



The BARKOWSKI family

IN GREECE

February/March, 2021

Dear Praying Friends and Supporters,

Thank you all for the prayers for our return earlier this year! It is amazing how difficult a simple thing like traveling from one country to another has become. Due to the coronavirus and Greece's requirements, we had to get tested 72 hours in advance of our arrival in Greece and these had to be the non-rapid tests so it took a while to find a place that could accommodate our required turnaround time. Thanks to God, we received the final negative result just a couple of hours before we headed to the airport!

Our trip back was uneventful so the best kind! Upon arriving in Greece, we had to get tested again and then were supposed to self-quarantine for 7 days. As we all have had Covid now, it made returning to Greece a little easier since we knew we would not pick it up here and that we were no longer contagious.

We made it back just in time for Charlie to get his treatment for Crohn's. It was not possible for us to get it done in the US so we had to delay it until we came back to Greece and that went well. As for Chloe, she had not improved on her immune suppressants, so she had to begin the same treatments as well. Starting next month, her and Charlie get to do it on the same day together so that will be nice for them to have each other's company while they are in the hospital for these! Thank you for your prayers for them - both of them are doing well now and able to eat regularly again.

We are still in a lockdown here in Greece that began just after we left last year. It has now gotten a little more strict so it restricts our movements to something more like just a few miles and that just for getting groceries. Stores are still closed as are pretty much everything else, including churches. This means we are still doing our live church services online for people here. The blessing with this is that people have "invited" others here to watch as well and we have been able to start witnessing and helping with some discipleship through online means. I had another young person contact me this week who really wants to accept Christ as Savior but has been dealing with some things and questions. Please pray for her as she is very close!

It has been a blessing to see how the Lord continues to work even when our movements and outreach efforts are so strictly limited. I have been able to witness to some more Greek people here one-on-one. There is one person I have been ministering to for a while who had been having some problems that God took care of through prayer and this really increased his understanding and knowledge about the workings of God. Please pray for these people (I am not sharing the names for privacy sake).

One of the things about lockdowns like this is that it brings some things to the surface that have been underlying for a while. We are dealing with a couple right now who is having some big problems in their marriage. Through this, the Lord is allowing us to take care of some things that have been ongoing for a while so please, please pray for this couple: Also during this time, the Lord allowed us to find out about some feigning faith. This happens often with refugees from the Middle East as they feel that being "Christian" will make them be more acceptable. Often, we can spot this but it is still a sensitive issue to deal with since they need to admit what is happening and to confront it because they would otherwise just agree with anything said and not acknowledge it. This period of lockdown has helped us to be able to more straightforwardly address some of these cases and reason more directly from the Bible about the issues they have and what is keeping them from honestly turning to Christ. Please pray for these refugees.

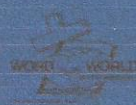
So, even during lockdown, we are still able to minister and preach and teach! I am also able to work more on my Farsi for when we can get back to camps. But, we are anxious to get back out in public and evangelize again! Please pray for the restrictions to drop soon! Thankfully, all of our church people have been healthy, including the older ones, so we praise the Lord for that! Thank you for your prayers and continued support of our family and ministry here! We greatly appreciate it!

God bless,

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

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

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