

It has been so stimulating and a real help to get back to serious study. The staff in Sheffield made extra effort to let us join the courses, and it should be possible for NTI to be continued once we're in Athens.

We took on co-leadership of the Globe Café in September and that has been a blessing to us. We're privileged to have an excellent team, and continue to have great opportunities to witness to Christ among many nationalities.

Last but not least: money! We wrote a fair bit of detail about the financial support needs last time, so here's a summary plus some confirmed figures. To work with IFES means raising all of our support. This all goes through IFES (tax-effectively if you pay tax) to pay us a joint salary. Once we're in Greece this will amount to about £37000! That is a lot...obviously. So far we have been amazed as people have given generously, and church have committed to a corporate chunk, but we are not at the target yet.

If you would like to give towards our work in Greece, as one-offs or through regular (monthly) contributions, please contact us and we'll let you know how to do that. It's very simple—we'll just send you a standard form from IFES which you then send off to their office in Oxford. Even if you are able to give only a small amount each month, that would be very helpful. If at any time you need to change what you give, or stop altogether, please feel absolutely free to do that. Also, if you've got anything you'd like to ask us about the plans, don't hesitate to get in touch.

There are obviously support issues other than finance, and we've included several key things to pray for, but we'll be able to outline more about those things later in the spring and summer. For now, thank you so much if you've been praying for and encouraging us, and if you've already been helping us to raise our support. We are so grateful that many are with us in this work.

Greece is the Word!

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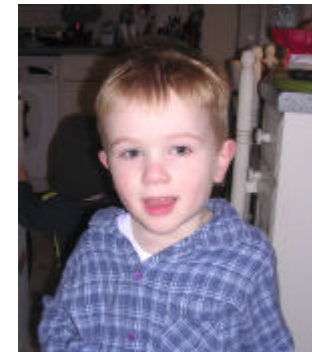
Hello again!

We hope you received our first Greece is the Word in October/November and you were able to open it. We wanted to write again



once things were more concrete and formal. Now they are, so here's an update on our plans for student work in Athens with IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students), and some of the detail that was missing in the last letter.

We trust that this will make sense to you and that you'll want to keep getting our news over the coming months and years. If neither is true, please let us know! We'll

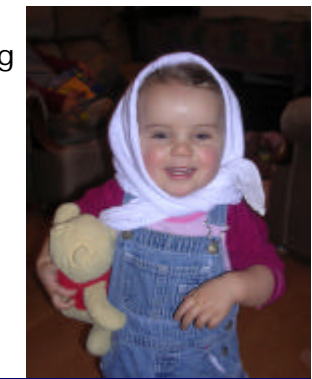


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either let you know more or stop bothering you, whichever is more appropriate!

Jonathan & Dawn (and Joel & Hannah)



The formal stuff...Beeston Free Church Forgive us if you're a Beestonian and know this already! Since last autumn our church family have had the opportunity to hear about our plans and have happily given us their support.

We've been part of the church since Aug 99 and are so grateful for all that we've gained by being part of the fellowship. Our move to Greece is a hefty project and we're aware that it will involve a big effort on the part of the church. We are so encouraged that Beeston Free have made their commitment to us so clear in recent months. Not only have many members given generously but it's clear that a lot of work is going in to thinking about how to prepare, send and support us so that the we're well-equipped.

We now delight in the title of ...IFES IFES staff workers! Our new bosses are Martin Haizmann (German) and Thanos Gikas (Athenian). We have two because we are accountable to IFES overall AND to the Greek student movement, CESA. While this could be complicated, we're happy to have two people formally looking after us. We'll explain more about how the work actually happens some other letter.

The joining IFES process could have been drawn out but we thank God that it has been simple and fairly rapid. Two of our church leaders met Martin with us this month and there was a real meeting of minds on the whole project that was reassuring and stimulating. Although IFES are inevitably a fairly loose organisation, we feel that things have been done thoroughly and sensibly.

There are several implications: money is a big one (but see over). We'll be going on IFES orientation in late Aug/early Sept and Jonathan will be going to Belgrade for the Balkan staff consultation (23-27 Feb), a good opportunity to meet future regional colleagues and get more of an idea of what student work in that region is like.

Athens in February By the time you read this we will be in Athens. We fly on 3 Feb, start a fortnight's language study on 6 Feb, and fly home on 22 Feb. The aims of the trip are to make as much progress as possible with our Greek, to find out about housing, church and Athenian living, and to meet students, pastors and other contacts. We're hoping that this trip will help us all (including Dawn's parents who are keeping us company and looking after Joel and Hannah during our Greek course) to visualise what it will be like to live in Athens. Although the prospect of moving there is daunting, it is made much less so by the fact that initially all we will be doing is learning to live there and to speak Greek. Please pray that by the time we get back we'll have made lots of progress on those fronts.

Progress in preparation So far things have gone well. Greek isn't easy so our expectations were realistic, but our private lessons have been really helpful.

As for our theological training, Dawn has been part on Northern Training, a Biblical Theology course with practical training in teaching the Bible, which she attends every Thursday. Jonathan has been part of the pilot year of the Northern Training Institute (NTI) (both are based in Sheffield). NTI involves 15 hours of theological reading and paper-writing (so far: Atonement, God's Discipline, Creation and Trinity, and Equality in the Church in 2 Corinthians 8), monthly seminar days with the other four students, and two residential weeks each year.

Pray...that in all our training we will trust the grace and power of God and his gospel, not in the knowledge or skills we pick up - but at the same time to work with all our ability to be those who handle the word of God correctly and commend it lovingly and graciously.