygiene products, such as shampoo, razor, soap, etc. We estimate that all of this will cost us about **\$25 US per person**.

Finally, we will celebrate with our **local volunteers and members** who will be invited for a special meal and time of fellowship in gratitude for their faithful service. For this, we are estimating **\$22 US per person**.

You can be part of sharing the love of Christ with refugees in Athens this Christmas. How?

Through Prayer... Please pray with us that God would open the eyes and hearts of our refugee friends, that they might see and understand the Truth this Christmas season. Pray that we would have courage and wisdom to share His love, and that His generosity and care would overflow.


Through Generous Donations... Feel free to send *any amount* made out to **International Teams**, address

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below, with a note designating the funds to Helping Hands/Athens-Christmas.

We thank God for your partnership and prayers! May you have a joyful and blessed Christmas season.

Together With You,
His ***HELPING HANDS***,



Nikos Stefanidis
Executive Director

International Teams/USA, 411 W. River Rd., Elgin, IL 60123
International Teams/Canada, 1 Union Street, Elmira, ON N3B 3J9
International Teams/Australia, PO Box 1123, Baulkam Hills NSW 1755
International Teams/UK, PO Box 11, Brecon, Powys LD3 9WJ
International Teams/New Zealand, PO Box 15-142, Auckland 1232

note: gifts received above and beyond our needs for Christmas will be used for other programs that serve refugees

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