



"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us..." Eph 3:20

Hi Friends,

October 2017

As we sit and reflect on the last few months, we cannot help but be amazed at God's faithfulness and provision. Sometimes this 'walking in faith' stuff can be incredibly scary, but the verse above has continued, again and again to be true in our lives and it's hard not to appreciate this journey that all of us get to experience doing, 'with' God. Read on to hear some of the adventures, challenges and answers to prayer we've had over the previous months.

The DTS students graduated a month ago after 12 weeks of lectures, 9 weeks of practical outreach and a final week of debrief.

Jarod and I led one of the outreach teams to Cyprus and before we left we were unsure how we would afford it but we were certain that God had told us to lead this team and we stood in faith to see the finances come in. Huge praise reports: All the finances came in (thanks to many of you!). We could continue paying our rent in Croatia while living in Cyprus, we had a couple stay in our house while we were gone to keep everything watered and safe and miraculously, all the finances came in for our yearly spot for the boat which was due last week! Thank you for all those who prayed and gave.



We arrived in Cyprus with lots of enthusiasm and faith but not many connections. The YWAM team based there welcomed us and helped us find an apartment but also said that not too much goes on in Cyprus over the summer as it's very hot!!! People at the church would be asking us 'why are you here in the height of summer? Nothing happens" But we continued to pray, get to know the area and build relationships.

Within two weeks we were busy with various organisations who were so grateful we were there as there were many people on holiday or away. Our main ministries were with the youth and kids at the local church and also working with the large community of refugees. Cyprus is less than 100 miles from Syria, Turkey and Lebanon, so it is one of the main locations that refugees are being dropped off on boats by smugglers.



We worked with the 'Oasis Project' where the refugees would come every week to collect food parcels and receive clothes. There was also a cafe morning where we could get to know the refugees better and we were also able to start an english club for some of the kids.

We first thought that we would serve there for a couple of weeks as many of the volunteers were taking time off but once they got to know our team, they gave us the keys to the house and we were able to continue the events for them. We ended up being a real answer to prayer.

The students also helped run a kids camp at the church with 100 kids from both Christian and non Christian homes. As a team, we also took part in sports with young Cypriots on the beach and found ways to encourage and bless the country of Cyprus. Bexi got to know a lady from Ivory Coast (Irene) who had arrived on Cyprus the month prior and was 8 months pregnant. She had spent a month on a boat in very bad conditions and was told she was being dropped in Paris! Cyprus was definitely a shock for her, especially with her very limited english.

Bexi and Marlen (one of the DTS students) spent time with her and were able to pray with her and provide her with a big care package ready for the baby's arrival. There were tears at the end as they had formed a real friendship but they did get to see her new baby boy as she gave birth two days before they left. There was also a Cypriot lady who came along side Irene right at the end and was going to help her figure out being a mum for the first time. An answer to prayer!

It was definitely a challenge visiting the refugee camp, serving at Oasis and hearing the stories of the refugees, many fleeing Syria, but it's so amazing what Oasis are doing there and the time given to listen, pray for and meet physical needs was a reason that so many refugees were finding life in that place. It was a privilege to volunteer there.



Starting middle top, going clockwise:
Worship with refugees in our apartment
Cleaning an apartment for a refugee family
The Oasis house
Bexi teaching debrief
Very tired team

Prayer requests

- Continued wisdom as our staff team grows and we prepare for another DTS next year. We need to get visas for two long term staff joining us.
- Our local ministries and partnerships: Our church fellowship meeting on a Sunday, our youth club on a Saturday night (hopefully more opportunities to meet with them during the week and an 'weekend away' some time), our kids crafts and our mens and women's bible study.
- Continued language study
- More opportunities to bring God's kingdom to those living around us.
- Prayer of thanks for being able to travel to Prince Edward Island for my (Jarod's) dad's wedding. The family helped make it possible and we had such a great time connecting with them and our church there.

Now and Next?

- We just returned from Romania where we were facilitating staff training for a team starting a DTS in a couple of weeks. We drove through Bosnia, Serbia and Bulgaria to get there and it was a great time of encouraging and passing on some of the things we have learnt from our experience of pioneering and leading DTS.
- We look forward to creating with God some fun things to do with people, during the run up to Christmas. We'll be in England for Christmas this year.
- The boat continues to be used for training and bringing locals together. Jarod took out a group of local pastors last week who enjoyed connecting with God and each other.
- We are starting up our youth club again which we are hoping to expand to more than just Saturday nights. There is a real need and opportunity to disciple the young Croatians that come along and Saturday night may be the only time they are hearing about Jesus. We had a great week back in July before we left for Cyprus with our annual kids camp. We built deeper relationships with the youth who come on Saturday night.
- We will carry on with language and stay involved with our church fellowship. We have a bit more time to spend with our Croatian friends and neighbours and our hope is still to see a Bible study started amongst local Croatian friends who are seeking something more.

Thanks as always for your love, prayers and support. We love hearing what you are up to and how we can pray so please let us know. Jarodandbexi@gmail.com