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the

# DELUCA family

2COR.1:24

CHURCH PLANTING MISSIONARIES TO THE PEOPLE OF GREECE



## Happenings

A belated *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year* to every one! Thank you to everyone who blessed us with cards and gifts. We are humbled by the outpouring of love so many churches and individuals extend to us. We're blessed to part of your missions family!

learning tip- Sing in the language you're learning! I still can't sing but I am pronouncing Greek much better!

Our church on Zakynthos continues to grow in many areas. The church family came together throughout the Christmas season, especially to help with two Carol Services and a live Nativity. Many of the ladies contributed above and beyond with decorating and food prep. Taki, two men in the church, and I played the accompaniment & Joanna sang "O Holy Night" in Greek. The Gospel was preached during both services. Though no one responded for salvation, we had first time and returning visitors despite the stigma Greeks associate with anything other than Greek Orthodoxy. Pray the Spirit would continue to draw them.

Please pray with us as we seek the Lord's leading in planting a new church in Greece following furlough. The possibilities are endless but the work requires solid language skills, a commitment to long-term relationship building, and patience. We are especially praying over the larger cities of Thessaloniki, Athens, and Patra. We encourage churches to pray about the possibility of a future short-term team trip to assist with literature distribution in the city God leads us to sow seed among these spiritually needy people.

Joanna & I reached the 2 year point of Greek language instruction in November. Learning a second language later in life is an adventure but can be frustrating at the same time. We seek to use Greek as much as possible when engaging people anywhere we are. I often feel incompetent when distributing newspapers or tracts during evangelism because I cannot always articulate what is on my heart or answer some questions. God has been faithful to us though and I am starting to "get my feet under me" with the language. Many people we interact with regularly have complimented us on our improving language skills while reminding us how difficult Greek is to learn. Since we're scheduled for furlough in 2018, we're concerned what an extended time away from the language & culture would have on our continued abilities. Our language teacher, Lena, has offered to have Skype lessons with us once a week but we would ask you to join us in praying for our family's continued language acquisition and retention. A language

### Visa / Residency Update

Many have asked about Michael's residency permit status, so here is where we stand. We were told we had to wait until Joanna's & the kids citizenship was approved before I could apply for the permit. The citizenship was granted in October 2015 and I made immediate application. Our former lawyer assured us it would be a quick process, yet I am still without the permit. We've recently retained a new lawyer who comes highly recommended. We're scheduled to meet with her and the Athenian officials in January to learn what is hindering the process & seek immediate attention to the case. We're asking everyone to keep this matter in much prayer in the coming weeks. Thank you!

### Prayer Requests:



#### ❖ Greek language acquisition.

- ❖ Greeks to seek the Lord.
- ❖ Grace for our kids; Claire @ NEBC; Wisdom in planning; Furlough planning for 2018.
- ❖ ZBBC- Growth & Edification.

- ❖ The Faros paper to continue to open hearts. Circulation is growing!
- ❖ Resources to outfit a recording studio necessary for the Greek Bible radio station.

- ❖ Salvation- Lena /our Greek teacher & family; Dionysi & Marie; Neighbor- Clare; Gus; Kostas, Vaso & kids; Many church members family/friends.
- ❖ **Michael's residency permit!**

M&J DELUCA: 383 LITHAKIA, ZAKYNTHOS 29092 GREECE  
US CORRESPONDENCE: PO BOX 60262 KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406 OR THROUGH:  
VISIT US ON THE WEB @ [WWW.GRECOMISSIONS.ORG](http://WWW.GRECOMISSIONS.ORG)  
PHONE: 01130.697.712.2644 OR EMAIL: [MJD@GRECOMISSIONS.ORG](mailto:MJD@GRECOMISSIONS.ORG)

