

2017 Greece Update

How do I explain all that God did through five ordinary ladies on a mission trip to Greece at Christmas? Extraordinary is the only way to describe how God orchestrated every event from the appointments at the orphanages to the streets where we performed the drama to the students that helped us. Even when we thought the drama would not be a success, He went before us each step of the way proving that it's not about our abilities but all about Him. We were reminded of the ordinary shepherds tending sheep when the angel came to them and allowed them to participate in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. What a joy for us to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by telling everyone we met that Jesus was born to die for our sins and to give them hope.



“Once Upon a Christmas” was the song that we used to do the pantomime. Krista did an amazing job of choreography to the song and designed panels (Thanks to Amy for painting them!) to use at the end to explain the Gospel from creation to restoration with the fall and the cross in between. She had anticipated using all students in the drama as well as teaching them how to use drama to share the gospel, but the students changed every day, as did the number of students. Our first performance was with three sisters helping us at a girls’ Greek Orthodox orphanage. We prayed for God’s power, and then in came the priest. Of course, we couldn’t understand a word he said but felt sure he was going to shut us down instead he thanked us for coming and asked us to return. After the drama and gospel presentation, we had an opportunity to fellowship with the girls. Esther was so excited to tell us that six of the girls prayed to receive Christ as Savior and we rejoiced with her. We were blessed to visit six orphanages and one school in five days and establish more contacts for the missionaries and those they are discipling. Sylvia had the opportunity to lead a young lady to the Lord and had an appointment with her the next week. Louisa helped us in a different orphanage one day that was located just five minutes from her house. She connected with the girls and had plans to return the following week.



People on the street would stop to watch the drama, hear the singing or see the drawing. We did street evangelism in two different areas of town with two churches. We did the “Once Upon a Christmas” pantomime several times and after the explanation, we would sing Christmas carols. The street was bustling on Friday night, so we were able to put tracts and invitations in many hands, but at least three people had life changing experiences that night. They went Christmas shopping for material things but came home with hope and eternal security. I was amazed at the boldness of the students proclaiming the gospel to all those who would listen even for just a second. Delia, 14, was so excited to tell us about a young lady that was saved after she shared the plan of salvation with her.



Evidence of Paul’s missionary journeys abounded as we stood on Mars Hill overlooking all the temples and read his sermon from Acts 17:22-34; in front of the Bema seat (II Cor. 5:10) and as we sang in Ancient Corinth overlooking Apollo’s temple. The Bible came to life as we walked in the footsteps of Paul, and we were thankful for the privilege. Most of all, we were thankful for the opportunities to give hope to the hopeless. Sadly, the February Nepal trip had to be postponed. Please pray for the right timing of that team and all the other trips for 2018! Look for the schedule next month.



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