



## Next Steps 2024

### Athens

How does one so eloquently articulate the beauty that is Athens, Greece? To put words on a piece of paper that does justice to this land seems to almost be an impossible task itself. However, more than the beauty of the land, the astonishing views of Mars Hill and the Acropolis, the real beauty lies within the people of Athens, Greece. Each person with a unique and beautiful story. In my short 3 weeks of staying in Greece, the most beautiful sight I saw was the heart of the people I met.

# "Where The People Are"

**THE FIRST 3 WEEKS OF CLASSES WERE FILLED WITH A LOT OF TRAINING AND EDUCATING. HOWEVER, OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSES THE FIELD WAS AN OPEN OPPORTUNITY. BEFORE I LEFT THE STATES I PRAYED THAT GOD WOULD LEAD ME TO THE PEOPLE WHO NEEDED HIM AND WHO WERE OPEN. I PRAYED DAILY THAT GOD WOULD DIRECT MY FOOTSTEPS AND GUIDE ME TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE AT THE RIGHT TIME. ASK AND YE SHALL RECEIVE.**



**WHO WOULD'VE GUESSED THAT A BURGER AND FRIES COULD SPARK A DIVINE ENCOUNTER LEADING TO AN IMPROMPTU BIBLE STUDY? ONLY ONE ANSWER: GOD! WHEN I ASKED GOD TO GUIDE ME TO THE RIGHT PERSON, LITTLE DID I KNOW IT WOULD BE THE COOK DOWNSTAIRS IN ATHENS. THIS COOK, A MUSLIM FROM MOROCCO, BECAME FAST FRIENDS WITH DESHA AND I. AS WE CHATTED, HE SHARED FEELING LOST ABOUT HIS FAITH. THAT MOMENT WEIGHED HEAVY ON MY HEART, SENSING IT WAS A PIVOTAL NIGHT FOR HIM. AN HOUR LATER, THERE HE WAS, DISCUSSING GOD'S LOVE WITH AN ARABIC SPEAKING REPRESENTATIVE. WHAT A CHAT TO HAVE! THE ALMIGHTY ORCHESTRATING A MEETING BETWEEN A COOK AND TWO AMERICAN GALS, THEN BRINGING AN ARABIC-SPEAKING MAN INTO THE MIX TO SPREAD THAT DIVINE LOVE. WHEN I PRAYED FOR GOD TO LEAD ME TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE, HE HAD MY NEW FRIEND IN MIND.**

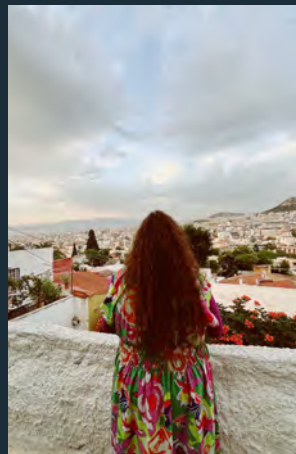
*In Greece As It Is  
in Heaven!*

# CROSSROADS UPC

I've heard it preached and taught that the thermometer of a church is determined by the young people of that church. At Crossroads Athens, the church is on fire! The youth and young adults of Athens are on fire for God. The youth welcomed Next Steppers with open arms, showed us around their city, helped serve during VBS and led in praise and worship! If this is what the future of Crossroads Athens looks like, then the future is in great hands! The leadership of Bro and Sis. Moreno is one of love and direction. To see the two work together to lead their church and to be an example is inspiring. I'm not sure if there's many who can "hug a porcupine" quite like Sis. Moreno.



## Capturing The Moment



Desha and Lisa Looking Out From The Acropolis  
Judah at McDonalds  
Lisa Looking at Athens

## Prayer Points

- \*LABORERS for the Field
- \*Crossroads UPC
- \*MORENO Family
- \*Seeds that were Planted

## Praise Report:

VBS had a total of 62 registered students with 15 of them receiving the HG!