

## **‘GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE AMONG THOSE WITH WHOM HE IS PLEASED!’**

### **Greeting in the name of The Most High!**

Thanks to the Lord that we have had Christmas season again. It's been a wonderful year, with lots of happenings. Athens is still brimming with festive decorations and seasonal hustle. Despite of all bustling, there is joy and felicity. This all reminds of the first ever Christmas. This season Athens seems to be centre of attentions for many preachers. We had people coming from different countries to share the word of God. In November we had Pastor Leon Isreal from Japan. Our community had been blessed a lot from his testimony and powerful word of God. We also had Gazala Shafiq from Pakistan. She is religious leader and social activist. A lady converted to Christianity in her young age, is used massively by Lord in bringing many to Jesus in a country like Pakistan. That was again a faith strengthening experience to meet and learn from her.

We were able to arrange a peaceful protest to raise awareness of persecuted Christians in Pakistan. Many of the Pakistani refugees try to flee from Pakistan in the result of active persecution. Churches and houses are burnt with their all belongings including documents. They cross borders without any documentations and thus are unable to provide to the authorities in Greece. Some of our Christian boy's refugee cases got rejected because they didn't believe them to be Pakistani Christians and thought to be faking it. This peaceful protest has been successful, and we were approached by some authorities realizing the situations of Pakistani Refugees. We hope that in future, the cases will be dealt with mindfulness.



We got opportunity of getting invitations from three local churches. We were able to share the word of God with new group of people and have fellowship in two churches. The third one on 24th Dec was very exciting, with kids performances. Athens has large international community. It's always delightful to get to know more people from various backgrounds.

On first Dec we had our pre-Christmas party with kylvaja team in Athens. We celebrated the evening in as much Finnish way as possible here, with Christmas porridge, spiced-cookies, carol singing and gift sharing. It was a peaceful evening with Christmas spirit, before our hectic schedules on Christmas days.

Our work with 'New Start' is going well. We have been able to bring four Bengali girls to our centre and talk with them about God's love for them. It is very challenging task because they have only livelihood through this work... No other source of income. But our Lord can make the ways, where there seem to be no way. We are doing what we can and leave the rest to our God of impossible. We also shared small Christmas presents with them and invited them to our Christmas get together on 18th Dec.

We planned our Christmas get-together with refugees in Athens on 17th Dec. Christmas day was celebrated with many of our lovely new believer Indian families.

During these days of joy, we have not forgotten our fellow believers in Jails and Refugee camps. Specially in the season they are missing their families even more. We had in our list to visit them before Christmas. We shared small gifts and spent time to encourage and keep the hope alive.

In all the plans and special days, we desperately want to see God moving. And particularly we humbly ask you all who are reading or listening to continue your devoted prayers. Prayers for kids and family life. Prayers for discernment and wisdom. Prayers for strength and stability. Prayers to ultimately complete our God-given assignment with distinction. You are part of our prayers as well.

We need your help for pursuing this mission. For the last year, we want to greatly appreciate and honour you for all the financial support we have received. We have a great gratitude for each one of you.



You may share this letter with you and friends to help us connect with people. Here are the details for financial support. Saaja: Lähetysyhdistys Ky  
Tili: FI57 4405 0010 0212 96  
Viite: 2100 0047 6 (John)

**Wishing you a very happy and blessed new year.**