



theWheatley Word

October 2007

Greetings from Greece! This month, you get to hear from me, Paul.

Home Sweet Athens We've officially been living the life of American ex-patriots for over a month now! We've made more than a few trips to the Athens Ikea to outfit our new apartment, a few trips to the hardware store, and in the meanwhile enjoyed a couple coffees and pastries around the neighborhood as we've begun to make Athens home. Thank you so much for your prayers during this time!

The Other Paul On our first full day here, our team loaded onto a bus headed to the Acropolis. Stepping off the bus, we walked straight past the Parthenon and over to a rocky dome with slippery granite steps. As we ascended the stairs, we knew we were walking in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul to the top of the Areopagus - Mars Hill. Reaching the top, we could see millions of the little white buildings sprawling out in every direction. Welcome to Athens.

Jeremy, our team leader, asked us to pray that God would move in the city and in the lives of the thousands of college students here. Overlooking a modern city of millions, I thought of what Paul told the men of Athens almost 2000 years ago, "You are ignorant of the very thing you worship - and this is what I am going to proclaim to you" [Acts 17:23 TNIV]. All around us are beautiful, empty churches, on streets filled with Greeks looking for somewhere to find hope. I am humbled by the task ahead of us, but I'm also anxious to see what God will do through our team this year.

Learning our ΑΒΓ's Tuesday was our first day of Greek class, and we're already a few days closer to being pros! Our class is comprised entirely of Campus Crusade staff - our campus team [pictured R: Tiffany, Christina, Kristin, Julie & Jeremy Apel, w/ twins Hudson and Jonah, David and us!], and the National Campus team. We have enjoyed learning with the rest of our team, and we especially love the helpful cultural insights our teacher Anna inserts into her lessons. Yesterday, talking about the Orthodox Church in Greece, she revealed with some sadness that Greeks no longer trust the church. The church has offered little help to those ravaged by the fires, and Greeks see more hypocrisy than love in the church. Pray for revival.

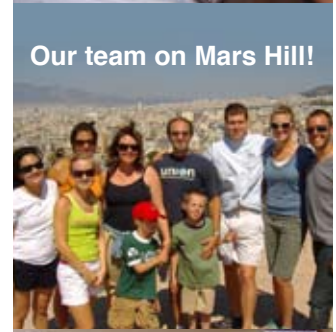
Baby Steps Last week we went on campus at Athens Polytechnic and the Univ. of Athens for the first time with the goal of meeting some students who could help us find our way around. Since we're the first team to work on these campuses, we're starting from square one - 'When does school start?' 'Where do students hang out?' 'Who lives in the dorms, and where **are** the dorms?'

When I met Kostas, a Law student at the Univ. of Athens, I told him I wanted to learn more about Greeks and how they view God. He immediately began telling me that while he goes to church on Christmas and Easter, he thinks that there are many ways to God, and he's interested in studying other religions. I was surprised by his openness, and I look forward to talking to him more.

Pray, Pray, Pray During the next month, we will be laying a crucial foundation for our ministry. Our team has finished the bare bones of our office/coffee house, and hope to be inviting students by November. Between now and then, we will be making as many Greek friends as we can, trying to find out where they feel a need for Christ. Please pray for us, and the students of both Athens University and Athens Polytechnic. We are so encouraged to know you are behind us praying.



First Meal in our Kitchen!



Our team on Mars Hill!



University of Athens

Please pray....

- for patience in our continued settling-in process.
- for God to lead us to students who can help us understand Greek life.
- for wisdom to see where God is working on campus.

New Greek Address!

Papanastasiu Alex. 1
Zografou 15772
Attiki, Greece

Cooler than paper:

www.paulandcatherine.com



Paul & Catherine