

GREECE MISSION TRIP REPORT

March 16-30, 2018

Maddie Callis, Susan Chase, Scott Christiansen, Mary Creasey, Beth Fanning, Al, Jen, Hannah, Matt & Ryan Fosberry, Dave & Lois Hales, Caroline Jadovich, James & Betsy Kassel, Kit Marfinsen, Linda Midwinter, Melissa Richards, Emmalee Richards, Erin Simmons, Casey Smith, Lynn Smith, Rick & Donna Stockwell, Noreen Watson, David & Donna Wittmer, and BG Zietz



In March 2018, God once again called Valley Community Baptist Church to Greece to serve the children of missionary parents attending the Christian Medical and Dental Education Conference. A group of over 40 volunteers cared for almost 250 kids ranging from infants to teens. Many from Valley served at the conference as families. It was powerful to watch them reflect a united commitment to serving the missionary children.

Valley spent months preparing to care for these beautiful children. Each day was packed full of fun activities from 7:30 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. There were Bible exploration stations, songs, drama, arts and crafts, outdoor games, and VeggieTales videos. God's Word came alive through all of it. At first, some children were apprehensive about leaving their parents, but within a few days, they couldn't wait to come play with their new friends! Beautiful bonds were established, and parents expressed with tears how grateful they were for the care their kids were receiving.



Valley volunteers attended the evening corporate worship services, which included some great preaching by Dr. Stuart Briscoe. We also listened to powerful testimonies from the missionaries. One memorable story was about a family living in a refugee camp in Sudan, North Africa. This doctor made prosthetic arms and legs for the refugees out of tin he gathered from the camp. He was living the grace of the Gospel by loving these vulnerable ones who hadn't been forgotten by God. These workers live in constant danger, but the call from God outweighs anything that this world can offer them. It was a humbling privilege to think each team member was giving up a few weeks and a few thousand dollars so that these missionaries could have a time of medical instruction, spiritual refreshment, and respite with their families.



Comment from Dr. Phil Fischer, conference director: *Our conference attendance over the past three years has been 625, 725, and 860. Most of this growth has been in the number of children. There are two reasons for this: 1) There are more young families currently serving in medical missions 2) People love the program Valley offers their children. Thanks to your team for their contribution to medical missions by serving at the Greece Conference.*



Comments from trip participants:

Scott Christiansen: *There is something for everyone to do!*

Jen Fosberry: *Mission trips are eye-opening, faith-strengthening, and life-changing.*

Matt Fosberry: *One day you will leave this world behind. Live a life you will remember.*

Caroline Jadovich: *You will meet amazing people both on your team and those you serve.*

Dave Wittmer: *Open your eyes to the reality of missions.*

Donna Wittmer: *In just two weeks we touched so many lives from so many parts of the world.*



How about you? Valley expects to return to Greece in April, 2020. Jesus said, "Go into all the world." Is God calling you to step out for a few short weeks to go to serve?



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