

## NEXTSTEPS MEDITERRANEAN

# NEWSLETTER

Athens, Greece



## THE MEDITERRANEAN: GREECE

After 13 hours worth of flying and an 8 hour time difference, I finally made it to Athens, Greece. I can recall looking out the window of the plane from my seat and snagging a picture (or several) of the incredible view: the clouds, sunset/sunrise in the span of 4 hours, the islands as the aircraft glided closer to my destination. But finally, I had made it.



This was the first time I had ever been on unknown soil, but it never felt foreign. I gathered my things and made it to the exit where I was greeted by somewhat familiar faces, I had seen these people through my phone screen, but now here they were in person. After exchanging my money, we purchased our transportation ticket and hopped on the metro, which was the first of many adventures to come.

## THE CHURCH

CROSSROADS UPC

Having arrived on Saturday, the next day meant church! I was thrilled to experience the new culture and worship, listen to the praise team, and pray for this nation. In the very front row, I took my place, ready for anything the Lord had, and what came was even better than I expected. I stood in the altar during worship and my vision panned the crowd.



I took it all in and watched in complete awe at all the younger and older souls that were so in love with God, jumping to the music and Praising God.

The most beautiful part of this church was the hunger and devotion of the youth. Their passion for the Lord and willingness to grow and be used by God was so inspiring. The picture to the right was a moment of prayer captured at a youth service where God spoke strength into these young women of God.

During our time at Crossroads, we organized two youth services and in the last one, there was a break in the spirit and prayer broke out everywhere. There are no words to fully capture the presence of God that was felt in that place that night, the aroma of worship that was presented to Him with such fervency.



**“A three week training course  
for a lifetime of ministry.”**

**-Brother J. Poitras**



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## THE CLASS

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### NEXTSTEPS TRAINING SESSION

This training course, lasting almost three weeks (70 hours in total), truly was a course of preparation for a lifetime of ministry. Walking into the class compared to walking out, I felt more empowered, wiser, and transformed. The entire training experience revealed not only practical life skills in ministry, but also spiritual. I remember all the tears I had shed and the new authority I had unlocked in my spirit as well as the new understanding for tasks such as communication and budgeting.

#### “WEEK ONE: Give God the Glory!”

Within the first week, my eyes were opened to God's word, having every lens removed. I could now see clearly how God intends His word to be read: through the whole vision of GLORY. It has always been and always will be about glory to God.

#### “WEEK TWO: I am an ambassador.”

Week two cuts deeper, like surgery. God was removing things the first week, and now in week two, He is going deeper and planting the seeds of spiritual maturity. Week two brought the title of being an ambassador of the kingdom.

#### “WEEK THREE: Where is Home?”

Well, we've made it to week three! How bittersweet. So many people pouring into us and sharing their personal stories and wisdom from God that we may follow and go beyond their legacy.



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# THE MOUNTAIN

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## CORINTH MOUNTAIN CONQUER

Saturday, June 15th: "I literally conquered a mountain today, in the same location spoken of in the Bible. The same mountain Paul saw. I climbed that.

It was interesting because every step of the way, I was praising God. Thoughts to preach, things to pray on, and personal trials were all passing through my mind. God showed me how He is faithful with every breath and every step I took.

At the top, the group stood in awe of the view. Then to top off the whole experience, we prayed over the nation of Greece. It was as if everything else faded away and it was just me and God: Him praying through me for a nation in need."



AREOPAGUS HILL

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# THE WALK

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## THE GARDEN

Monday, June 24th: "This is our last Monday in Greece. I have grown to love this place and these people. My heart has such heaviness at the thought of leaving, but I know God has more. So today we did one of my favorite things this whole month: We prayed. specifically, we did a prayer walk. The impact of prayer isn't always seen instantly, but the peace that god gives when you walk in obedience for even something as simple as prayer, is so reassuring.

We were given guidelines of what to pray and how to pray. We have to be careful in territory that is not our own. So using the teachings from our class, we walked amongst a garden park and spoke life, truth, peace, and holiness over this nation, declaring the name of Jesus every step of the way."



CORINTH MOUNTAIN

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# THE HILL

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## WORSHIP ON AREOPAGUS HILL (MARS HILL)

Sunday, June 16th: "Happy Father's Day to my Heavenly Father! At sunset, we worshipped on the same hill that Paul was at: Mars Hill. We found a spot towards the front of the hill and sang praises to God while others looked upon us and videoed, or even joined in. We sang on as we watched the sun descend on the horizon.

For a little while, there was a break from singing and a time for sharing mini devotions. Then there was a time for prayer. We prayed for Greece, looking out at the incredible view from our point.

Crowds of people watched, sang, and asked us questions. The sun sank lower and lower casting its warm glow on the moment of worship. This day is forever branded in my heart."



THE GARDEN





## GALACTIC STARVEYORS



## VBS 2024



## THE END

### GALACTIC STARVEYORS

The last weekend in Greece, from Thursday after our sessions were over, till Sunday, we participated in an event that still leaves me in awe and wonder. VBS 2024 was full of naps, sweat, and tears. Most importantly, the children that I lead in a full blown Zumba class, came with an expectation of faith. The moment we went into prayer, these kids were touching the throne room before I knew what was happening.

The faith of a child is so pure and innocent and should never be anything but that, but these kids had life experience I've never known and they came to God pouring their little hearts out. We had 15 filled with the Holy Ghost and one baptized in Jesus name, the very child of the pastor. Such a beautiful time. On Sunday, the children presented the songs they had learned and the verses they had memorized. Then after the baptism on Sunday, a praise like none other broke out and it was like we had entered the kingdom of heaven already.

Fond Farewell

Thank you to everyone who has made this trip possible. Thank you to God for this opportunity. Thank you to the leadership and teachers who poured into me. Thank you to the church of Greece and the nation itself for welcoming me in. I cannot wait to see the impact of what God has done.

Ο Θεός να σε ευλογεί