

Family News

Volume 11, Issue 6 – June 2010

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God Is Working In Zakynthos, Greece



Dr. Gene Burge
President, BMFP

The month of May started for my wife and me being in the midst of tornados in Arkansas. His protection for the congregation of the New Horizon Baptist Church in Ward, AR, as well as Alice and me was amazing. Not only did the Lord protect all of us but the church once again took another giant step of faith in the Faith Promise Commitment. Pastor Kevin Bernard and the congregation where he is the pastor, are a real example of a church that has faith in God to use them to reach their community and the world with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From there we went to Charleston, WV for the high school graduation of our granddaughter, Amber Bowman. Amber has grown to be a beautiful Christian young lady and has a desire to live for the Lord. She was part of the first graduating class of the Christian school which is a ministry of the Capital City Baptist Church. Our daughter, son-in-law Scott, Amber and her younger brother Jordan are very active members of this new church.

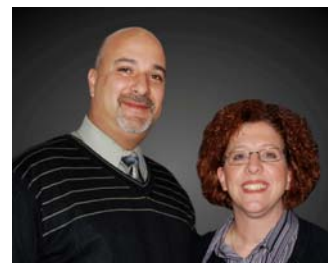
As a graduation present for Amber, Alice and I took her on a missions trip to Germany and Greece. **In Germany**, I had the privilege of preaching the mission conference for our good friends Missionaries John & Rose Radank and the Hohenfels Baptist Church. The Radanks have an excellent ministry among the US Military. The Lord blessed again this year with a great Faith Promise commitment.

Brother John and Sister Rose have a real burden to be of help to independent Baptist missionaries. They are also a vital part of the Mission Possible European Retreat that we have conducted the last twelve years.

After our trip to Greece we returned to Germany to spend a few days with BMFP Missionaries Gib & Kathy Wood at the Rheinland Baptist Church. Our daughter Robin wanted Amber to meet Brother Woody!!! The Radanks, the Woods and the Korianitis family in Greece were a great blessing to our granddaughter. This trip had a real impact on her. What a blessing it was to us too. We believe every person, especially young people, should visit the mission field.

Zakynthos, Greece

Zakynthos, Greece is the southernmost and third largest in both size and population of the Ionian Islands. It is situated approximately three hundred kilometers west of the capital of Athens, Greece.



Takis & April Korianitis

Takis Korianitis was born to Greek parents on the island of Zakynthos in the Ionian Sea, west of Greece. He was ushered in to the Greek Orthodox religion by his parents, society, and the school system since his birth. Takis was pushed a little more in to religion than others, because of his family's past of priesthood in the Orthodox Church. His family is also responsible for the recognition of the patron saint of the island. All these created a tremendous feeling of responsibility towards his family, religion and country. He was trained to become the next priest in his town.



Zakynthos Bible Baptist Church

Our Lord had different plans. In his teen years his father died which shook his world. He left Greece and visited an uncle in California, USA. As he started venturing in his new life he met a young lady that later became his wife. She asked him to attend a church meeting

on Wednesday evening, and he accepted. At the Faith Baptist Church in Somis, CA Takis heard the true Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ for the very first time from Pastor Marvin O'Dell. After months of disputing the pastor he realized that his religion could not saved him, so he accepted the Lord as his personal Savior repenting from his sins that he was covered with, even in all his religiosity.

His wife April was saved a few months before Takis. Coming from a broken home, born in NY and raised in Dallas, Texas she did not have the innocent childhood Takis enjoyed.

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Takis & April Korianitis - Continued from page 1

She was shot three times from abusers that she rejected and was left on a street to die. The Lord intervened and spared April's life so she could find eternal life through the Lord Jesus a few years later.

The Lord called Takis and April to come to Greece, and they were obedient to the call. In November 1996 they arrived in Athens. Shortly after their arrival they started working with missionaries George and Luisa Dimakos in Athens, Greece. A year later the Lord opened the door for them to minister to the people of Takis' birthplace, the island of Zakynthos.

The reception was not warm since he had turned his back on his family, religion and country according to the ways and thoughts of the people. They labored for years waiting on the Lord to work in the hearts of these people. After many battles with the Orthodox priests, District Attorney and police they continue to teach and preach the true Gospel of

the Lord Jesus Christ to a people that are kept in depravity by the religious system of the Greek Orthodox Church. The Lord has blessed, and now they enjoy the fruit of a forty people congregation here on the island, and a small congregation of six in the city of Patras on the mainland. Also, they have been running a summer camp in the month of July for the last five years, hosting up to thirty children from lost Greek families.

The country of Greece is closed to missionaries. There are only three independent Baptist churches in this land with two of them holding services in Greek. Despite the opposition, they have gained the trust of the majority of the people that know them and are able to witness on a day to day basis. Please pray for Brother & Sister Korianitis, and for their daughter Zoe (18), and their sons Fotinos (12), Kyriakos (4), and Anestis (3). Please also pray that the Lord will help them achieve the vision that He has given them for the precious people of his homeland.



Praying & laying on hands for two deacons



The first two deacons of the church



Young people singing during the service



Pastor Takis and the children



Singing during the invitation



Amber with two of the Gypsy girls



Preaching on Faith Promise Giving



Walter Stevens baptized four Gypsies and enjoyed fellowship with Gypsy's believers



BMFP Missionaries Takis & April Korianitis

This May 20th to the 23rd we had our first missions conference since the conception of our church. I had no idea that the Lord could use His people in such a blessed way. I have been trying to raise our Faith Promise for years, but with no great results. This time we were able to raise our monthly support for our missionaries, and take on support for two more missionaries.

Dr Burge was our main speaker this year. He brought a series of messages based on II Corinthians chapters 8-10, emphasizing Faith Promise. Brother Burge's wife Alice and their granddaughter Amber, were also special in our midst. Walter & Dolly Stevens were also with us for our Missionary Conference. Brother Stevens had the joy of baptizing in the Mediterranean Sea four of our Gypsy converts. Our Gypsy members were so thrilled to have Brother Walter speak to them in their language. You could see their faces as he spoke to them; it was like children getting candy.

Dr Burge also touched the hearts of our congregation in such a way that many promised to start tithing along with giving to missions; something that I have been preaching for a long time. I guess it takes two or three witnesses to establish a truth. It seems that the same works for many spiritual issues. Many of our people made commitments to start tithing and to Faith Promise missionary giving.

We praise the Lord for Dr. & Mrs. Burge and Brother & Sister Stevens. We thank them for taking the time to minister unto us.

In Christ,
Pastor Takis Korianitis
Zakynthos Bible Baptist Church (Greece)
Greece