



**Dear Precious Friend,**

*November-December, 2017*

## **Healed People Heal People**

One day last summer, my dear friend Claudia took a hike on the mountains overlooking Thessaloniki. She came across a large Holocaust memorial and thinking it was odd that there would be Jews in such a place, she asked the locals about it. She found out that the Nazis had combed those villages in WWII searching for partisan fighters and when they found none, they rounded up whole Greek villages including mothers and children and slaughtered them all in the public square. Some of them were cremated in the local baker's oven. She came back shocked and stirred.

A few weeks ago I had lunch with a few Greek Christian couples. The discussion led to the Germans and the Greek economic crisis, when pain and anger suddenly erupted that I was not prepared for or aware of. One of the men cried out, "What right do the Germans have to come here after all they did to us in the war, pointing the finger at us and demanding we pay them back! They OWE US money!" I was astonished at the deep unresolved anger and the unhealed pain underneath the "serene" surface.

Hundreds of thousands of Greeks died of starvation alone during the Nazi occupation. The present economic crisis has put them once again under "German occupation." Prior to the Nazis, the Greeks were occupied by the Ottomans for 400 years plus another 100 years in Macedonia until they finally won their independence as a nation in 1821. The Greek people and their land have been under occupation for much of their history.

Last year, a Gateways Beyond team of 35 young people from Israel and the nations came to Thessaloniki and joined me in evangelism and touring. A German couple was leading the young group. One day, when we arrived in Berea and crossed the main square leading to the famous restored synagogue where Paul preached, several old Greek men called out to us from a distance asking us who we were. We responded by saying we were believers from Israel and several nations and that we had come to bless the city of Berea. When we approached the men, one of them suddenly cried out, "I remember when the Nazis came to this city and took all our Jews. What a great sin was committed in this place! I still think about it and wake up at night crying." At once, the German leader's wife stretched out her hand, put it on the man's shoulder and said, "We are not those people. We love the Jews. Please forgive us for what happened here." Immediately one of the Israeli believers also laid her hand on him praying and blessing the man in Hebrew.

We proceeded to the famous synagogue where the Apostle Paul preached the gospel to the Greek Jews. We heard the whole story from a Greek local guide, about how the Nazis locked the Berean Jews in the synagogue and kept them there for days without food or water. Many were already dead when the doors were finally opened. The rest were forced to walk all the way to Thessaloniki and then were taken by train to Auschwitz where they all perished. A few Greek Christians were able to hide a few Jewish families that survived. The German team leader suddenly fell to his knees and wept. The Greek guide stopped speaking, fell into his arms and they both sobbed together. Then the whole team got on their knees crying and praying. In the end, we broke out into glorious praise and worship in the very spot 2000 years ago where numbers of Greek-Jews were saved through the preaching of the Apostle Paul, but where so many others perished at the hands of the Nazis in WWII.

A few weeks ago, a team of my German friends came to Thessaloniki to worship, intercede and share the gospel. It was the opposite spirit from those who had come to round up the Greeks and Greek-Jews during the War. These precious young people carried the spirit of reconciliation, restoration and reformation. They came to hear and obey the voice of the Lord and to bless. We had beautiful anointed times of teaching, intercession and worship together. God's love flowed from heaven to earth as we experienced what it truly means to be one in Yeshua. After daily prayer and worship, we were led by the Holy Spirit to parts of Thessaloniki to worship and share the gospel. Several people engaged us in conversation and some received prayer and salvation. It was truly amazing to experience the good fruit of our oneness in Yeshua's love.

Truly wounded people wound people, but healed people heal people.....

On Wednesday, I am flying to Germany to spend a month with my German friends and their community who have become like family to me. Besides warm holiday time together, they have a full itinerary planned for me including prayer meetings, sharing at church gatherings and evangelistic outreaches.

Please pray that the oneness we have cultivated both in Germany and Greece will bear much fruit. Please pray for German-Greek-Jewish reconciliation, healing and restoration in this region. Pray for health, strength and anointing for me as I move deeper into His purposes for this region in order to serve and glorify Yeshua.

I am deeply touched by your love, support and friendship. I appreciate you so much and thank God for you. May He abundantly reward you for all you have done for His Kingdom, and for me.

Shalom and Agape,

**Greta**

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