

Friday, November 12

Greetings from the birthplace of anarchy!

In recent weeks, life in Greece has been made somewhat less than convenient by a vicious cycle of bus & train strikes, air traffic controller strikes, perennial protests and demonstrations, letter bombs and explosive packages sent by Greek anarchists to foreign heads of state and to a number of embassies in Athens--including two that exploded at the Russian and Swiss embassies this month. So, please pray for peace in Greece!

After numerous trips to the translation office downtown and the local CNBRT (the beloved "Center for Never-ending Bureaucratic Red Tape) since early September, we were finally able to submit our visa renewal applications. This year's unique twist in our annual joust with the old visa dragon is that the local "civil servant" was not able to give us official receipts when we turned in our documents--because **the blue paper had been stolen from a government office!** The **good news** is that a shipment of the special blue paper has been delivered, and Sandi & I were finally able to pick up our long-awaited temporary receipts. Having taken two months to **just submit our applications**, it is anyone's guess when we will actually receive our residence permits!!!

If you would like to enter the First Annual Ekholm's Residence Permit Guessing Game, please send us a message with the date that you think we will receive our visas for the coming year. The lucky winner will receive a package of Greek delicacies (guaranteed not to contain explosives 😊).

**Please pray. . .**

- for protection from the escalating violence for our dear friends, the Nigerian Ambassador and his wife (pictured below with an unidentified gate-crasher at the recent Nigerian Independence Day celebration).



- that our residence permits will be renewed sooner rather than later (our current visas expire on November 22).
- for our Iranian friends, "P" & "B" and their 16-month-old twins, who are seeking asylum in Germany. Join us in praising God that they have such a wonderful group of German Christian friends who continue to help and encourage them--including a couple who were involved in our ministry behind the Iron Curtain more than two decades ago! Please pray that "P" & "B" will be allowed to stay in Germany and that they will be able to move out of their tiny dormitory-style room at a crowded refugee camp before Christmas.

- for mental and physical strength for Karin who has submitted her doctoral dissertation after numerous additions and revisions and is teaching an intensive course at Indiana University until the end of the year. She has resubmitted her application for a two-year research and teaching position at Cambridge University in England and is on the "short list" for a faculty position at an East Coast University in the US. So, please pray for God's direction for Karin's future.
- for an accurate diagnosis (or better yet, for divine healing) in Kristen Lina's ongoing health issues.
- that God would pour out His grace and mercy on Bill, an American friend in Greece who is in the latter stages of untreatable cancer. Sandi & I have had a number of good conversations about the Lord with Bill and his wife (who are avowed atheists), and I gave him a copy of the book, *The Case for Christ* last year.
- for Sandi's international prayer and Bible study group.
- for a full-time job for our long-time disciple, "M" and for encouragement and spiritual growth for the other refugees from the Middle East who are involved in the Bible study that I lead at a Greek Evangelical church in central Athens.

I have attached a link to a heart-breaking documentary about the tragic plight of refugees in Greece. I need to warn you that it is depressing and gruesome, but I can testify that it accurately describes the escalating refugee crisis in Greece.



[The Battle For Attica Square - Greece](#)

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

October 2010 It's the first time that an EU country has seen its treatment of refugees described as a humanitarian crisis by the UNHCR. This report gets to the heart of the escalating tensions in Greece.

Sincerely in the Lord of the Harvest,

*Dwight & Sandi*

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