

NEXT STEPS MEDITERRANEAN

Greece, June 2024

By Danielle Howard



Kalimera (good morning) from Athens, Greece!

The last month in Greece has been life changing, packed full of knowledge, great food, amazing people, and plenty of God moments. We spent our first three weeks in “school” learning how to help grow the Kingdom, with an emphasis on how everything we do is for His glory. We were pushed to seek God further than we ever have before, and in ways we never have before. God moved in every session that we had, up to 70 hours worth of classroom time. I know I am not just speaking for myself when I say that my life will forever be impacted by everything that was taught, and by the teachers that flew into Greece to teach us.

When classes were complete, we were given the chance to put some of our new knowledge to work by helping with The Crossroads Athens VBS! The days were long, but God moved mightily. 15 souls were filled with the Holy Ghost, and 2 were baptized in Jesus name! Our group was also able to organize two youth services (one of which turned into a prayer service with no preaching), and a youth game night throughout our time in Greece. The fellowship we shared with the youth of Athens is something that will always stay with me, and it was amazing to see their hunger for God, and the love they have for each other. They are an amazing group of young people!



When not in classes, we had time to explore the city of Athens, and learn more about the history of the city. We had the chance to visit where Paul preached at Mars Hill, and see the Acropolis. It was amazing to see the Bible come to life!



Friends that became Family

One of our days was spent cleaning up the grounds of The Crossroads Athens, and painting the front of the Bible college. Another day was spent as a rest day where we took a ferry to Agistri Island to relax, and take in the beauty of God's creation.



Graduation Day

We were also able to take a trip out of Athens to visit Corinth. The hike up the mountain was long, and at times discouraging, but the view from the top was breathtaking. We prayed for the city that they would one day have a UPC church there.



Sending love from Agistri Island



One of my favorite memories from Greece was the sunset worship session we had on Mars Hill. We, along with the Moreno's and some of the Athens youth, sang worship songs, spoke short sermons, and just spent time together. God met us on that hill, and even bystanders were paying attention. It was such a sweet moment that I think about often.

God has really moved in my life, and the lives of my trip mates, over the last month. I have only scratched the surface in retelling all that has happened over the last few weeks, but I cannot wait to see what all God will continue to do over the next month when we move to Spain!