



theWheatley Word

February 2009

Hello! One of the things I (Catherine) enjoy the most about living abroad is experiencing the holidays. One Christmas when I was in Asia, I saw a sleigh pulled by a dragon. It's not a widely held tradition there, but I liked it. Here, I know Easter is approaching by a strange sign. On the subway, I saw a young girl dressed up like a clown, a group of boys as soldiers, a high school girl as Minnie mouse and there was also a group of pigs lurking around. It's not Halloween. It's Easter! Similar to Mardi Gras, but feeling more like Halloween, everyone celebrates by going to costume parties. Not limited to parties and parades, people walk casually around downtown in various costumes. I find it fantastic, as my imagination makes this time into quite a wonderland.

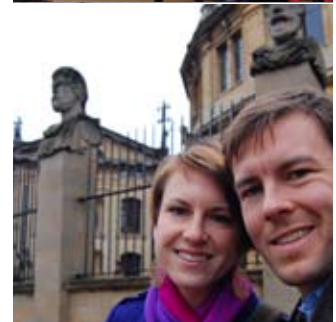
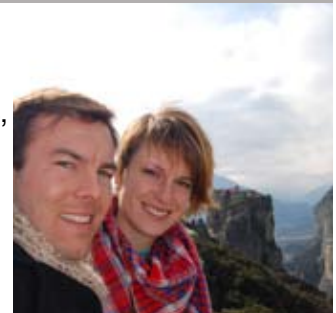
He Is Risen Indeed As you know, Easter is a big deal in Greece. The biggest holiday of the year and the time when it seems to me that more people are spiritually aware and sensitive. I really enjoyed it last year, and I'm looking forward to celebrating the same meaningful holiday with new traditions. The Orthodox Church celebrates Easter on a different calendar than the Western Church. This year Orthodox Easter will be April 19, a week later than in the US. Maybe we'll roast a lamb this year, who knows?

A Common Question These past months we keep asking our friends the same question, "What's going on?" Following the riots, the students went on strike for a few weeks, which changed their final exam schedules. Since every department sets their own schedule, very few students are in sync with each other. As we seek to build momentum, it feels like this just may not be the time. However, we've had some great conversations with our friends during this time. It seems that despite the challenges, our friends are asking us questions of unprecedented depth and with genuine interest. What an answer to prayer!

Georgia on My Mind Two weeks ago, we all went downtown for our weekly night out with friends. We were surprised when the conversation turned to the desperate plight of refugees here in Athens. Georgia and Maria were very knowledgeable and want their country to be a better witness of the faith their country claims. Wow! Please pray for Maria and Georgia, that the Lord would continue to give them a heart for the oppressed and for Himself.

The Next Step Last month we mentioned considering full-time seminary study. Well, we have some news! A few weeks ago, Paul was invited to interview at Oxford University to study at an evangelical seminary attached to the university, named Wycliffe Hall, and he has been accepted to begin in the Fall. We were really impressed with the level of education and the small community of around 150 students at Wycliffe. Over the course of the past few weeks, we've felt that this is the next step for us. While Paul will be hitting the books, we plan to continue working with Campus Crusade in some capacity while we're in Oxford. Many of the details are still unfolding and we'll keep you updated. But as always, we're just an email away if you have questions. Looking ahead to what will be our last 5 months in Greece we feel both sad to say goodbye and excited for this next great step of faith.

Calm Before the Storm? That being said, we have a lot on the horizon. We're hosting a Spring Break trip from UT and South Texas in Mid-March. Immediately following, we'll have a Field Training with our Greek Campus Staff. Please pray these times will be fantastic for casting vision and equipping us to be more effective in ministry! **We sure are grateful for your faithful prayers and support!**



Please pray...

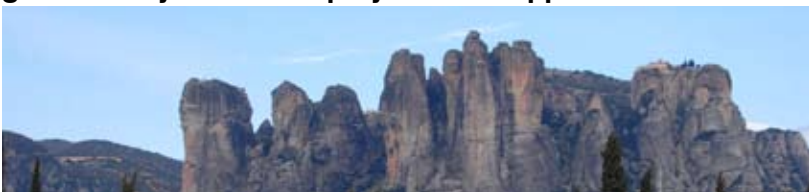
- that we could connect with our friends and stay in touch as they finish finals.
- for Maria, Georgia, Fenia, Kostas, Stavros and Dimitris to seek Christ during the Lent season.
- for God to lead our next steps toward Oxford.

It's Greek to Us!

Papanastasiu Alex. 1
Zografou 15772
Attiki, Greece

More Pictures & Words:

www.paulandcatherine.com



Paul & Catherine