



# theWheatley Word

June 2008

**Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On** Hello! This month you'll get to hear from me, Paul, again. Summer is here! The weather is warmer [in the 80s, mostly], the birds are chirping, the sun is shining quite brightly, and the earth is shaking. You may have heard in the news of earthquakes here in Greece recently. We are fine, and didn't even feel the "big one" that made the news. It was about 120 miles away near Patras, a major port with several universities.

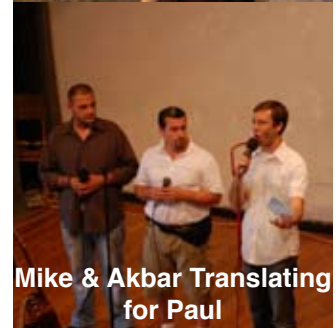
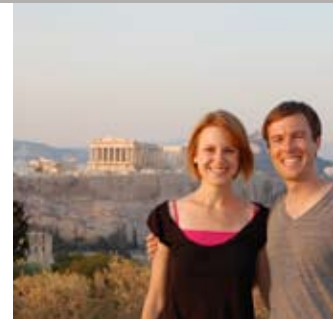
**Summer Time** Things have been shaking here in Athens for us as we've been hosting a team of 17 students and staff from Texas, UTSA and TX State for the last 3 weeks. We began our summer in the shadow of the Acropolis, on top of the Areopagus, also known as Mars Hill, where the Apostle Paul addressed Athens in Acts 17. I read Acts 17 to the students as they overlooked homes of millions of Athenians who, like the men of Acts 17, remain estranged from the 'Unknown God'. For the rest of their time here, these students would be face-to-face with Greek students, pointing them back to a God that many Greeks aren't even sure exists anymore.

Teaching these young men and women about what we have learned over the last year caused me to reflect over how far we've come in a year. We went from barely knowing how to say hello or where to meet students to having several Greek friends who have showed a desire to consider how Christ could impact them. Training students to share their faith gives me great joy, so it has been refreshing to guide these eager learners toward how to best engage this culture with the Gospel. I have even had the opportunity to use my minor in Ancient Greek to teach our summer project a little Biblical Greek to go along with their Modern Greek class!

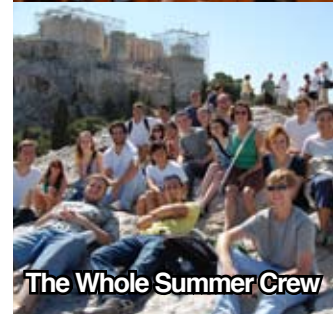
**Found in Translation** Did you know that Athens is one of the main hubs on the refugee highway? People from Central Asia and the Middle East enter Greece first in their quest for European asylum. We had the opportunity for the first three weeks of the summer project to serve a local ministry hosting a weekly refugee feeding program. Each week we served food, played with children, washed dishes, and I was able to speak in front of 250 refugees from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Algeria and Morocco. Each week I gave a simple story from the Gospels about how Jesus valued repentance and humility over religious self-righteousness, and my message was translated into Greek, French, Farsi, Arabic and Kurdish. Two of my translators, Mike & Akbar are refugees who have turned to Christ here in Athens. They are both Kurds, Mike from Kirkuk, Iraq, and Akbar from Southern Iran. After the first night I spoke, a man from Algeria came up to me afterwards and told me in French [thank God for Mrs. Denney's High School French!] that he was a believer, the first from a muslim country that we know of to walk into the feeding program ever! We have been so blessed to serve these people.

**Saying Goodbye** At the beginning of July we will say goodbye to the summer project, celebrate July 4th, and then say goodbye to Christina, Tiffany & David who have been with us for the last year. Kristin left our team in May for health reasons, but is doing well back in Texas. We'll be sad to say goodbye to our friends, but hopefully we'll be welcoming new people in September!

**So Now What?** Once we've shipped everyone off, we'll be following up the friends that the summer project and STINTers leave us, as well as keeping up with Kostas and the rest of our friends here. We're looking forward to studying the life of Jesus with our fellow long-term families as well. **Thanks for all your prayers!**



Mike & Akbar Translating for Paul



The Whole Summer Crew

**Please pray...**

- that during the last 3 weeks of summer project, our students would meet Greeks hungry to know God.
- for Kostas, Demetria, Bobis, Evangelos, Victoria, Katerina and Anna to grow closer to God over the summer.

**It's Greek to Us!**

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*Paul & Catherine*