



SEPTEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER



Beloved Church family and friends,

We send you our sincere greetings and love. Thank you for your continuous support, loving messages and all kindnesses to our family.

NEW SOULS ACCEPT CHRIST AS THEIR SAVIOR

Three more souls surrendered their life to Christ through baptism lately - **Victoria** and **Galina** from the Ukraine and **Fanny** (Fanka) from Bulgaria. As the increase comes from the Lord we pray that He may provide stability of faith to these souls for his glory.

CHALLENGES IN GREECE - SOCIAL & FINANCIAL

It is not just yesterday news on the evening news. It is now taking a very serious turn - a historic one, some keen observers say. The "marriage" of Greece with the E.U back in 1981 - and not just Greece, but also Portugal, Spain, Ireland, Italy and ... other countries soon to surface, has *de facto* been proven a challenging one. The crisis deepens every day, the demands of the E.U. never end, the situation gets simply worse and the Greek people have reached their limits - only God can solve it. While these lines are written the E.U. delegates are still in Athens and regardless of the actions taken, they cannot see a light down the tunnel. Neither can the Greek government. There are strikes and union protests weekly because the Greek people suffer the consequences, financially, of this crisis.

No matter what the outcome may be, we, as Christians firmly believe that: Globally speaking, no matter what men may declare, plan, promote or enforce under the universe, they ultimately promote God's plan. God has never been surprised from the events of human history, simply because He is the author of our existence and navigates the lives of those who love Him and protect them.

TWO GREEK MEN ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS.

We wish to introduce Yianni (**John**), a Greek national, sister Natasha's husband; we have reported on Natasha's conversion and baptism in previous newsletter. While Natasha visited her family in the Ukraine with their two sons recently, John attended the church services invariably, eager to know more about Jesus and His plan of salvation. Please join us in prayer that the Lord may help him understand the world of faith through grace in Jesus and enjoy his Christian family to a more meaningful extent.

Angelos as well, is a single man who has attended Sunday services at Omonia for the last few months. He loves God's truth and saving word and is attracted by the love the Omonia congregation is accepting him with. We are prayerful and considerate of their needs of these two men in understanding God's word and plan. Please keep them in your prayers.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HERAKLION, CRETE.

During our 7th Annual Omonia Church Family Retreat in Corinth in June we were able to spend enough time with John Adesoye, his wife Yolanda and their son Daniel. John is the minister of the church group of Christians in Heraklion, Crete. Eleni and Alexander communicate with John very often and encourage one another in the Lord. Please keep this flock in your prayers. We will try to visit the local assembly at the end of this month - Alexander will teach and preach and Eleni will hold meetings with the women. Also Tom and Cheryl Black - mission workers in Bulgaria - make frequent visits to the Cretan church. Both Cheryl and Tom are a true blessing to the congregation - we are very thankful for their help and support.

THE GREEK MINISTRY AT OMONIA TEAM MEETING.

During the recent meeting at the Omonia church building with bro. Costas and Dino, we discussed the new challenges and changes that have occurred at the Omonia congregation. We discussed the possibility of relocation of the Omonia

congregation to a single-standing building down town, but in a less busy area than Omonia. We were hoping to relocate as a group but at the present, since Dino has moved to Glyfada, we need to find some other solution. We also discussed the challenges that we are faced with since Dino has been meeting with this church group in Glyfada. Dino shared that he has now rented a meeting place that will be used upon his return in October and that he will be exclusively leading this new group. Eleni and Alexander will continue their ministry at Omonia. We ask for your support and encouragement as we seek opportunities to reach lost souls with the gospel regardless of the challenges.

The present circumstances leave Omonia congregation with several issues that need to be addressed - the statute and the representing minister before the Greek government, to name one of them. Alexander will have to apply for this position now and be the one to represent the Church legally. Since these issues have legal protractedions that need proper evaluation and treatment, a lawyer will be hired to this end. The church group at Omonia needs also to be notified from Dino regarding his plans upon return from the U.S. in October. We ask for your prayers and support at this time - to see the new opportunities unfolding, for souls to be saved and God's word to be proclaimed in power.

LET'S START TALKING (L.S.T.) TEAM PREPARATION.

We have been looking for rental apartments for the mission team that will be hopefully coming soon, while through frequent communication with the L.S.T. representatives we strive to make the best and most effective arrangements for the teachers. We are also seeking ways to advertise the Bible reading classes and have the research ready upon the group's arrival.

THE 10TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S OMONIA CHURCH RETREAT - "PHILADELPHIA 2011".

Ten years ago a small group of Christian women came to visit our family and the Omonia congregation from Jacksonville, FL. Their plan was to visit Greece as well as visit and encourage the women at the Omonia congregation. Eleni Melirrytos along with Jill Dowdy were looking for ways to accommodate such an event. Apparently it went so well that it became an annual retreat that has encouraged and blessed many women. We have had up to nine different nationalities at times to attend and speakers from many places around the world. Our venue is usually the "Kalamaki Beach Hotel" in Ancient Corinth - www.kalamakibeach.gr or a hotel conference room. This year's retreat will take place at the "Acropolis Hill Hotel" conference room - www.acropolishill.gr on September 17th. The hotel is located at the foothill of the Acropolis - Parthenon. Our theme is "In His Hands" - Insights and Thoughts from Isaiah 40:13.

Precious brother Jerry Burgess and his wife Lee of Hermitage, TN. will be visiting us with two more sisters from Tennessee. They will stay with us. Lee and Jerry have supported the Lord's word and people in Greece for many years in every possible way. We ask for your prayers on the success of this event as well.

OUR FAMILY NEWS.

Eleni's only aunt, Eleni, is still struggling and her health is degrading. Eleni makes frequent visits to care and encourage her as she now rarely smiles, except when the name of the Lord is brought up or when the Bible is read to her. Even in this situation she continues to be a source of spiritual encouragement for all the members of our family.

Our children are both doing well; we enjoyed having them with us most of the summer. Eleni enjoyed cooking for the family - special friends and relatives included. It was a blessed, enjoyable and very busy summer in every sense!

Orestis and Danae are now back to their studies since Aug. 22 - Orestis completing his studies in International Relations at F.G.C.U. (Florida Gulf Coast University) in Ft. Myers, FL. - and Danae her graduate work at U.S.C. in Los Angeles, CA. May our Lord bless their activities and future plans - a prayer extended deep from within our heart for all the children of the world.

We are grateful and thankful to our Father for everyone's role in the Kingdom. Your prayers and loving notes always offer a note of encouragement and give us hope.

Our dearest brothers and sisters, we ask God's abundant blessings on you in a closer daily walk with Him.

In Christ's love,

Alexander and Eleni