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# ★ McCracken Memo ★

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ATHENS, GREECE

OCTOBER, 1992

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## **We Can Touch the World...**

One of the most exciting things to us about refugee ministry is the opportunity we have to make an impact for Christ across the globe. When refugees come to Athens and find Jesus, they become witnesses for Him both to the people they meet here AND to their friends/family that they continue to communicate with in their home countries! In addition to that, when they immigrate from Greece to their new country of adoption they continue to take the Gospel to their new friends and countrymen! **AND THAT'S NOT ALL!** At some point in the process there are a few who will decide to return to their home countries as full-time missionaries!!!

Over the years, we've seen this happen several times. In the last couple of months, we've "sent out" from our International Believers Fellowship:

- ...Timnit and her five children. They are from Eritrea (next to Ethiopia) and have moved to Switzerland.
- ...Andre, from Poland, who has immigrated to Canada.
- ...Aida, from the Philippines, who has gone to Holland to join the missionary organization "Youth With a Mission."
- ...Yacoub and his family, from Iraq, who have immigrated to the U.S.A.
- ...Gregory, from Albania, who has returned to Albania to share Jesus with his fellow countrymen there.

Thank you for helping us to remain in this STRATEGIC location and ministry. Please pray for all these believers.

## **Light Invading The Darkness...**

It was very exciting for me and Vicki's father to personally take Gregory back to his home in Albania. There we were able to meet friends and family that Gregory helped lead to Christ (through correspondence) while he was here in Athens. One of his new brothers in Christ said to me, "It is wonderful to see how God orchestrated your meeting with Gregory...to eventually bring us all to Himself."

It was my first time in Albania and it was an indescribable experience. All I can say is that it is a desperately poor country, both in spirit and in material ways. It is a country of darkness on so many levels that the light of the Gospel that Gregory has gone back to share can't help but shine in dramatic contrast to the daily experience of the people. Please, please, please pray for him. Also, some of you have asked about supporting him financially. You can send him personal checks (NOT tax-deductible) at:

Gregor Menga  
L: Daniel Matlia  
Rr: Tasim Berdica  
Pall, 1004  
Shkoder, Albania

Thank you again for your loving support and prayers for us.  
We thank God for you.

**"THE FACTS, MA'AM...JUST THE FACTS!**

On Wednesday, September 9th, 1992 the McCracken family went down to the local Alien Police station in Athens to renew their residency permits. The event began much in the same way as it had every six months the previous two years.

**HOWEVER, THIS TIME BROUGHT A DIFFERENT RESULT...**

"We cannot renew your permits this time," we were told after waiting and being shuffled from person to person for over three hours. "You have not exchanged enough western currency to justify a permit renewal. However, because you left the country and returned again last week you have an automatic 3-month visa. Come back and see us again in November. If you have exchanged 5,000 drachmas (about \$27, depending on the rate of the dollar) per day, per person in your family, we will see about renewing your residency permits." (By the way, this represents a MAJOR increase from the previous requirements).

So began the search to investigate OTHER possibilities of legally remaining in Greece. After contacting the Aliens Bureau, the Alien Police, the American Embassy, and talking to Greeks and non-Greeks here, we have discovered that THERE IS ONLY ONE OTHER POSSIBILITY: If we leave the country and return every three months, we can get an automatic 3-month renewal. Supposedly, we can do it as many times as we need to for the remainder of our stay in Greece.

**THE PROBLEM?** Glad you asked, but I'm sure you've already guessed. In terms of time, money and mental health the lowest increase in monthly support that we will need (at TODAY'S rates) is about \$200/month MORE. That's right...MORE! (Don't you just hate letters like this? I know you get them all the time). This amount is a "no-frills" amount. This would get us out of the country and right back; nothing else.

**SO HERE'S THE DEAL...** We need to hear from you **YESTERDAY** if you can help us out **FINANCIALLY**. **IF NOT, WE'RE OUTTA HERE!** What is God's will in all of this? **WE DON'T KNOW. WE ARE WAITING TO FIND OUT!**

**PLEASE FAX/CALL OR WRITE US AT:**

Scott and Vicki McCracken  
Panagiotou 3  
Papagou 15669  
Athens/Greece

Phone/Fax: 011-30-1-652-8191

**OR CALL/WRITE INTERNATIONAL TEAMS AT:**

International Teams  
P.O. Box 203  
Prospect Heights, ILL 60070

Phone 1-800-323-0428

GOD BLESS YOU AS YOU PRAYERFULLY DECIDE AND QUICKLY RESPOND!