



**Dear friends,**

[\(Haz clic aquí para leer el boletín en español\)](#)

What a month it has been. Thank you for praying with us and encouraging us as we went on our set up trip to Greece. Thank you for your patience in waiting for an update on that trip. You have been on our hearts and minds daily as we processed all that we saw and learned in Athens. We want to share three big and important things that have been brewing since we left the end of last month for Athens.

***1. The work being done in Greece is amazing, yet the need continues to be greater.***





We were privileged to sit with people from many organizations and see first hand the work being done. In a small village outside of Athens, CosmoVision has a refugee ministry called home spot. A place with many refugees is sometimes called a hot spot, but they wanted to change the narrative and let the newest arrivals know that they have a home, a place to be, a safe place, and people that care about them. They are offering English and Greek language study, weaving classes, free wifi to connect, a chance to get to know each other. They have church services and bible studies with refugees from diverse countries. They are reaching out to Greek youth who love going to home spot and volunteering. In downtown Athens, we saw The Meeting Place. Literally, it is a place where refugees can meet and talk and network and help each other figure out the steps they need. The refugees have felt empowered and are organizing themselves to volunteer and keep the place running. There is another organization, Hellenic Ministries, that works with Persian refugees and also has a center for Greek Roma people who have been discriminated against. They are making a concerted effort to get a Bible into the hands of every Greek household in the country. They believe returning the word of God to people will bring revival. They have been doing this for several years, but they don't want to stop there. They have just begun their efforts to plant churches by knocking on doors and saying, "did you receive a Bible?" Then they ask if they want to come to a Bible study. In Thessaloniki, our Free Methodist church continues to reach out to refugees visiting camps and bringing refugees to the church to minister to them. All this is happening, the harvest is ready, people are seeing Jesus in tangible expressions of love and even in visions and are coming to know Jesus. And yet, the workers are few. The need is so great that there are not enough people to do the work.



**2. *We are willing to be a part of this great work God is doing. Our hearts are in Greece, but will not be able to go.***

Besides the great work that is being done in Greece, what we learned was that us getting a visa would be next to impossible. The situation in Greece economically, politically, and religiously makes getting a visa very difficult for missionaries. There were a couple of possibilities that we would have to work on when we returned. We have been working on those possibilities since returning two weeks ago. We have talked to embassies, Free Methodist World Missions (FMWM) has talked with sister denominations, every possibility has been discussed and investigated at length. The end result is that there is not a path forward for our family at this time to get a visa. We believe God could still do a supernatural work and honestly are still praying for that, but along with our area director, have decided that for now Athens and Greece is closed to us and we must live in that reality unless God does the miracle. Our hearts have been breaking slowly for the last couple weeks at the idea that the thing we have felt called to and worked towards for the last year and a half will not happen. Friends, we are grieving. Yet, we know we serve a great God who will redeem even this. We take comfort in that God worked even in a situation like 1 Thessalonians 2 where Paul wanted to visit the Thessalonians again and again, but Satan blocked his way. If it happened to Paul, it can happen to anyone! But, Greece more than ever needs our prayers. Our missionaries in Greece, Mike and Maria Long, more than ever need our prayers. Greece more than ever needs our help. 1 Thessalonians tells us Paul couldn't go, but he sent Timothy in his place. We can't go, but we want to offer this. Young couples without kids or single people can get student visas as well as retired couples can get visas. If you fit those groups and you have felt the Lord tugging on your heart as we've shared this past year, will you pray that maybe you are the Timothy that could encourage the church in Greece?

**3. *If we aren't going to Greece, what's next for WeRosadosThree?***

Our situation, while not common, is not unheard of in the missionary world. We have been in constant contact with FMWM headquarters and our area director for Europe. We are technically appointed as missionaries to Europe and so the first step is to pray about where God could still use us on the continent of Europe amongst vulnerable populations such as refugees and through community church planting. We don't know what's next, but we rest in the fact that God does know! We have more conversations this week to explore possibilities. Pray that the Spirit would reveal himself clearly.

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### **How to Pray**

- for our hearts as we grieve
  - for clarity about what's next
  - for encouragement as we have lived in a state of transition for a long time and it appears that it will be longer.
  - for Ellia, who is feeling the effects of insecurity due to being in transition
  - for the people of Greece to know Jesus in a personal way, for revival, for strength for the workers that are there, for more workers for the harvest.
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Thank you so much for your support and encouragement. It means so much to us. Please reach out if you have questions, a word of encouragement, or a word from the Lord. We look forward to sharing with you again soon about what God is bringing out of this.

Rodrigo, Tanya, and Ellia