



the MELLINGER'S in Bulgaria

MINISTERING IN THE BALKAN REGION OF EUROPE

JUNE '07



WE STARTED THE MONTH IN ATHENS

New to the region we went with Linda Sherril, a Spring Arbor University professor, on an exploratory and fact finding expedition as she prepares to bring a group of students here next summer.

We traveled by night train to Athens (left at about 11:30 PM and arrived about 6:00 AM - we traveled in sleeper cars so we slept all the way there.

We spent the day exploring the Parthenon and surrounding area. To think that most of the structures we were looking at were put in place hundreds of years before America was ever thought of was amazing.

That night we went to a camp on the edge of Athens that is run by AIM International an interdenominational ministry. They have guest rooms and they were very nice. (It is where the students will stay next year from SAU)

We learned a great deal from the brothers who both spoke English about the history and traditions of the Greeks.

The next day we did a bus tour of Delphi - the temple to Apollo. It was a long but beautiful bus ride up and back and included lunch.

There is so much to see and do in Athens. And it may not seem like missions but it is part of the history of the faith. Paul spoke not far from these stones at Mars Hill - we saw that as well (but didn't know it till later). The roots of our missions drive come from Paul going to the very place we are going at times.

To know the culture and the history goes along way at reaching a people. Pray for the people, they know the history and stories but don't know the true living God!

To see more photos go to www.almellinger.com and look through the online Athens-Delphi photo album.



Parthenon Column Repairs

The day we were there they were moving one of the column tops for repairs.



Street Impact

A group of 5 College Students (although most were not traditional students) and their teacher came for a week in Mid June to do outreach events to children, youth and adults. This group has come before and they know just what to do!



Trips to Sofia, Samokov, Kazenlak and back to Petrich

Right after our excursion to Athens and before we hosted the Cliff College team we ventured back to Bulgaria to continue our contact development there and to pick-up and drop off some short term missionaries to Samakov for 2 weeks.

The DeMills (retired missionaries from Africa) were going to be over here for a daughter's wedding and wanted to serve and so we set them up with a new work that has developed a feeding program and outreach to orphans (street kids), widows and the mentally handicapped. (More on this place in future newsletters)

To get the DeMills there we had to drive from the south west corner of Bulgaria to the north Central Area (Kazanlak) and the back to

Samokov in the west central region of the country. One day we drove over 10 hours and got to know how to drive in Bulgaria. The day we drove from Petrich to Sofia (About 2/5 hour drive) and then around the city. I even was stopped by the police for running a red light (which I didn't see) - they were kind to this foreigner and set me on my way without a fine and clearer directions on how to get were we were going.

Driving is a new experience in Bulgaria!

We had a great visit and we even got to speak and be part of 2 different churches in Sofia.

Until I can read Bulgarian more easily and quickly we will try and take the bus or train more. But we made it and for that we praise the Lord for his protection.

PRAY FOR...	...THE BALKAN CHURCH	...OUR GETTING SETTLED	...THE PASTOR'S CONFERENCE	...THE LONGS IN THE USA
	<p>Pray for the church in Greece as we work with them to move forward this summer.</p>	<p>Pray for Diane and I as we continue to get settled, dividing our time between Bulgaria and Greece</p>	<p>Pray for the Pastor's conference being planned for September in Bulgaria</p>	<p>Pray for Mike and Maria as they are home on deputation for the summer.</p>