



# theWheatley Word

February 2008

**Hello from Paul** It has been an very transitional month for Catherine and me. We enjoyed our mid-year conference in Spain, spent a week evaluating last semester and planning for this semester, and have now begun a new semester here. Changes are afoot as we seek to be ever more effective and full of faith in reaching out to students in Athens. We're excited and a little anxious to see what happens!

**This Could Change Everything** Blazing trails in Greece presents a unique set of challenges for us. In many ways we are writing our playbook as we go. This drains us sometimes, as we continually pour out energy coming up with new ideas. For this reason, we were very encouraged by our time in Spain. We heard great teaching, had time to process what we've learned so far, and had time to catch up with friends. Beyond this, however, we had numerous opportunities to rub shoulders with people from all over Europe who are attempting to reach students in other countries. We heard what has worked for them, what hasn't worked, and what they thought of our ideas. Re-energized and ready to plan for this next semester, we returned to Greece with ideas in tow. Throughout Europe students seem to be most open to thinking about Christ when they can experience Christian community and read large quantities of scripture. We have decided to begin getting our friends together for larger community events, and use these events as a springboard to studying the Bible together.

**Church: Where the Rubber Meets the Road** Thursday we invited many of our friends to meet us at a restaurant we like near the Acropolis. My friend Kostas came with three other friends of his. The previous week, I had invited Kostas to visit our church, and almost as soon as I walked into the restaurant on Thursday, Kostas told me he would definitely be coming to church this week.

We have chosen to attend an international church in Athens that holds its services in English. Each week people from all over the world who have settled in Athens worship together. Philipinos, Africans, Europeans, and even Iranian and Iraqui refugees worship with us each Sunday. Kostas, like most of the college students we meet here, hadn't been to church in years because he is weary of corruption in the state church. Walking up the hill to our church, I began to explain to Kostas what to expect in our church. We sat in the back and I explained things to Kostas as he soaked everything in quietly.

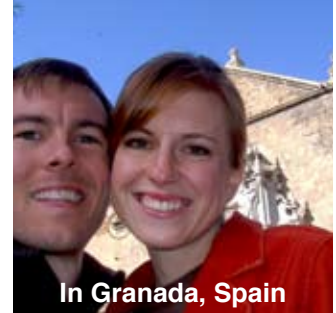
Standing outside while Kostas enjoyed an after-church cigarette, I asked him what he thought. He explained how the diversity of the church surprised him, especially in light of hearing a sermon about favoritism. "Your church lives out what it believes," he observed. "Other churches seem more concerned with dogma, but here you care more about believing in Jesus. I like that. My friends would love it here."

**March Madness!** Beginning in March we will host events in our office designed to bring students into our little community. We will have a movie night, and a few game nights. Our hope is that as people like Kostas begin to get to know us better and hear about our relationships with God, they can also get to know other Greeks who are curious about God. Please pray for us as we invite everyone we can to these parties!

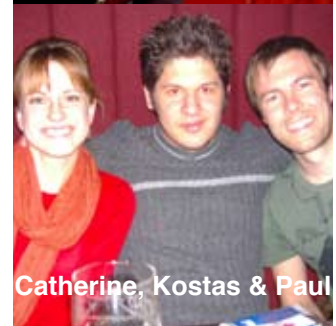
**A Mediterranean Blizzard** Two weekends ago, Athens was locked down under almost a foot of snow. Neither of us have ever lived anywhere that had snow like this! As we asked around, we discovered that Athens usually doesn't have this much snow. Below is a picture of the orange tree in front of our apartment. Brrr! **Thanks for praying!**



*Paul  
&  
Catherine*



In Granada, Spain



Catherine, Kostas & Paul



Opening a care package from Texas State

### Please pray...

- for God to move Kostas and his friends closer to knowing Himself.
- for God to provide language helpers for Catherine and me.
- for God to bring many searching students to our March outreaches.

### It's Greek to Us!

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### Cooler than paper :

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