



the BARKOWSKI family IN GREECE

September, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Summer is over here in Greece (though the government continues to insist to tourists that “Greek Summer” is still in full swing!). We are very grateful that it was not as hot as last year, though we still did get some warmer weather! Now, the temps have cooled and people have pulled their coats out to stay warm. But, even though it has been 9 years here in Greece, this NYer still is just fine with these cooler temperatures and we are all still going about and enjoying this time of year! :)

This time of year is one of my favorite times for evangelism as we head into the Christmas season. People get more back into the flow of things, families return to the city after being out at the beaches for the summer, and universities start up again. The university students are some of my favorite to talk with as many are in a stage of “figuring things out” for themselves, which normally means putting any thoughts about Orthodoxy on hold for a while. Please pray as I get the Gospel out to the next generation of Greeks that they would have an open heart for the Gospel and that we may see some fruit from them this year.

Church has been going well! Our faithful Greeks have continued to stay faithful with several making it to every service. The Bible studies are going very well and we have been inviting some of the college-aged people to come. Please pray for this as it would be a great time to answer their questions and let them hear about the truth of God.

We had our baptism a few weeks ago with two Greek people being baptized. It is always such a blessing to see anyone follow our Lord in baptism but it is also quite special to do these baptisms in the waters where the early church of Thessaloniki saw so many baptized! When you live in a place like this, it can be easy to forget that there are times that I am likely following the steps Paul took through this city, with many pieces of buildings still remaining from just a couple/few hundred years after the time of Paul. In fact, we evangelize right in front of these remains often! What a wonderful history these people have, and so many do not truly appreciate what Paul had taught, though they absolutely love Paul.

Please pray for the family of the young lady who was baptized. Her mother actually came to church and to the baptism and has been watching church online, all while maintaining her Orthodoxy (which is like 95% of the other people around here, in name only). Please pray that the family would get saved through the testimony of this young lady!

Please pray also as there is a young man that I am meeting with soon who has a troubled past but is anxious to meet and wants to come to church as well. Please pray for this soul.

There was some “religious” excitement around here about a local “prophet”, so called by the a Charismatic leader in Nigeria who had ordained only four of these prophets (and our local man is one of them),. He began to do exorcisms in the main square. This really stirred up the Orthodox priests and he was eventually arrested. They were planning to charge him with a few things such as having an “unknown” unregistered church, public disruption, and proselytizing. People may not know this but it continues to be illegal to “proselytize” here in Greece, punishable by fine and imprisonment. This is something that has rarely been enforced and it turns out they may not charge him with that this time. But, things like this can have an impact in our ministry so please keep this in prayer.

Please pray for our permits! It has now been almost 4 months, which is longer than we have ever waited. So much for online systems making things go quicker! :) In the meantime, we are not allowed to leave the country and it could be a while longer before these are issued so please keep this in prayer.

Please also pray for a couple of people in church as they have some major life decisions to make in the near future.

We know that everyone has been hit with the worldwide financial situation and we want you to know how blessed and humbled we are that you have continued to support us financially. We do not take it lightly and you all are in our prayers as well that God would richly bless you!

God bless,

Charlie, Rachel, Chloe, Charles, Daniel, Timothy, and Madelyn Barkowski

****Please do not forward this or post this letter online****

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