



theWheatley Word

November 2007

Hello from Athens! This month, you get to hear from me, Catherine.

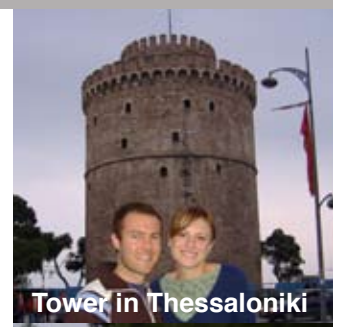
Let's Be Friends! It was a typical day for us. Three hours of class in the morning, followed by a prayer walk around the campuses as a team. Then we split up to initiate conversation with students. Kristin and I walk over to the science building we're focusing on for the rest of the semester. We scan the tables at one of the small cafés, looking for young women we could start a conversation with. The usual rush of emotions floods both of us: insecurity and timidity, mixed with a desire for them to know Christ. They don't look interested in us at all! There has to be a better way to do this! What am I going to say? Will they even want to be my friend? They obviously already have friends, so they don't need any more.

Kristin and I look at each other in desperation, knowing each other's thoughts and feeling. We take a lap around the building, praying for confidence and compassion. We remind ourselves of the great need every single girl we lay eyes on has for the redemption through Christ alone. We ask the Lord to lead us, select a group of girls, walk up, and say, "Hi, can we sit down?"

The Lord led us to a group of girls studying Pharmacy that day. They were friendly though confused about us, which is typical. We moved right along in the conversation and told them we'd like to get together sometime soon. Two days later, we ran into them on campus while they were on their way to their daily rendezvous at a local coffee shop. They go everyday! We had a great time talking about why we are here, what it's like to live outside your home country, and how I met Paul. Just by telling the story of how we met, fell in love and got married, one girl, Paniota said, "I want to have the faith you have." Please pray she'll see that she really needs faith in God, not just in love.

Opening Hearts After the conference for believing college students, where Paul gave a talk about Evangelism, we went to the ancient city of Philippi. We read Philippians and Acts 16 in preparation. I enjoyed seeing all of it, but especially seeing the place beside the river where it is believed Lydia met Paul, and the Lord (Acts 16:13-15). I've always been captivated by the story of Lydia because it is so clear that Paul was obedient to share the good news of the risen Christ, but it is the Lord who opened her heart to understand, leading to faith. It's so clear that God opens hearts, which is what we are begging him to do all around us. I can't do anything to change the hearts of the students I meet, so I'm dependent on the Lord to do what He loves to do. Being at that spot on the river reminded me that responsibility is to be faithful and obedient.

Just Making Friends These days we are calling up the students we've met and seeing when they are free to get coffee with us. When they're not free, we're back on campus making more friends. Will you please pray that we'll be bold as the Lord continues to lead us to the students He wants us to develop a relationship with, and that as we continue to develop all these new relationships we'll listen well to where the Lord is already working in their hearts. Please pray we'll clearly articulate the importance of our relationship with Christ. Please pray specifically for Jim, Pete, Evangelis, Antonis, Stella, Paniota, Stavroula, Anthie, Dina, Nassia, Natasha, Jenny, Christina, and George.



Tower in Thessaloniki



Sign for U of Athens Science Building



Where Paul Baptized Lydia in Acts 16

Please pray...

- for the Lord to grow compassion in our hearts for the Greeks we meet.
- that our friends would see the difference Jesus makes in our lives.
- for students in the science building at Athens University.

It's Greek to Us!

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