



THE GREEK MISSION

DINO & MATA TZANETOS

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Dear brethren and friends,

Greetings from the Tzanetos family in Athens. Grace and peace to all from God our Father in Whom we hope and pray that you enjoy living both the Christian life and the dream of Heaven. May this find you doing well and be safe.

Present conditions in Athens

It isn't easy to describe the living conditions in Athens these days. If there is anything different to report is the fact that from November 7th, 2020 until this day. February 25th, 2021 we are locked in our homes because of the Covid 19 general lockdown. Unfortunately every time we reach to the end of the lockdown, it is extended for another one or two weeks due to the high numbers of the Covid 19 victims. The government has already announced extension of the lockdown until the middle of March, if not longer. All business, except grocery stores, gas stations and pharmacies are closed. Even the government offices are not fully open to the public and you can visit them only after appointment and only for very important or immediate reasons. It's a big mess.

This is a very long period to be locked in and has created many problems to all. Two are the major problems people, including our brethren, have to deal with. **First**, the high and long unemployment which is causing serious living conditions. **Second**, the emotional stress which is causing serious family problems and bad personal behavior. Difficult to deal with these two and all the other problems, but with God's grace and help, all brethren are doing their best.

Our Work

So Mata and I had to rearrange our work plans with the church and the brethren. Concerning our spiritual work, the Sunday services and the Wednesday Bible class, we continue having them on line using ZOOM. Of course, the on line services cannot replace the physical presence which is so important and missed, but is the only way we can operate since we are not allowed to use the church building.

Therefore we have decided to spend most of our time working with the church members to stand by and encourage them in these difficult times because they need moral support. We are proud of them, because even though they **"are afflicted in every way"**, they are **"not crushed"**, and with confidence in God they continue their spiritual journey to Heaven having their eyes focused upon Jesus. So we believe it is important to them to know we are here to assist them.

So, **using the limited freedom** we have in this lockdown, **we spend hours** each day on the phone **calling all members** for encouragement, **we go** to the grocery store to **aid them with food**, Mata **prepares food which we deliver** to the homes of those in need, we **collect, store and deliver baby clothes**, we **visit the brethren in their homes to lift them up and have a devotion or a Bible study** with them, we **take sick members to the hospital** for treatment, we **invite prospects in our home** and we also take care of the church finances and other business..

What we have learned these days is that even under the limited freedom of a lockdown, if you really want to do it, there is a lot of work to be done among the brethren, encouraging and aiding

them and mostly making them feel they have not been left alone. We go by the motto that, **“if you love you will find the way, if you do not love you will find the excuse”**. There is plenty of work to be done, but we are alone since our coworker has left for the States. But even so, we pray to the Lord to give us the needed physical strength to continue.



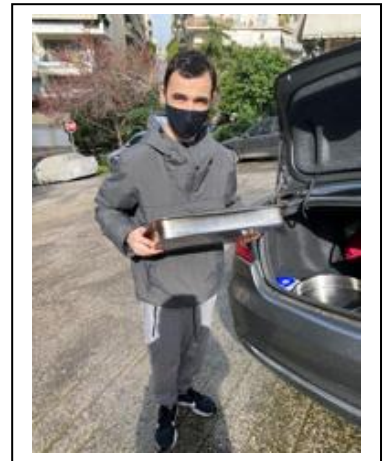
Relief fund program
Buying groceries for church families.



Working at the church building on the church finances



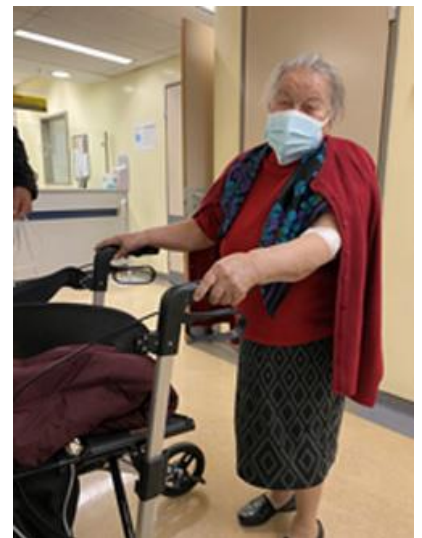
Mata preparing food which I deliver to families in need



Mata is collecting baby clothes this period which we store at the church building and also take to brethren with new born babies.



Demis, is a neighbor and a prospect and a new father and he came to our home for a Bible study. Mata gave him clothes for their new born baby and vitamins for his wife



Taking sister Helen to the hospital for an infection check-up and treatment.



Visiting the Mylona family for encouragement and a Bible study with their future son-in-law, Stelios, who is one of our prospects.

All this work is done during the lockdown. We plan on doing more when the lockdown ends.

An unbelievable event - Athens covered with lots of snow

The old times it used to snow in Athens often. Now days , the last time it snowed in Athens was 2004. However, they say that never before it snowed in Athens as much as it did e few days ago. I understand that those in the North who experience have snow every year may be laughing with our excitement , but the Athenians were very much impressed with this heavy snowfall. We were experiencing a very mild winter with spring temperatures, and suddenly within 5 days everything changed with this heavy snowfall covering Athens from the North all the way to the sea. I will not commend, but let you see some pictures from snowed Athens.

North suburbs of Athens



Central Athens - The Parthenon



PICTURES NEVER SEEN BEFORE ON THE BEACH IN ATHENS

The beach



Unbelievable - Skiing in Athens

Family News

By His grace we are doing well and we are thankful we can continue serving our God and His family in Athens even during this pandemic. With confidence in the Lord and with love and respect for our brethren we continue looking forward to better days.

Thank you so much for your true concern and help to the saints in Athens who continue to see God's hand and providence in you. Thank you for being the "wind beneath our wings" in every way helping us to share the gospel and serve His cause in Greece. May the Lord bless you richly and look after you and your labors in His Kingdom . Please keep us in your prayers as we thank God for you in ours.

We love you

Dino & Mata Tzanetos