



A New Season

It may be the middle of summer, but change is in the air!

Greece has been gradually coming out of lockdown and for the last few months life has felt somewhat normal. One thing that hasn't changed much, however, is the number of people that can gather at the center. Currently, only about 20 refugees can be in our facility at a time and we are not allowed to serve any food or beverages to be consumed on the premises. We have continued to be creative in ways to engage with and serve refugees, so I'm back at the center almost every day for various, much smaller programs.

As everyone knows, the pandemic has changed almost everything, and the ministry at Helping Hands is no exception. Given that we can see so few people at a time, and the fact that it may be this way for quite some time, the focus of the ministry is changing. With no baby room and seeing only small groups of refugees, its become even more necessary to be able to communicate in Farsi. But despite my attempts to learn Farsi, I've come to accept that it just isn't going to happen. And so it seems that God is bringing this season of serving refugees in Greece to a close. My lease ends on August 31, so I will leave Greece and return to the US in September.

I have given notice to my team and my landlord and will finish working in early August when the center closes for the summer break.

In the meantime, I have been exploring another opportunity with OneCollective in the UK. While my experience in Greece has taught me so many important lessons, one thing I've come to realize is that I have so much more to offer when I can communicate in English! The UK team is just being formed so the exact role isn't fully defined yet. Its exciting to think about being part of something that's just beginning! I've had conversations with the team leader, Lola, and I think we'd work well together. Amazingly, Lola and her family will be in Athens for 3 weeks in August, so we should have plenty of time to discuss possibilities.

Please join me in prayer about the following:

- Peace and wisdom in all the details that need to be finalized during my last weeks in Greece, including paying my large Greek tax bill.
- For someone to buy my car.
- For strength to finish well and say goodbyes. I will miss my team!
- For fruitful time spent with Lola while she's in Athens.
- Wisdom to discern whether or not to visit the UK in early September given current travel restrictions.
- Pray that I get my renewal passport in time to travel in early September.

Praise God with me:

- God has been confirming my decision to leave Greece in various ways, including providing someone to buy all of my furniture!
- My team has been so supportive even though they're sad I'm leaving.
- The tremendous peace God has given me about leaving. So thankful!
- I'm also so grateful for you and am counting on your prayers during this time of transition and for God's guidance in what's next.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please feel free to contact me.

Looking forward to seeing you in the US in September!

Beverly Visser
Helping Hands in Athens, Greece

Donate Here

or checks can be sent to:

One Collective

(on behalf of Bev Visser)

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