



On The Rock In Athens



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In the Work of the Lord . . .

"And He directed the people to sit down on the ground; and taking the seven loaves, He gave thanks and broke them, and started giving them to His disciples to serve to them, and they served them to the people. They also had a few small fish; and after He had blessed them, He ordered these to be served as well. And they ate and were satisfied; and they picked up seven large baskets full of what was left over of the broken pieces." – *Mark 8:6-8*

And we are thankful for three more that came in . . .

Last month I reported on two of our graduates who have gone out and are making a difference for the Lord in the world around us. Later on during the month Victor baptized a young man he has been studying with by the name of **Philip Martins**.

This month I'd like to report that **Philip** has now become one of the students in the school. Victor didn't waste any time getting Philip interested and enrolled in classes. Actually I can tell by the eagerness in Philip's attitude that it didn't take much arm twisting to get him interested. I would also like to report a second student who also enrolled this last week. Her name is **Bummi**. She is a young single mother from Nigeria who also found out about the school through Victor. She has jumped into her first days of classes these past couple of weeks and we look forward to getting to know her.

And then Sunday a very special thing happened. Perhaps you remember in the early summer of 2008 I spoke about a Jordanian by the name of **Walid Alqaderi** who was interested in becoming a student. We enrolled him that summer and then in the fall were never able to contact him. We figured something came up and he wasn't able to join us. We had since been wondering what happened to him. This past Sunday afternoon, as I was teaching, in walked **Walid**. At the break I went up and visited with him. He said he still wants to be part of the school. I asked him where he had been and he said he had some circumstances come up that prevented him from coming last year. He said he just returned from outside the country. I have learned in these situations not to ask too many questions. As I've said before, some of the circumstances some of these refugees have gone through to be here would make the hair on the back of your neck stand up. We may, over time, learn more of his story. For now we are thankful that he has found his way back and we're glad to see the eagerness in his eyes to become part of the school.

During this time of the year, when we traditionally pause to give thanks for the bountiful blessings that God showers down upon us, it's so wonderful to know that we have a God that supplies us so abundantly. As He can multiply the bread and fish around our table, it's so very good that He allows us the blessings of more young students who are eager in their hearts to learn about HIM.

This last week, the day after Thanksgiving, I met with another young Nigerian by the name of **Chris Sunday**. He has been in Athens only a very short time. He had just smuggled himself into Greece from Turkey. He said he paid nearly 1,000 hard earned Euros to a man who said he could get him into Europe. Late one night this young man was called and told it was time to go. He was taken to the Turkish sea shore and put aboard a rubber raft with many others. The man who put them in the rubber raft said to look to the dark horizon. "Do you see the light?" he asked, "Head for the light." That night this group of refugees rowed across the turbulent waters to the Greek island of Samos. From there Chris found his way to Athens. He's looking for a new life. He's looking for a new beginning. He has found the school and is expressing an interest in becoming a student. I gave him an application. We are so very thankful this year. Together . . . we have the opportunity to show him the LIGHT.

Goings on in the school . . .

The students are absolutely delighted that **Beni Leka** is back in the classroom again. He is teaching Effective Bible Study to the new students on Mondays and already I'm beginning to hear how much they enjoy his teaching. Beni has expressed an interest in becoming more involved in the school next year, and we are thinking of having him teach more classes and get involved in other administrative duties. Other classes that I am teaching include **Historical Christian Evidences**, **Bible History Part two** and **1st Corinthians**. We are also teaching Jim McGuiggan's video course on **Ezekiel**. We are glad to report this class is being moderated by **Dino Tzanetos**, the minister for the Evrou Congregation. We are glad to welcome back Dino into helping out in the school. He keeps so busy with his ministerial duties with the church it's hard for him to be able to find time to help out.

Observations from Diana . . .



When Ron told me it was time for our monthly newsletter, my first thought was a month couldn't have passed already. My second was, what am I going to talk about? I know Ron talked a little about how thankful we are this year and the excitement of the new students. In some ways we look at the last year and realize we've begun to move into the routine of things. We've gotten used to the life around here, so things that were strange to me in the past, is every day living today. I was initially thinking of just telling Ron to send on this months' newsletter without me adding anything.

But then I thought, do I treat my Lord that way? At times when things are going well and all seems calm, do I neglect to talk to my Lord? Unfortunately the answer is at times I do neglect to talk to my Lord when all seems to be going well and my life is pretty much routine. Maybe that's why trials come along, either the Lord is

sending me a message or perhaps it's Satan sending me a message that I am not standing firm and watching for his schemes (Eph 6:10ff). So with the thought in mind that I don't want to neglect my precious time with the Lord, I don't want to neglect my precious friendships with you. I want to once again thank you for your prayers and thoughts and encouragement as always. Since I am sending this note, I will also be watching for any schemes that Satan has for me and will "keep on praying for all the saints."

On a personal Note . . .

This year we got to share thanksgiving meal with the students, faculty and staff of the Harding University campus out a Porto Rafti. There were also many other dear friends present that we got to spend some good fellowship with that evening. The only complaint was from Ron who didn't get enough turkey; you know he just loves that left-over turkey. This Thanksgiving marks the fourth time we've been away from family and friends during this time of the year. Know that even though we may be miles and miles apart, you are always deep in our hearts and minds. As we are thankful for the blessings He has given us in the work here, we are so much more thankful for the blessings of counting you as family and friends. We love each of you very much and pray you find much to be thankful for this year too.

Prayer needs:

- *Pray for the new students that have enrolled in the school and those God are still sending.*
- *Pray for continued good health, especially since we've been hearing about all the swine flu going around.*

With much love . . .

Ron and Diana

Drop us a line

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