



Winds of Change

Dear Friends and Family,

I have been thinking a lot about change lately. There are few things that strike both fear and excitement in the heart like change. I can think of a few of my life experiences that include these emotions at the same moment. The first was walking down the aisle 21 years ago and joining hands with a Greek guy, quite foreign to me as a person, and as you know literally foreign, and pledging to spend the rest of my life here on earth with him; excitement and fear. The second change that comes to mind was leaving my home of 24 years, boarding a British Air flight with my new husband and starting a new life in Greece; excitement and fear. Finally, riding to the hospital in labor pain wondering what it will all be like...and amazingly enough, having the same feeling all four trips to the hospital; excitement and fear. It is not a fear that signals lack of trust in God's protection and provision, but a strange feeling of uneasiness in the human spirit experiencing both emotions at once. We are feeling, once again, the winds of change...stick with me and I will tell you why.



First, I would like to give you a window into what the past few months have been like for us here at the CVC. The summer was extremely busy with visiting groups and teams. I had the amazing privilege of spending a month in the states and it was refreshing to see so many of you in person. As many of you know, we host teams here throughout the summer...some from churches and other teams from universities. They stay with us here at the CVC and walk in the footsteps of Paul. I would like to share a few notes that some of our visitors left for us. It is so amazing that we are here to encourage and take care of them, but we are so often blessed beyond what we deserve by their kind words and love.

“Well guys, it was my prayer that because of the trying circumstances the CVC family is currently experiencing, that our visit would not be another burden for you to carry. I feel that the Lord answered that prayer or perhaps you are just too gracious to let it show. Thank you for expanding our concept of world missions; for letting us look back to the beginning of your ministry, the various local outreach programs and your dreams for the future. You have a working model of “Romans 12 kind of fellowship”. You have made my first trip outside the U.S. very rich (and fattening). Blessings to you and your families.” West Park Baptist

“Greece is nearer and dearer to my heart because of your ministry. You have all worked together to make our time in Greece a full and meaningful experience. I can see through the eyes of faith that Greece is still very important in God's plan to evangelize the world. I have grown to love you in the Lord and look forward to returning again. The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you.” Calvary Bible Church

We are so blessed to be able to meet and come to love people from all over the world here at the CVC. Please continue to pray for the Indo-Pakistani church. Due to the Greek economy, about 25% of the congregation has left Greece either to return to their country or move on to a country where they can find work. It is devastating to see the needs around us and only be able to meet a handful. Our co-worker, Alekos, just returned from a mission trip to Tanzania where they finished the roof on a church that a team from Greece had built several months ago.

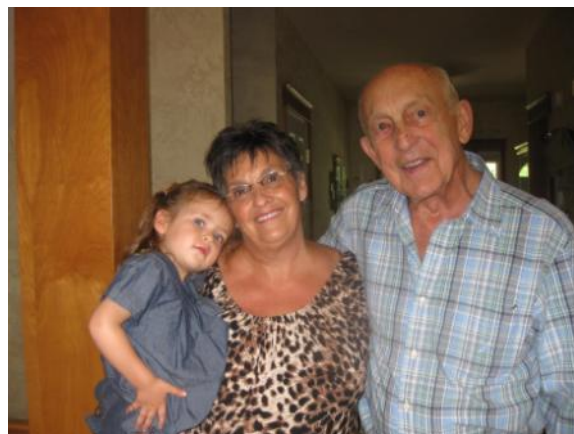
Please pray for our good friend and brother in the Lord, Stratos. He plays professional basketball here and has some health issues. He needs prayer for quick healing and



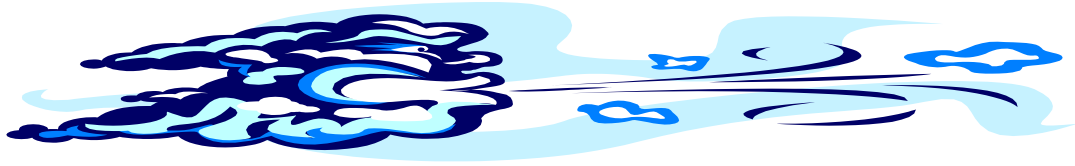
faith that God holds his future in His loving hands. Please remember my friend, Evie, in prayer also. She is the owner of our local DVD club and I have had the opportunity over the past two years to share my faith and give her some translated material of Daily Bread and also Josh McDowell. She is open to the Lord and my heart is so burdened for her to respond in faith. George also would like prayer as he has opportunities with William's basketball teammates to share his faith. He recently had a young man ask him about Jehovah's Witnesses as they have a large presence here in Greece. It was a great opportunity to talk openly about the Lord. As we shared in our last letter, our co-worker and member of the Indo-Pakistani church was finally able to bring his wife and daughter legally to Greece after nine years of separation. His wife, Neelum, is now expecting a second child in November. We are very happy for them, but it will also be extremely challenging for them. I certainly can relate to her having a baby in a foreign country, away from all her immediate family. She does not speak Greek or English so this makes it even more difficult. We mostly communicate with smiles, sign language and by talking louder. This will be interesting in helping with the baby.

I asked George to outline the ministry events here for the fall to share with you. Since you have been patient reading so far, I will just highlight the program. The CVC is booked from September 1 through November. We usually try to block out some days in between to rest and regroup, but this fall will be a busy one. We have shared that our groups include Greeks, Filipinos, Brazilians, Romanians, and Armenians. We have now had the privilege of hosting Russian and Chinese groups. We held a Russian wedding here in July. George says it in an interesting way, "We are filling up with 'cosmos' (people, in Greek) that use the CVC to find 'vision'." A good definition of CosmoVision Center.

We have challenges on the personal home front. Here I will fill you in on where this letter started... **Winds of Change.** During my visit home, the main question people asked me about Greece was how the economy here (as we have had front seat in the news) has affected us and our ministry. My experience in only one month in the states revealed that the economy is unstable even where you are. The special challenge to us and the answer I would share with those who asked, is that as the prices here are rising and stores are closing one after another, we have two challenges. First, we are supported in dollars and we lose about 40% when we exchange it to Euros. Second, the strain on the economy in the states has also reached us as people who have a great desire to continue to give, have had to cut back to pay their bills. So what is the change that we are prayerfully considering that brings both excitement and fear to our hearts?



I had a wonderful time visiting with my parents... the grandparents ☺



We have decided, Lord willing, that we will take a much needed furlough starting early summer 2012 and spend one year in the states. We have been here in Greece for 20 years and have never felt we could leave the ministry here to focus on our support. George and I feel that the time has come that we need to step away from the CVC to get some rest, encouragement and perspective. Our main purpose to come home is to travel to see our supporters in person and hopefully be able to give back in any way we can for the years of support you have given to us. William will be attending school starting this fall (not sure where yet) and we feel it is a good time to take this year and invest in you, our investors...both financially and spiritually. That is what you are. My friend talks about the bank of heaven...the money and the service we give towards the Kingdom may not show up or even be recognized here on earth, but the bank of heaven is always taking deposits. You have deposited into our lives and we want to share a year of personal contact with you and invest in you in any way we can.

This is the exciting aspect of coming home. Where does the fear come in? There are many obstacles that we have expressed in our talks with the Lord regarding furlough. We will have to take Diana and Tiffany out of school for a year and they will attend an English speaking school for the first time in their lives. This is a challenge in and of itself. The greatest challenge, however, will be in re-entry to Greek school when we return. There is also the financial challenge of a family of six (plus dog) traveling to the states. The travels once we arrive in the states will also be costly as we visit our supporting churches and individuals from Indiana, Tennessee, Florida, and California. Please remember us in prayer. We have shared our plans with some friends here in Greece and they are concerned that due to the condition of Greece, we will never return. We assure them that our hearts and lives are here and that the hard part will not be returning, but actually leaving our lives here for a year and heading to the unknown as we have never lived for an extended period of time as a family in the states.

We would like to ask you to prayerfully consider partnering with us in our journey to what we call "Furlough 2012". I will share with you the needs we have and keep you posted on how we are progressing towards the goal as we see things come together and the Lord provide.

Prayer needs:

- *Direction and wisdom in a school choice for William. We are burdened to make the right choice as this will mark a big change in his life away from the home he knows.
- *traveling expense needs for airfare and travels within the states to visit supporters.
- *a vehicle from July 10, 2012- July 2013 with six seatbelts
- *wisdom for what school will be best for our girls for one year
- *creating a schedule that will allow us to see most of our supporters and churches.
- *opportunities to serve you.
- *rest and new perspective to return to the CVC.
- *provision for co-workers who will have a greater load in our absence and helpers to fill the gaps.

It has taken great patience on your part to read this letter. I try to keep the letters short, but since so much new is going on for us, I wanted to share it all. I will send short updates in the following months so you can follow our journey to “Furlough 2012”. We love you all and can’t wait to be able to spend more quantity and quality time with you.

Love,

George and Marcy Romeos
Greece

*If you would like to give towards “Furlough 2012”, you can send your gift to:

AMG International
6815 Shallowford Rd.
Chattanooga, TN 37421

(please designate the gift for George and Marcy Romeos, “Furlough 2012”)

