

The Stream Team (from Scott in Athens)

Feb. 2012

Dear Praying Friends,

I mentioned a couple days ago some exciting news to share with you. NO, we are NOT pregnant again! :)

However, a new team is being "birthed" in Athens! We are calling it "The Stream Team", and it will be a ministry team that is FOCUSED on teaching.

If you would like to learn more, you can read the attached documents. The SHORTER one is the PDF brochure. The LONGER one with more explanation and detail is the Word document entitled "StreamTeamSandbox".

We are STILL with International Teams, and any financial investments made on our behalf can still be made the same way. (NO CHANGES are necessary from your end).

Although we are no longer on the Helping Hands team, we are still good friends and have good relationships with everyone on that team. If you are making regular (or irregular) investments in the specific Helping Hands ministry, we encourage you to continue. It is a team of great people, with great leadership, that God is using in great ways to reach refugees for Him.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask and we will do our best to provide clear answers.

Thank you for your prayers on our behalf as seek to disciple the nations through Athens.

Grateful for you,

Scott & Vicki

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[Video Promo for book
"Kingdom Beyond Borders"](#)
[Family/Ministry Website](#)
[Ellie's Blog](#)
[Refugee Testimonies](#)

The "Stream" Team

Athens, Greece
January 2012

The **NAME**: **The Stream Team** (from the verse **Isaiah 43:19**, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and **streams** in the wasteland.")

The dictionary says that "stream" can be a noun or a verb.

As a **noun** it means: *a small narrow river*

As a **verb** it means: *to run or flow in a continuous current in a specified direction*

In the Bible, water, rivers, springs, wells, often represent the Holy Spirit or the Word of God. (2 examples: John 7:37-39 and Ephesians 5:25-26) This team will value and commit to teaching the Word by the Spirit. Our desire is to see this teaching flow among the nations through Athens, cleansing, refreshing, and bringing life.

Movement/current and direction are an important part of our focus on practical discipleship (the current) for refugees/immigrants (the direction).

Spiritual...***practical discipleship*** from God's Word

Teaching (for)...1-on-1, sermons, Bible studies, seminars, retreats, conferences

Refugees...asylum-seekers who are passing through or planning to stay in Greece

Emigrants...those who have left their home country to live here and/or who are leaving here to go live in a third country

And

Migrants...those who left their home country to live here temporarily with the intention of returning to their native land (all these terms are used "loosely" and interchangeably for our purposes)

Training...teaching for the purpose of DOING; practical and transferable

Education...teaching that goes beyond the basics of what is already known; communicating personally and creatively; constantly educating ourselves

Athens and Beyond...focusing on those in Athens; assisting those who have moved on (personally encouraging them; helping teach their new churches/fellowships; etc.)

Multiplication...ALWAYS encouraging those we reach and teach to reach and teach others; doing what we can to help make transference as simple as possible; developing a mindset, equipping with tools to help multiply the ministry

Isaiah 43:19, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and **streams** in the wasteland."

* **"...a new thing..."** --a new team, teaching of a new quality and new quantity for the immigrant church in Athens, new movement of God among the nations through Athens

* **"Now..."** --NOW is the time

* **"...it springs up..."** --we are a Spirit-led, Spirit-dependent, Spirit-filled team; HE is the Teacher and we are His vessels

* **"...making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland"** --filling a need; bringing the life-giving Word of God to those who are thirsty for it

Purpose: to help refugees and immigrants grow in Christ so they can effectively impact others for Him.

"Purpose" explained:

"help"—we will not do everything; we will not replace the local church; we will support and supplement the local church; we will be one among others; we will help by educating, encouraging, and equipping...

"refugees and immigrants"—we are not using these words according to their strictest definitions but to refer to people who have in some ways had real or "felt" needs to uproot from their home countries and move to Greece (a la "the foreigner" of Lev. 19:33-34)

“grow in Christ”—here we have in mind Ephesians 4:12-16 and Colossians 2:6-10 (basic discipleship for new believers, deeper discipleship for growing believers, marriage and parenting, multiplication and leadership, etc.)

“so they can effectively impact others for Him”—here we have in mind 2 Timothy 2:2; making disciple-makers and teaching training for teachers

Mission: *to provide quality Biblical teaching to leaders in immigrant churches, in Athens and beyond.*

“Mission” explained:

“to provide”—through one-on-one discipleship relationships, sermons, small group Bible studies, seminars, retreats, and conferences

“quality Biblical teaching”—in both content and format, principles of Kingdom living that are communicated clearly, creatively, and with cultural sensitivity, taught in such a way as to instruct, inspire, and impact.

“to leaders”—people of *influence*, men and women, in (or not in) “official” POSITIONS of leadership; *hungry* for the Word, faithful, available, teachable, influencing others

“in immigrant churches”--refugees, immigrants, migrants; both official churches and unofficial fellowships, whether existing independently or under the umbrella of a national (or international) church, denominational or non-denominational

“in Athens and beyond”—focused in Athens but including refugees/immigrants who have moved on to other countries and started Bible studies, fellowships, and/or churches (or simply need encouragement and nourishment for themselves)

Vision: *that every immigrant church in Athens (and beyond) would receive, apply, and share with others quality Biblical teaching about practical discipleship*

“Vision” explained:

“every immigrant church”—refugees, immigrants, migrants; both official churches and unofficial fellowships, whether existing independently or under the umbrella of

a national (or international) church, denominational or non-denominational; **all 60+**

“in Athens (and beyond)”—beginning in Athens and extending to other parts of Greece; also including refugees who have moved on from Athens to other countries and have started small groups, fellowships, or churches abroad

“would receive”—would give us (or others) the opportunity to teach and train them in small group and/or large group contexts

“apply”—if we do not significantly encourage, inspire, and motivate others to live out what we are teaching, we will not consider this ministry “successful”

“and share with others”—both the content and format of our teaching needs to emphasize the value of passing on to others what they have received (making disciples/multiplication)

“quality Biblical teaching”—principles of Kingdom living that are communicated clearly, creatively, and with cultural sensitivity, taught in such a way as to instruct, inspire, and impact.

“about practical discipleship”—teachings of Christ that emphasize WHO we are in Him AND HOW WE LIVE out life in the way of the Kingdom by deepening our RELATIONSHIP with Him (“abiding”); includes topics from “Identity in Christ” to “Prayer”, from “Fellowshipping with other Believers” to “Spiritual Warfare”, from “Fruit of the Spirit” to “Overcoming Temptation”, from “Lifestyle Evangelism” to “Developing a Listening Heart”, from “Spiritual Disciplines” to “Spiritual Gifts”, from “Marriage and the Family” to “Spiritual Leadership and Multiplication”, from “Being A Student of the Word” to “Being a Teacher of the Word”; (we have in mind here Jesus’ words in Matthew 28:20)

CORE VALUES/GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. Unity in Diversity (methods, nationalities, subjects, denominations, etc.)

- pray as a team, learn as a team, prepare as a team, teach as a team
- team members who embrace each other’s differences while focusing on glorifying God through our common mission

2. FOCUS

- teaching, teaching, teaching

3. Individual discipleship relationships

- personal discipleship, doing life with refugees and ethnic minorities

4. Initiative in bridge-building

--catalysts of unity, not division (personally and corporately)

5. Serving the local church (individually and corporately)

- everyone an ACTIVE member of a local church
- teaching opportunities submitted to local leadership

6. Lifelong Learning mindset

- RECEIVING continual training through corporate studies, DVD curriculum, special seminars, discussing articles, etc.
- requesting feedback from those we teach
- learning from refugees and ethnic minorities

7. Clear and Creative Communication

- Theoretical AND Practical (TAP)
- Simple and Significant (SAS)
- Personal AND Transferable (PAT)
- Monologue AND Dialogue (MAD)

8. Multiplication

- Leaders
- Families
- Groups
- “Shadows”

Good equippers do it like Jesus did: recruit hundreds, develop seventy, choose twelve, graduate eleven and focus on three: the simplicity of a few.

9. Personal application

- ONLY teach what we ARE LIVING out in our life

10. Healthy relationships in community (with God, family, team, others)

- effective ministry will flow out of healthy relationships with God and team
- the best discipleship takes place in the context of community

PREFERRED Team CULTURE: (culture of GROWTH)

GROWING Relationship (with Christ, Family, Team, Church, Others)

GROWING Character (Who we are and Why we do what we do)

GROWING Service (What we do and How we do it)

GROWING Impact (Who we impact and where it extends; intentional and strategic)

Job Profile: People with the gift, passion, and ability to teach (specific and/or general subjects); people able to work well with others; people who want to be focused; people who communicate well across other cultures

This “Teaching and Training” (TAT) team will:

* consist of a **diverse group of teachers** (full-time, part-time, long-term, short-term, regular, occasional and one-off, locally and from abroad, Americans, Greeks, refugees and immigrants, men and women, pastors/teachers/evangelists/prophets/apostles and lay leaders)

* teach and train refugees (and churches/ministries which minister to refugees) a **diversity of subjects** (marriage and parenting, basic discipleship, deeper discipleship, leadership development)

* use **diverse methods** (Bible studies, seminars, retreats, conferences, outreach events, home groups, internet, etc.)

LEVELS OF COMMITMENT...

* **Full-time: 35-45 hours/week;** International Teams or non-International Teams; holding sacred and participating in all Team Meetings (1x/week), all Team Fellowships (2x/month), all Prayer Days (1x/month), individual monthly meetings with the Team Leader (for the purpose of problem-solving, praying together, planning/goal-setting, and accountability), Team Retreats (2x/year), team planning, decision-making, corporate learning opportunities, outings, etc.; the 35-45 hours/week includes all team meetings, preparation time, meetings with churches/ministries, communication with supporters, and any reporting that needs to be done to the national organization (I.T. or non-I.T.), and any other commitments (i.e., conferences, time with visiting leadership, etc.)

* **Part-time: 15-25 hours/week;** non-I.T. people who have another “job” or are with another ministry and have other priority commitments but wants to contribute teaching gifts to this team’s ministry. Specific scheduling and commitments to the rest of the team need to be worked out with the Team Leader on a case-by-case basis, but priority should be given to the weekly Team Meetings and bi-monthly Team Fellowships in order for a sense of “community” to be better experienced.

* **On-call:** this is someone (locally) with a teaching gift who likes what we are doing but is not able to commit to any specific activity or time frame, and says, “If you need someone to help, give me a call and I will help if I can.”

* **Special Teams/Assignment:** special teams of TEACHERS (or individual teachers) will definitely be appreciated and mobilized when possible; teams may sometimes include support people (for example, those who wish to serve in child-care at a conference for married couples, or those who want to cook for a discipleship retreat); they will come for a short period of time and then leave

Hopes, Dreams, Ideas

- Offer **basic** discipleship classes for new believers
- Offer baptism **classes**
- Offer **deeper** discipleship classes for older believers
- Offer **leadership** classes
- Hold **seminars, conferences, retreats**
- **Internet, radio, TV, video, magazine**
- Act as a catalyst for **joint** efforts at evangelism
- Act as a catalyst for **unity and support** in the refugee community
- Hold “**Teacher Training**” classes for local churches, fellowships, and others
- Develop curriculum useful in Bible Schools and churches about reaching refugees with God’s love
- **Marriage, family, parenting**