



# theWheatley Word

March 2009

**Spring Has Sprung!** Hello, it's me Paul. March has been an exciting month for us! We have had people visiting from Texas and Thessaloniki. Spring is in the air here, which for Catherine means sneezing and allergies, but it also means warmer weather, sunshine, and flowers blooming everywhere. On our street, the orange trees are blossoming, and the sweetest smell greets us when we step outside everyday to meet students on campus. Another treat during Spring in Greece is the Easter season. Catherine told you about all the costumed children last month, but another great tradition is Κάθαρη Δευτέρα, or Clean Monday, where Greeks everywhere fly kites to celebrate the beginning of Lent. It's quite an amazing sight to see thousands of kites flying across the city.

**What's Spring Without A Break?** March 13-22 was Spring Break for students at UT Austin, and during that week we had the pleasure of welcoming 11 students and staff from UT into Athens, who went with us to make new friends on campus. We met several warm Greeks like Cleo, who opened up to us about how she thinks Jesus is more concerned with our hearts than He is with fasting during Lent. "Sacrificing for the poor is more important than a fast," she explained. We were able to explain the gospel to her, and she was very open. Experiences like this left students with an excitement to share with friends back at home.

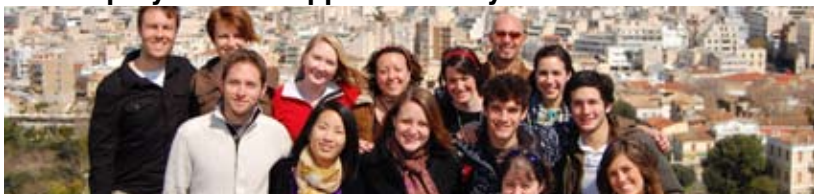
**"Thank you." "No! Thank YOU!"** Kostas and Bobis have been my friends for almost my whole time in Greece, but I have never seen them as open as they have been recently. For the last month they have come with me to the Monday night refugee feeding program. Bobis, a very compassionate Greenpeace worker, has been refreshed to see foreign Christians meeting the needs of people the Greek church will not help. Kostas also seems to be opening up more to Christ as he sees how my faith motivates me to love people in need. One week they even came without me, and they have thanked me every week for inviting them, saying that they feel great serving with us. God is definitely working in their hearts!

**Training & worldview** Last week we also hosted Greek Crusade staff from Thessaloniki to participate in a training program with us. One highlight was going to the University of Athens with Sotiris, the director in Thessaloniki, to talk with students - it was my first time to do ministry conversations all in Greek! We had some great conversations, or at least Sotiris did! The training time was a great opportunity to share ideas with the Greek staff and learn from their insights as cultural insiders.

**Pray On!** Catherine told you last month about my acceptance to Wycliffe Hall at Oxford for seminary study. I want to thank you for your prayers during this time, as we have many things to figure out about this transition. Even over the last month, as we have hit a few speedbumps in the process, we are encouraged to know that you are behind us praying, and the Lord will provide all we need.

If you have further questions about this next stage, don't hesitate to email us. You can also read more about why we are pursuing seminary study at Oxford at: [www.paulandcatherine.com](http://www.paulandcatherine.com)

**Pyramids & Easter** April is shaping up to be just as busy and exciting as March. We will be in Egypt during the first weekend of April for a mandatory visa exit and some non-mandatory pyramids. Orthodox Easter will be on the 19th, and we'll be sure to let you know if we roast a lamb with any of our neighbors! **We could not do this without your faithful prayers and support! Thank you so much!**



*Paul  
&  
Catherine*



**Fresh Squeezed OJ  
Overlooking Corinth**



**Corinthian Blossoms!**

**Please pray...**

- that we would meet more students who are interested in growing closer to Christ.
- for God to continue drawing Bobis and Kostas closer to Him as they serve with us.
- for God to keep giving direction for our future.

**It's Greek to Us!**

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**Pictures! Thoughts!**

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