



McCracken Memo



ATHENS, GREECE

MAY/JUNE, 1995

Dear Friends, Partners, and Loved Ones,

We have been back in Greece for 5 weeks now! In that time we have: spent *three weeks in the hospital* with our daughter Kendra, worked in the *soup kitchen* and seen *souls come to Christ*, had our *bi-annual team retreat*, *been on television*, and witnessed the *love, provision, and works of God* in a variety of ways! Read on for details...

WELCOME BACK TO GREECE!

Before we even made it to the parking lot of the Athens airport (after 21 hours of travel), Kendra was hit by a car. We thank God that a potentially much worse situation only resulted in a broken thigh bone. This required three weeks of traction in the hospital. Because the hospitals here are a little "different", it was necessary for someone to be with Kendra 24 hours a day. Mom took the day shift and Dad took the night shift. *God has been gracious* in sparing Kendra's life, and has demonstrated much love to us through the many who have prayed, called, visited, helped watch the boys, given gifts, and many other practical ways of helping and loving us.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Scott has had the opportunity to help out and speak three times at the soup kitchen that we have on Thursdays. We have been serving between 100 and 200 refugees (and some homeless Greeks) every week. These people are not only hungry for physical food but also for spiritual food, so we always try to share the Gospel with them through preaching, singing, and/or literature. *Many have indicated a first-time decision to trust in Jesus!* Although this aspect of the ministry will probably stop for the summer, we are planning to start it again in September. PLEASE PRAY THAT MORE CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUALS WILL GET INVOLVED IN HELPING WITH THIS MINISTRY FOR THE FALL.

TELEVISION STAR

Last week Scott had the opportunity to be on an hour long Christian television program that was aired on the TBN station here (the only Christian TV channel in Greece). He had the opportunity to share much about refugee ministry from a theological and "practical" viewpoint, and how people can get involved in our *HELPING HANDS* ministry here. PLEASE PRAY THAT CHRISTIANS IN GREECE WOULD RESPOND BY GIVING OF THEIR TIME, TREASURES, AND TALENTS IN ADVANCING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AMONG REFUGEES IN ATHENS.

TEAM UNITY

Currently, we have on our team another family (the Heckenbergs), a single woman (Jennifer), and a part-time couple (the Shifleys). Last weekend we had our bi-annual team vision retreat. We worked primarily on getting to know each other better and on developing a "team covenant". We also worked some on renewing our MasterPlan and setting goals, and praying and worshipping together. *Vicki and I are very enthused about the group of people that God has brought together to minister*

on our team, and we are sensing that He is deepening our unity to more effectively use us in ministry to the refugees. PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR OUR UNITY, AND FOR GOD TO PROVIDE MORE LABORERS FOR THE HARVEST HERE.

PRAISES

* Many refugees have been fed and have come to Jesus through our soup kitchen ministry!

* Kendra seems to be healing up well, and her attitude has been excellent through the whole ordeal. Praise God that she is alive and well!

* Cottage Hill Baptist Church is making it possible for Kyle to have at least two more laser surgeries this year! He and Vicki will be in Oregon June 27th-July 10th, and again in September. We thank God for this generous and unexpected provision.

* The deficit that has been in our account for almost a year has finally been cleared up so that we are now "in the black"!

* We praise God for YOU and the vital part you play in our lives and ministry through your prayers, giving, and encouragement.

PRAYER REQUESTS

* We are planning to have an evangelistic party for Eritrean refugees on June 24th. Please pray for them to come to the party and to come to Jesus!

* Pray for the growth of new believers.

* Pray for us to remain "in the black" and to remain faithful stewards of that which God entrusts to us.

* Pray for the Lord to provide us with a ministry facility.

* Pray for Charity Osagiede and Rovertos Strantzalis (see attached explanation).

We thank you again for your prayers and commitment to seeing the Kingdom of God advanced around the world. God bless you as you continue to live for Him!