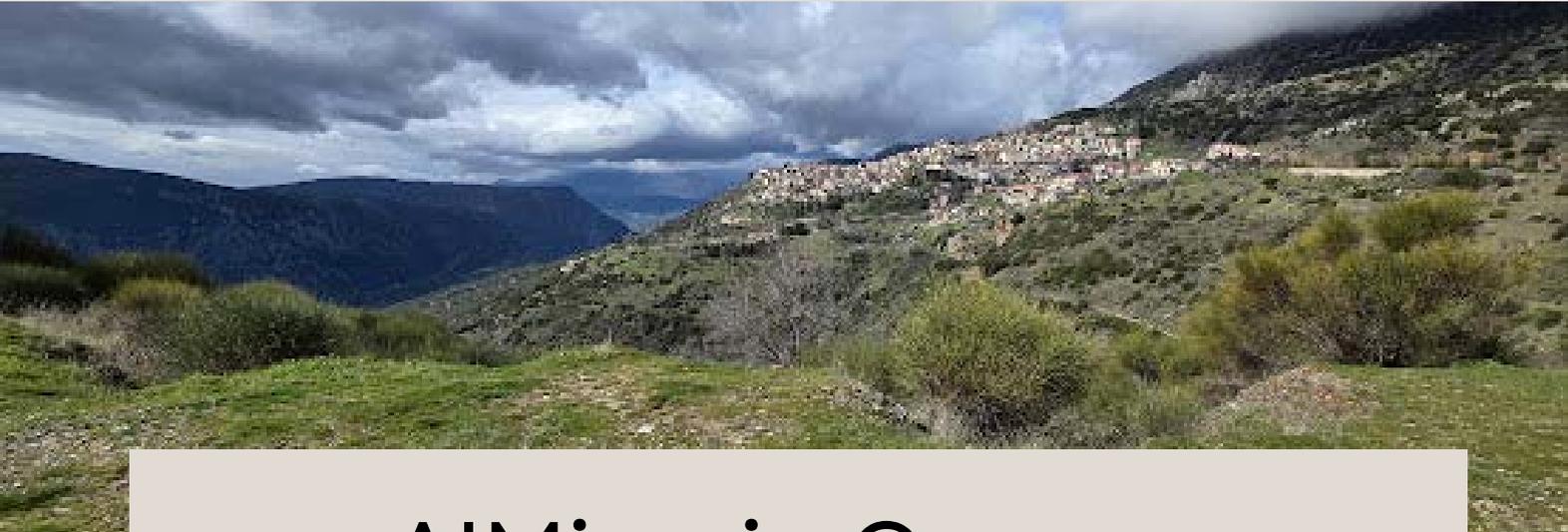


# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



## ALMing in Greece

A LOOK INTO: MONTH ONE

### Introduction



They say that Athens is a city of ancient echoes, where every marble pillar tells a story of the past. But as I sit here writing this, my heart isn't turned toward the ruins—it's full of the faces of the people who are becoming my friends- My family. I'm starting to see the stories of the future.

From the quiet, tear and laughter-filled conversations over coffee with a new friend, to the exuberant praise of our youth who traveled across a continent just to feel the fire of God at a conference in Norway.

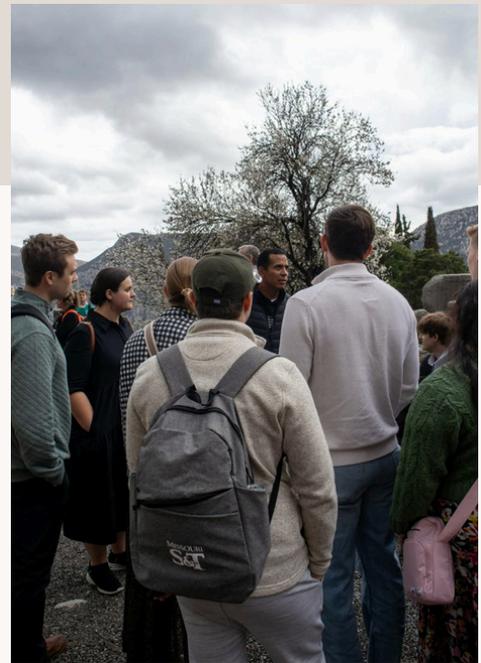
I am seeing a new history being written in Greece. It is a story not of cold stone, but of warm hearts, and a growing hunger for The Voice of God that is louder than the world around us.



## Athens to Oslo

The beginning of my trip took an unexpected turn just one week in. A "last-minute" door swung wide open for us to go with several of our local youth to the Breaking the Chains Youth Conference in Oslo, Norway.

The atmosphere in Oslo was incredible. Watching our youth connect with hundreds of other young believers across Europe was a powerful reminder that they are not alone in their faith. They returned to Athens with a renewed fire and a deeper burden for their own city, arriving just in time for us to host our own National Conference, and for the youth to continue planning their own upcoming Youth Conference here in Athens- Ignite.



## Exploring Ancient Ruins with new friends

We were incredibly blessed by a visiting team of 16 from Missouri.

Their hearts for service were evident as they ministered to our local congregations and encouraged our church leaders during a special leadership dinner.

They were also kind enough to welcome me along as they explored the Biblical roots of Greece.

We stood on Mars Hill where Paul once addressed the Areopagus, and visited the heights of the Acropolis, Delphi, and Sounio. However, my personal favorite was Ancient Corinth. Walking through the ruins of the city where Paul spent eighteen months, I was struck by the reality of the endurance of God's word. There was a calm- a beauty in the silence while walking through the ruins. .

# Exploring Ancient Ruins (cont.)

To be able to connect through conversations, and prayers while walking the very streets that Paul walked and shared the word of God will forever be impactful to me. Standing on the heights of Mars Hill, looking out, and praying over a city that has searched for Truth for thousands of years, and knowing there is a local body who has a heart to share the word, and Love of Christ with all that they encounter, is a true blessing.



MY LITTLE VALENTINE JUDAH

## Coffee & Conversations

While the conferences have been life-changing, some of my most cherished moments have happened across small café tables over double cappuccinos. I have been able to connect with a young woman named Maria.

We have met for lunch, and coffee on several different occasions, and our time together has been a beautiful space for vulnerability and growth. We've had great conversations about our futures, our families, and most importantly, our relationship with God. Being able to walk alongside her and share life in this way is exactly why I felt called to come here. As beautiful as this country is, my favorite way to connect is to create lasting friendships and relationships with those I meet. The true beauty is in the people.

# Ladies Conference

During our Ladies' conference, I was blessed to have the opportunity to speak on the power of prayer and hearing God's voice. I am praying that I continue to grow and find my voice in this way. I have been praying that I would be stretched in my ministries, and grow in whatever capacity God needs me to grow in.

God's provision was also on display through the owners of MOD Lifewear, who generously donated several MOD athletic skirts for the ladies of Athens to enjoy. Along with other clothing, we were able to bless the women of the church with some gently loved clothes.

Seeing their faces light up as they "shopped" their items was a reminder to always be grateful.



This being my second time in Greece, I knew that I already loved so many different things here. But I am not typically a "City Girl", there are many different challenges when moving to a city as big as Athens. But I have truly found a "home" in the middle of the this big, and populated city. Through the last minute flight to a youth conference in Norway, to walks through Corinth, and the dinners with the church, God has been doing a work in me, that I am praying will lead to Him working through me. I am busy in ministries, but my heart is full of the names and stories of people like Maria, her family, and the Moreno family as they all navigate the changes and current challenges going on here in Greece. This isn't just a newsletter to me, but a piece of my heart that will stay right here in the center of Athens, and I hope I can show that through what I have written.

With Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Janet'.