



Helping Hands • Sofokleous 53D, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor • 10553 Athens • Tel/Fax: 210-32-24-216

ΧΕΡΙΑ ΒΟΗΘΕΙΑΣ • Σοφοκλέους 53Δ, 1<sup>ος</sup> Όροφος • 10553 Αθήνα • Τηλ/Φαξ: 210- 32-24-216

**“Lives Transformed: planting Gospel seeds in the lives of refugees across Greece that take root and bear the fruit of life transformation in Jesus Christ.”**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep... equip you with everything good that you may do His will. (Hebrews 13:20-21)*

By the grace of God, **for 17 years we have been serving the Lord together by ministering to refugees** in Athens. We have seen God provide for the needs of this ministry in wondrous ways. He called believers to leave everything behind and come to serve Him among the refugees. He mobilised churches and believers like you to contribute with sacrifice so that everyday needs may be met. He has also provided a space for giving meals, showers, clothes, sharing the gospel and discipling new believers. **Above all, God is touching hearts and saving refugees, who, in turn, are now evangelising their peoples.**

We are grateful to the Lord for all His blessings. **We are grateful to the Lord for you, who continue to support us so faithfully with your prayers and contributions, especially in these difficult times.** Please continue praying for us. We ask also that you would pray that God will provide for the maintenance expenses of the building at 53D Sofokleous Street.

For over eleven years this building has been used **without any serious maintenance work** and has allowed us to share the gospel in so many ways:

- **Meals: Hundreds of thousands** of refugees have had a meal and have heard the message of God's love. (There were years in which the number of meals offered each week was between 3000 and 4500)
- **Showers:** With an average of 100 persons each week, in the last 11 years, more than 50.000 refugees (men, women, and children) came to have a shower, which restored their dignity.
- **Thousands more have come...**
  - to get clothes;
  - to wash their clothes;
  - to be taught English or Greek;
  - to receive medical help and medicines.
- **Hundreds** of refugees who have come to know and believe in Jesus Christ spent long hours of discipleship in the rooms of our Refugee Centre.
- **Our facilities have also been made available to other ministries.**

**After eleven years of intensive use, our building is in great need of renovation:**

- **The plumbing and the heating systems** have been put under prolonged stress and need to be updated.

- **Shower rooms & WC** are becoming more and more difficult to use – tiles are falling off and the drainage system blocks up.
- **The kitchen** needs serious updating in order to meet our increasing needs and the sanitary requirements of the State.

**We want to thank all of you who love this ministry and support it with your prayers and your financial contributions.**

God willing, **on June 13 we plan to shut down the Centre for three or four weeks.** At the same time, however, **we will continue doing our work among the refugees in collaboration with local churches, and by organising special programmes for refugee children and their mothers on beaches and in neighbourhood parks.**

The whole project is being undertaken by a Greek architect, who is a dear friend and brother in Christ. The cost is estimated to reach to €56.700 Euros (\$80.000 with today's rate) of which €18.000 (\$25.000) is for the renovation of the kitchen.

**So dear brothers and sisters, please pray that the Lord will continue to provide for the ongoing costs of ministry and our building maintenance.**

With love and thankfulness for your prayers and support,



Nikos Stefanidis  
At His service

### **HOW TO INVEST**

**If you would like to support this project, you can send your tax detectible gifts to International Teams.** On a separate note, please clearly designate your gift for “**HELPING HANDS - BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND**” and send it to:

**INTERNATIONAL TEAMS  
411 W. River Rd.  
Elgin, IL 60123-1570  
USA**

**Non tax deductible gifts can be sent directly to the Helping Hands bank account:**

**HELPING HANDS  
EUROBANK  
IBAN:Gr0302601780000870100694108  
SWIFT ADDRESS: EFGBGRAA**



Women's Bathrooms



Shower Area



Kitchen (now)



Kitchen (remodeled)