



“... for in Him we live and move and have our being.”

Act. 17:28



ALEXANDER & ELENI MELIRRYTOS NEWSLETTER - ATHENS, GREECE

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MARCH 2009

WEEKLY SERVICES

JOINT WORSHIP IN GREEK & RUSSIAN

SUNDAY 11:00 - 12:00 A.M.



WORSHIP IN BULGARIAN

SUNDAY 1:00 - 2:30 P.M.



WORSHIP IN ENGLISH

SUNDAY 5:00 - 6:15 P.M.



BIBLE STUDY IN BULGARIAN

SUNDAY 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.



YOUTH GROUP

SATURDAY 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

JOINT BIBLE STUDY IN GREEK & RUSSIAN

SUNDAY 10:00 - 10:50 A.M.
& WEDNESDAY 5:30 - 6:30 P.M.



“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matt 28:19-20

Beloved ones in the Lord,

Rejoice in the Lord always! Greetings and love in the name above all names from Eleni, Alexander and the Lord's Family at Omonia. We pray that you may continue in His guidance and love, giving thanks to our Lord Jesus for the great family of souls He has redeemed - His Church.

“...AND THE LORD WAS ADDING...”

Three more souls surrendered their life through baptism at Omonia recently. THEODORA from Bulgaria has been visiting Omonia for a few months, listening carefully to the messages and with a genuine desire to make a new start in her life. Recently, she asked to be baptized in Christ, now rejoicing in the assurance offered from our Lord Jesus. MARIANNA, also from Bulgaria, decided to surrender her life through baptism and make a new spiritual start. ARTEM PERVYI, 18, came to Greece from Mariupol, Ukraine in search of a new beginning. His former life was rough indeed, as he confessed, having asked our Lord to forgive his sins and add him to His Church. Artem was happily immersed into Christ on February 22nd. He now enjoys his new birth, being active and zealous with our young folks, sharing his joy with young folks untold. Please keep our new brethren in your prayers.

ALEXANDER'S LESSONS ON ELDER APPOINTING THROUGH PRAYER & FASTING

Alexander was asked to preach a series of seven lessons on the biblical approach of appointing elders. Emphasis was given on the “de facto” definitive qualities of a Christian, long before a decision is made to assume the role, while also examining all the necessary elements for a godly leadership.

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AT OMONIA

Once again we kept the tradition at Omonia of having a joint Sunday service followed by potluck among all three assemblies. We were blessed to have time spent with brothers and sisters of all ages from the Philippines, Bulgaria, Russia, Ukraine, Ghana, Romania and the U.S.

HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP AT TITANIA HOTEL

Brother Dino Roussos once again arranged for a beautiful buffet dinner at the downtown Athens hotel “Titania”, at which both Omonia members, visitors and friends were invited. The idea was to present once again the Omonia congregation to the greater Athenian Christian community and at the same time expose in brief the fundamentals of the first century church and the scheme of redemption as described in the Bible. We thank our brother for taking the initiative to organize the event - it was very successful.

ALEXANDER TRAINS YOUNG BROTHER FOR THE PULPIT

Vassilis Verversavvas is a special young brother at Omonia, with a great zeal for God and His kingdom and a desire to become a preacher of the Gospel one day. Alexander and Vassilis meet on a weekly basis exploring together all the parameters that lead to a lesson well delivered - an effort to prepare and educate young men to preach God's word.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL CHURCH FAMILY RETREAT - ANC. CORINTH 2009

We have kept the report on the many blessings received during the 4TH ANNUAL CHURCH FAMILY RETREAT in Cencrea, Ancient Corinth in 2008. <http://emelirry.googlepages.com/7thannualfamilyretreat%2Ccorinth%2Cgreece>

The photo album is posted at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/emelirry/4THANNUALOMONIAFAMILYRETREATINANCIENTCORINTH>

The retreat to come, Lord willing - for the fifth consecutive year - will take place at the same place, June 24 -27, 2009. We will enjoy the company of brethren from many parts of the world. Keynote speaker this year will be Dr. John Parker, English language professor at Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN. As in 2007, a loving group of brethren from the Smyrna Church of Christ in Smyrna, TN. is invited to teach and lead the various classes for adults and minors of all ages. We are thrilled over this reuniting and bond-strengthening occasion in our Father's name. Central theme of all classes will be: "I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE" (Eternal truths from the Gospel of John 14:6). Make sure you don't miss the invitation! Just save the date! As we expect a good number of participants please let us know if you wish to attend, so we can that we make timely reservations. For more info on the event, please open files attached to this newsletter.

<http://emelirry.googlepages.com/omoniachurchofchrist5thannualretreatinvi>

LAWRENCE AND PAMELA GOT MARRIED

Lawrence Addae came from Ghana to study in Athens many years ago. A dedicated servant and brother in the Lord, Lawrence had always in mind the blessings from above to a Christian family. God answered his prayers and brought a Christian young lady with same expectations and vision: Pamela Handsor from Vancouver, CA. Lawrence and Pamela were happily married in Athens on December 30, 2008. Alexander exchanged vows for the young couple; Eleni was maid of honor.

PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING 8TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT "PHILADELPHIA 2009"

The women of the Omonia congregation and guests plan to gather again for a weekend of Christian fellowship, spiritual nourishment and teaching of God's word. The seminar will take place in Ancient Cencrea, at the picturesque "Kalamaki Beach Hotel", the same place we will have our annual Church family retreat. Seventy women attended this unforgettable time of Christian fellowship last year. The event will be held on September 5-6, 2009. We will soon give you the blogspot address with more details. To view accompanying photos from last year's event, please follow the link: www.tastetravelswitheleni.blogspot.com

VISITING THE CHURCH IN CRETE - JOHN RETURNS VISIT FROM IRELAND

Two years ago God's love established a small congregation on the Biblical island of Crete. Since then we have been involved through regular visits in help and encouragement of this little flock. John Adesoye, the local minister, has moved to Ireland recently, while Debo, one of the local members has now taken his place. We have been repeatedly asked by brother John to oversee and visit God's family as often as we can, preach and strengthen this congregation through God's word and love. We have always enjoyed visiting the Lord's church in Crete and our last visit was no exception. It is true that John had embraced this work with all his power and love. Though he moved to Dublin, his heart and fondest thoughts are in Crete. This time it was his turn to pay a visit to our home and discuss his plans, vision and goal for the church, as well as his future involvement in his ministry, having sealed this visit in his own, special way, a few days later.

From: johnadesoye@msn.com

To: emelirry@aol.com , amelirry@aol.com

Sent: 21/12/2008 8:16:43 P.M. GTB Standard Time

Subj: THANK YOU

Dear Bro. Alex and Sis. Eleni,

I'm using this media to express my heartfelt gratitude for the inexpressible hospitality and the love of Christ you show to me while I was living in your house. I was greatly blessed and learnt from you what it means to be authentic Christian. Your love and care for the brothers and sisters in the Lord reveal Christ to me than many sermons. I say again, THANK YOU for being dedicated servants of Christ and for faithfully allowing Christ to be seeing in you. Kindly express my greetings to all the Brethren with whom we have lunch together in your house, especially Dimitris and Areti; they are wonderful people.

"For God is not unjust, to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Heb 6:10

In Christ love, John

INVITATION LETTER FROM SAMAN NAOTUNNA,
MINISTER CHURCH OF CHRIST, COLOMBO - SRI LANKA

From: saman.naotunna@gmail.com

To: amelirry@aol.com

Sent: 16/2/2009 12:31:34 P.M. GTB Standard Time

Subj: An Invitation

My beloved Brother Alexander and Sister Eleni,

The Brethren in our congregation send their Greetings in the name of Lord Jesus Christ. It has been several years since you all visited Sri Lanka following the tsunami disaster. It was good having you all with us since we were encouraged too much.

We would like to invite you both to visit the Church here in Sri Lanka as we look forward to hear the lessons of Brother Alexander and Sister Eleni's ministry through her excellent cooking.

Please do advise us when you will be able to make this visit and what arrangements you would like us to make.

In Christian love,
Saman Naotunna

NEW LOCATION FOR SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP HOUR IN ENGLISH ADDED

Following the unhappy events last January due to political unrest and frequent demonstrations downtown Athens, as seen on TV international news worldwide, the English-speaking assembly at Omonia had a special meeting in order to find a solution for a better meeting place and worship hour on Sunday. Some of the brethren decided to go ahead and utilize a facility of the Congo Palace Hotel in Glyfada, a southern suburb of Athens, in order to avoid meeting downtown Athens for the evening worship hour. We hope to have a more accessible meeting place at a different area of our big city soon, instead of downtown where similar unhappy events may take place from time to time. Unfortunately, as we live in big cities, we come to face such challenges at times, seeking always God's help and direction. The English-speaking assembly at Omonia meets at 5:30 p.m. and thirty minutes earlier during the winter months. The church meeting in Glyfada starts at 7:00.p.m.

ELENI'S HEALTH STRUGGLE IDENTIFIED - TRIP TO THE U.S. POSTPONED

Soon after Eleni returned from the Mountainside Church in Albuquerque, NM. last October where she was invited to lead the Ladies' annual retreat in "Glorietta", she complained of strong headaches, almost on a daily basis. Three MRIs and extensive tests revealed bone spurs developed on the 5th and 6th cervical vertebrae. Electrical acupuncture and vitamin shots to the neck area gave little or no results. We are now looking forward to the visit of a trustworthy neurosurgeon to Greece, a Greek doctor who teaches regularly at the Univ. of Berlin, Germany. As he will soon visit Athens just for the Easter holidays, we will take his advice, as we trust him both as a scientist and as a servant to man. As a result and with a potential surgery coming up, our scheduled visit to Tennessee had to be postponed for a later date. We are very sorry we will miss you. Lord allowing, we will enjoy your loving fellowship at a later time.

UPDATE ON DANAE & ORESTIS

Orestis is scheduled to visit us from Miami, Fl. for summer vacations. He is now working, while also studying in college to complete his education and further organize his future plans and goals. We were very happy to have Danae visit us from California during the holidays, looking forward to see her again after her classes at Pepperdine University will be over in May. We thank God for her spirit and dedication to God's cause and His Church; she is a constant source of encouragement and joy to us.

TO VIEW PHOTOS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

Please log on to:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/emelirry/MELIRRYTOSNEWSLETTERMARCH2009ATHENSGREECE>

In His loving name

Alexander and Eleni Melirrytos
servants of Jesus

www.cookwitheleni.com
www.tastetravelswitheleni.blogspot.com