



EME Ministries

ENABLING MISSION ENDEAVORS IN EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

PROJECTS NEED PEOPLE, STILL — Gail Stathis

Recently, my friends enjoyed an important holiday in the United States: July 4, Independence Day. I almost missed it this year. A friend asked if Americans living in Greece do anything special on this day. I had forgotten. There were no fireworks, no hotdogs. One of the consequences of living away from your birth home is that days and events that were so important growing up can be lost in the day to day of living and serving in that place. The focus over time becomes where you are, what are doing there, and to what your being there adds value. Your focus changes. Understandably.

Being able to stay on target, follow the heart dream is a constant prayer. We hold strategy meetings (of course covered in prayer), wondering how best to make life into what God is saying for our present assignment. Living in Greece and on the edge of the Middle East and North Africa, there is certainly an almost daily pressure to focus only on the immediate. With such statistics as 65% plus of youth are leaving Greece for work, or 750,000 Syrian children are still not in school and 2.5 million are still displaced, it is easy to lose sight of the broad picture and get distracted only into the immediate.

But the focus can't be lost in the day to day. A holiday from previous years might be forgotten, and the oversight forgiven. But the goal to stay on course must be maintained. To not be consumed in the immediate is hard.

The broader goal is to see people throughout the region restored to what God created them to be, renewed in the image of God. To see their abilities and gifts and capacity to effect change in their world unleashed. No program is enough to accomplish this. We've seen a sea change of activity, as

churches, parachurch groups and mission teams turn their focus—almost entire focus—to the immediate, to short term projects of “high value impact”. But what of the long term goals, the sustainable effects?

We at EME feel a call to remind our partners that God is a relational God, and He still sends servants to live that out. As you support full time workers on foreign fields, they are being enabled to live out their lives impacting people day to day around them. As Jesus walked roads, sat and ate, slept, He did it with people. This pattern is remains important for today. To go, stay, serve and impact lives through relationships. This is the biblical model. We communicate the Gospel in word and deed. Romans 10:14, “.. how can they call on the one they have not believed in? ...And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” This is still important to mission.

Part of keeping on target is to have projects. The Church must support these projects, and raise prayers all around the world for the Church to lead in creativity in business, the arts, science, etc., through projects. And, yes, these require finance and support from mission resourcers.

But, please be challenged with this writing. *Projects need people* to help direct, pray for, nurture, develop and bring them to fruition with faithfulness and excellence. To be there, to fellowship there. For this, the support of full time Christian workers on the foreign fields cannot be undervalued. It is critical. National partners, yes. But the international missionary remains integral to the Mission. Stay focused, stay balanced. Let's keep our minds on the broader picture.

ELPITHA HOPE— Greece

We have initiated a new partnership for EME Ministries, based in Greece, that includes church planting and refugee ministries on the island of Evia.

Malcolm and Trish Morgan have been in Greece for the last several years, initiating a new work on the island of Evia, near to Athens. Very little evangelical work exists on the island—and throughout the islands in general—and they have seen their house fellowship gradually grow, now meeting at the new Elphitha Center in the city of Halkida. Several of the EME team joined them for the opening in November

of 2016. Elphitha is intricately involved in the work in a nearby refugee camp. They have been instrumental in bringing aid and various programs (entertainment, education and relief assistance) into the camp. They have



strategically built relationships with key people, and tracked ongoing situations with refugees who have moved on to other nations. Help us to encourage this ministry, doing great work outside of the more focused-upon works in Athens.

Malcolm and Trish Morgan

Halkida, Greece

EME has pledged to assist Elphitha Greece by handling administration and donor concerns for them in the USA. They are in the process of registering their organization as a UK-based NGO, but we are prayerfully urging US churches and partners to consider their work in Greece. Contact us directly for more information, or for links to support Elphitha (Hope!).

Mission Opportunities

Consider joining us. We're recruiting, and there are things for you to be doing!

There are opportunities for short and long term mission assignments. Your questions and inquiries are **encouraged**. Whether or not you finally make it to the foreign field, God will increase your heart of love as you involve yourself in His heart for souls. There are currently **priority** positions available in Greece: an Office Administrator helping with EME, Local Church (GCC), Vision International University programs; a social media coordinator/developer; and, additionally, there are long and short term assignments in Egypt, Tunisia, Bulgaria and

other adjoining countries. We need teachers, trainers, physiotherapists, businessmen, machinists, musicians, athletes... you name it! Spread the word. We need you!

We pray to expand our team in include more staff to reach out through EME endeavors to those that are hungry for TRUTH and want to grow in faith in Jesus.

Just go to the website, ememin.org, to find applications and recommendations. Contact us to begin the discussion. This year, and the future ahead promise to be exciting and purposeful!

Nea Zoi—Athens, Greece



EME partners with Nea Zoi (New Life) in Athens in their outreach to rescue, secure and assist women and children who have been trafficked, those involved in prostitution and other at-risk sectors of the society.

We are currently seeking additional support for mission workers involved with Nea Zoi, including (and especially) that of EME worker, Martha Polyraakis, as well as assistance for costs associated with training programs teaching those who come out of the brothels to secure their futures with job skills and life skills that can take them forward! Join us in this grand effort today. (Contact info@ememin.org)

Additionally, **we are seeking to add to the team by recruiting workers** with the heart, and the training, to assist this frontline ministry!

Director's Take

The state of things and of things to come...

The summer is upon us and the activities and plans of EME continue mounting. As the directors of EME, we want to highlight some “burning edges of mission,” as we like to speak about around here. Things with which we believe you should be engaged. This is one.

We have seen a momentous number of teams come through Greece over the recent months. It seems we are constantly engaged in finding accommodations, setting up schedules, getting work outlined and assisting with transportation. The EME office has been busy at work helping to orchestrate the flow of people.

The focus on refugee ministry has been instrumental in getting numbers of organizations and people to focus on Greece. This is admirable. Desirable. We are encouraged.

But at the same time, we have felt a real nudge from the Holy Spirit to remind ourselves, and those with whom we partner, that the needs of the refugee ministries, while important, are not the entire sum of mission needing immediate, purposeful attention inside of Greece. This nation remains one of the least evangelized (in terms of evangelical ministry) in all of the region. Indeed, the number of Believers in many Middle Eastern nations dwarf that of the nation-wide Body in Greece. Churches are suffering under the weight of the longest, deepest recession in modern history. Some have closed, others find themselves on the brink. For the first time, Greek pastors have asked us for assistance in getting the word out to our friends, supporters and prayer partners around the world.

One day, the current flood of attention, and the resources that adjoin it, will cease to be focused on Greece. What will remain, without intervention, is a Church in crisis, largely unable to attend to the harvest that has been won among the refugees (many of whom will have to remain in Greece), and lacking in the youth, energy, vibrancy and strength that has been sapped from its ranks throughout this time of crisis. Many young Believers are leaving the nation, looking for work and opportunities abroad. Even many of the long-term migrants— Philipinos, Albanians, Africans— have moved onward or back to their native lands seeking

relief. **Would you join us in praying for, and supporting, the national Church in Greece?**



- Brian van Deventer, General Director



Glyfada Christian Center

A 20-year anniversary celebration and the launch of a new church plant effort energize activities at EME's oldest partner in Greece.

The first Partner Ministry that ever engaged with EME Ministries is that of our Home Base host, the Glyfada Christian Center (GCC). Indeed, because the church shares almost the same leadership (EME Executive Director, Gail Stathis, is a founding pastor of the local church), and because it has graciously served as the home of EME's Greece-based offices, there has been an intricate connection between the two for all of the years both ministries have existed.

Indeed, GCC was born originally as a part of a US based Pentecostal Denomination. In 1997, after significant deliberation, the local church voted to separate and re-establish itself as an independent local church. This month, the church celebrated its 20th anniversary of the relaunch, coupled with the 25-year anniversary of Pastor Brian van Deventer serving in Greece (also General Director of EME), and the 10-year anniversary in ministry of Pastor Andre Rocha, both who serve alongside Gail at GCC.

As that history was being celebrated, the first trip of GCC ministers was planned to visit the exquisite island of Santorini—reputedly the home of ancient Atlantis!—where GCC member, Shushan Kuyumjian, has been working, and where other members and friends of GCC have relocated for jobs during the summertime and perhaps beyond. These few have been gathering together for worship services and fellowship times, seeking to pray for and encourage one another. It has been agreed that this group will serve as the beginnings of a new church plant on the island, extending from GCC.

Plans are to travel there to help establish, strengthen and encourage the group over the coming months. Think about joining us for one of the 11pm services on the beach! (pictured above)

IMPORTANT MATTERS

- **THE ASSOCIATION FOR COOPERATION IN TUNISIA (ACT)** is now The Association for Cooperation and Transformation, as it completes the metamorphosis from a local NGO operating in Tunisia into an International NGO headquartered in Sweden with offices in several other locations. EME has been an “owner” of ACT for almost 15 years, and has helped to contribute to this transformation by serving on the board, hosting and consulting work groups in the process, and drawing others along as well. In March we will be going to a working celebration, as the previous owner bodies and friends come together to officially launch the new phase of ACT and rejoice both in what God has done—which has truly been amazing—and what is in store for the future. Stay tuned, stay involved!
- **SYRIAN DIASPORA CHURCH PLANTING.** We are working with an association of ministry organizations in Egypt and from around the region to bring mid-term, language capable, trained and prepared mission workers to build efforts toward establishing worship-ping communities among the tens of thousands of Syrian and other Arabic-speaking people who are settled in Greece over the next many months to years, as they await their placements in other European countries, or here in Greece. Some support has begun to arrive, but we continue to need assistance to begin this effort. \$1000 supports a church planter for 3 months! You can not afford NOT to be a part of this effort. Contact us for further details about the project, or about your support.
- **THE EME TEAM IN INDIA** continues to operate at a break-neck speed. Team leader, Peter Prahalad, reports: “Our Nation is the youngest nation in the world. 60% of the Indians are under 35 year of age. Our ministry is burdened to reach out to this young generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially among the Dalit and “untouchable” communities or groups to bring them into the saving know-ledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Beside evangelism we also train Dalit young people to be disciples of the Lord and take up leadership in churches and in our ministry. We are planning to have special programmes to challenge young people toward that in the near future.

In one village called Madinpur, floods affected an area of population of more than 300,000. They live together, all are Dalit “untouchables” who have lost everything belonging to them: food, clothes, even children’s school text book bags. We have distributed more then 100 children learning materials, and now the community has hope in Jesus, because no one attended to them otherwise. Please pray as we are planning for medical camps, so we need your prayer and financial support.
- **MARTHA POLYRAKIS.** Pray for Martha as she leads the Nea Zoi team in Greece. Martha is a long time Partner of EME, and a diligent worker for the Kingdom of God. She needs significant assistance in buttressing her support levels. Prayerfully consider giving to assist her ministry.



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FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Passing of an EME Founder

EME Co-Founder, Chris Stathis, passed away in April, the result of health complications. Though he was only active in the ministry for a short time in the beginning, serving as our first Executive Director, Chris was an essential part of birthing and initially establishing work, and in marshalling the first resources associated with our mission.

The EME Home Office Continues to Need Help

Just as the work continues to expand and the team begins to grow, we have been challenged with the loss of two major sources of central support. We need your prayers to see those replaced and expanded for the work ahead.



We were pleased to serve Empowered21 in helping to organize events at the Asia Conference in Singapore for Pentecost 2017. Over 7,200 came from 40+ countries to celebrate the Holy Spirit!