



the BARKOWSKI family

IN GREECE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

July, 2020

Half-way through a very strange year! We were finally allowed to have church services at church again - who would have thought that would be something we would say? Until that point, we had been live-streaming all services since we could not meet together and had great "attendance" online, even from some visitors in the city. We have also had some people watch along that we had been witnessing to for a while so that was a blessing as well.

But, now we are able to meet again at church but with some stringent regulations. We can only have 17 people (max) in the building, the door needs to remain open, we cannot have congregational singing, and all seating must be 1.5 meters (about 4.5 feet) apart from each other. We can not have food after church for the people, but Rachel has made small food baggies to send with people as they leave.

It is restrictive and feels very weird, especially not being able to sing altogether, but it was good to be able to be under one roof for church again! We are praying that the regulations will loosen even more in the coming weeks. At this point, it is difficult to even invite people to church since we are maxed out. The good news was that, on our very first Sunday of being open again, we did have a visitor come in! He was very receptive throughout the service and said he may come back. Please pray for George that he would return.

On the evangelism front, I have been visiting a lot of neighborhoods that are much farther away from church that I had not previously been to. We have not had a response from this but thousands of Gospel tracts are going out in these newer areas so please pray for that! During this time, I have been able to go one-on-one with some people that I have asked for prayer for before. For privacy sake, I will not mention their names but will ask that you keep praying for the various people we are working with. One of them is so close to accepting Christ but there are still some residual orthodox ideas that are in the way. It is something that is very real here and can take a while for people to overcome since they have been around orthodox their entire life. The last meeting we had went very well!

Family

Our kids finished school and have been enjoying the free time! It was a huge blessing for them when, after 2 months of not being able to leave our road, we were all able to go out together. It was like some major trip - even though it was just into the city for a little while. :)

Charlie has been doing very well with his Crohn's and still has his every-two-months injections. That normally works out to about a 10-12 hour day at the hospital for that and him being hooked up for a lot of that time but he has had an incredible attitude about it all, so thank you for your prayers!

However, we found out last month that Chloe, our oldest (who just turned 12 last week) also has Crohn's. It is not uncommon for siblings to be able to get it since it is genetic but it is a bit rare. She had a panel of tests and biopsy to confirm that is what it was and then had to have sudden surgery the next week due to complications which can be common with Crohn's. Fortunately, she has recovered from that quite well and is moving around normal again.

But, like Charlie had to last year, she is on treatment plan where she cannot eat food for 6 weeks and only can drink this special formula that is made specifically for IBD patients (prescribed by her doctor). She is now halfway through this and has done well and is feeling much better. Please pray that this would get it under control and she would not have to move on to another treatment after this.

If you could also pray for the finances for all of this. Some of it is covered by our insurance while some of it is not. Even the part with our insurance is seeing delays of 6 months or more for reimbursements. Please pray that God would work all of this out.

Thank you all for your prayers! It can be hard to have situations like this when you are away from a home church, family, friends - but it means so much and helps us so much knowing that so many people are praying for our family and the ministry here. There are many of you that we have never met yet you pray for us and that is incredible and humbling so we thank you!

Thank you to all who support the work financially as well. We know things have been difficult in the US with the economy in the middle of all this. Thank you for whatever you do for us and know that it is always greatly appreciated.

God bless!

Charlie, Rachel, Chloe, Charles, Daniel, Timothy, and Madelyn

****Please do not forward this or post this letter online****

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