

"Earthquakes In Diverse Places!"

Lessons learned during Athens Earthquake!—Be Prepared!!

From Asher Thanksgiving:
ON THE NIGHT OF FEB. 24 ATHENS & THE SURROUNDING AREA WERE HIT WITH A SERIES OF EARTHQUAKES causing extensive damage & killing 16 people. We would like to share what happened to us on that night & the following days. We hope that the lessons we learned will help you to be better prepared for any such emergency. As Dad says in "Fleebag", "I think it's certainly better to have this preparation & not need it, than to need it & not have it" (No. 386:78).

FEB. 24TH, 11:00 P.M.: THE EARTHQUAKE HITS! My wife Lydia & I were visiting another family at their home. At first there was an eerie sound almost like a train passing by, & the house started to shake. Our first thought was that a large truck was going by at a very high speed. But then within a matter of seconds things were rumbling, the entire house started swaying, & we knew it was an earthquake.

WE IMMEDIATELY JOINED HANDS & REBUKED THE DEVIL & prayed desperately for the Lord to protect us. We were too shocked to move. The thing that shocked us so much was how suddenly it happened & just how powerful it was & how little time we had to respond. The entire thing lasted only about 20-25 seconds, but within those few seconds millions of dollars worth of damage was done & 16 people died. Thank God for His mercy that it wasn't just a little stronger, or God only knows how much more damage would have been done!

WE IMMEDIATELY LEFT TO RETURN HOME. All along the way we saw that people had evacuated their houses & apartments & were huddled around fires in fields or in their automo-



Asher, Job & their children outside the house at our overnight refuge camp—9 adults & 10 children at its peak, all "dwelling in the secret place of the Most High"! Photo by Zeph.

biles just waiting to see what was going to happen next.

WHEN WE GOT HOME THE REST OF OUR HOUSEHOLD WERE IN THE FIELD next to our house & they had put the children to sleep in Job & Charan's caravan, camping outside our house. We got the full details of the quake from our neighbour who was also setting up camp in the field, & we then decided to spend the night in our vans in the field. Thank God we did!

"In an earthquake, usually outside in the open somewhere away from any buildings in the garden, yard or fields is best" (No. 386:72). That night there were over 180 small tremors & one large tremor measuring 6.3 at 3 a.m. This quake rocked our van like a small boat on the sea, & we thanked God we weren't in the house.

FEB. 25TH: WE DECIDED TO STAY OUTSIDE so we pitched our tent, set up our van & only went into the house to get necessary food, water & clothing to live outside. The entire experience was one continual lesson, it seemed, in how unprepared

we were for such things. TG did have a tent & survival food & water prepared, but we learned that we should have had at least some stored in our van in case we couldn't get it out of the house in time. Also, we didn't have our fleebags packed. "What if it looks like an emergency that's going to last a while or even one day where you're going to have to stay out in the yard all day or two or three days?" (No. 386:83.)

JOB & I HAD TO GO TO ONE OF THE SMALL TOWNS outside the city that day, & the road all the way was full of thousands of cars & families living in fields & sleeping in tents or driving in their vehicles, anything they could do to get out of the city. "A city is the most dangerous place in the world to be in any kind of a disaster" (No. 386:87).

FEB. 27TH - MARCH 1ST: ON THE NIGHT OF THE 27TH WE MOVED BACK INTO OUR HOUSE but kept our tent & van ready in the field, the doors of the house unlocked & our fleebags by the door. Then at 7 p.m.

on Saturday, the 28th, another large tremor (5.2) hit, & another of 5.1 came at 9 a.m. the next morning. So we saw that as Dad says, "It pays to be prepared to leave at a moment's notice—pick up your little fleebag & go!" (No. 386:79.) And "It would be a good idea for you to go thru a fire drill & see how fast you can do all that" (par. 64). It seems like in the past two weeks we've had a crash course in getting out of the house in seconds!

AFTER A FEW DAYS THINGS STARTED GOING BACK TO "NORMAL" & having small tremors became a part of everyday life. The papers were full of reasons why the quake happened & also why it would not happen again, trying to get the people to let down their guards & return to work in the city.

MARCH 3RD: DESPITE ALL THEIR PROMISES GOD WAS NOT THROUGH, & another quake of 6.1 struck doing more extensive damage & killing 4 people. By this time it was clear that no one was sure what was going to happen.

MARCH 6TH & 7TH: WE PRINTED 10,000 COPIES OF "EARTHQUAKE" TK from FC Komix No. 1, & on the 7th almost all the Homes in the Athens area passed them out. Reactions to this message were very interesting—either hot or cold. People who knew us & liked us or were interested in what we had to say hungrily grabbed the Letters & wanted to hear God's counsel. But those who seemed to know us & didn't want to hear what we had to say were colder & harder than we had ever seen them. It just seemed to really divide the people.

THAT VERY AFTERNOON ANOTHER TREMOR OF 5.2 HIT around the same area. TG for the Letters we had distributed! We're sure the people who read it really paid attention to its counsel. That day was the begin-



Asher setting up tent after the first earthquake. You can see their Greek neighbours' tent in the background.—Buy supplies now before an emergency makes them unavailable!



Traffic leaving the city, blocked for kilometers! Photo by Asher.

ning of a long holiday weekend & the main roads out of the city were backed up as far as 8 km. in some places.

WE TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PASS OUT ANOTHER 1,000 COPIES OF "EARTHQUAKE" to carloads of people who eagerly received & read them. The gas stations were all packed, & we saw how in a time of emergency a little thing like having a full tank of gas could even save your life! "My policy with gasoline is that it is no cheaper to run on an empty tank than it is to run on a full tank. I never let a tank go below the halfway mark. Fill it up again. You never know when the station might be closed or you might have a long drive you didn't expect." (No. 851:6)

IT'S BEEN A WEEK NOW SINCE THE LAST MAJOR TREMOR, but we're still on our guard & we pray the worst is over. Thru' the whole thing we realised

how blessed we are with all the counsel & preparation Dad has given us & we thank God for his faithfulness to deliver his soul to us. We realised that the main thing was to really be prepared. Thank God for His protection! "There is no place absolutely safe as far as an earthquake is concerned except for the Lord" (No. 386:80). "Yea in the shadow of His wings will I make my refuge, till this calamity be overpast" (Psalm 57:1). PTL! **IN CLOSING WE'D LIKE TO MENTION** that it's best to buy things like tents or caravans now before such things happen. During the earthquake here the price of tents & small caravans doubled over a period of days & within a week almost all such items had been bought up. GBY all! We love you & pray that our lessons here will be a help to you! —Asher Thanksgiving.

The Judgments of God!

—On the selfish rich for hindering His Work & refusing to help His children!

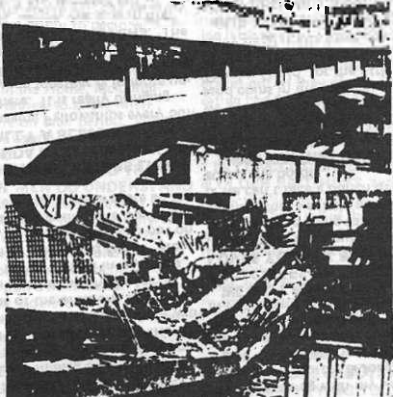
From Matteo Chisuotte; Indonesia:

I WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO A FAMOUS RESTAURANT HERE. About 8 months ago another Italian brother & myself decided to provision some European food after witnessing. We went to the Imperial Restaurant & talked to the manager who said to come back later. He said he was a Christian Protestant.

BUT WHEN WE RETURNED, NO ONE HELPED US. The manager had gone without leaving any message. So, with empty stomachs & a little upset with the manager, we went to a small local restaurant where the Lord provided our needs.

LATER IN NOV. 1980 WE WERE AT OUR FAVOURITE LITNESSING SPOT in front of this restaurant & classy movie theatre when we were suddenly driven away by the doorman who works for these establishments. We prayed the Lord to judge them for hindering His Work. And His judgment fell three months later—WHAM!

What power the Lord has! When we read the newspaper, we were astonished at the Lord's work.



Indonesian news photo: The Imperial Restaurant on the bridge collapsed to the ground at 9 p.m. Saturday. The first signs of the impending collapse were first evident at about noon when the central section of the bridge began sagging, while cracks started to appear in the walls of the restaurant. Upper photo shows the central part of the bridge starting to sag, & the entire bridge collapsed to the ground at about 9 p.m. (lower photo).

ing. Prayer is powerful & changes things. Whew! All Glory to Him! Love, Matteo.

Teen Scene!
Youth with a Purpose! Youth with a Goal!—Goin' for Jesus with love in their soul!

Shuly relaxing! (The umbrella is for protection from the hot tropical sun!)

Why I am a Rebel
I see you bound in pain & dark sorrow
Brooding on memories, dreading tomorrow.
Your eyelids are heavy & so is your heart
How quickly your hopes & desires depart!
Tell me, if there's no more reason in living
Why don't mothers tire of giving?
Why are the happiest those who give their all?
Life: Tapestry of small joys of God's quiet call.
They say, "Be modern! We're in the age of space,
Technology, degrees—you must join the rat race!
The world's evolving & so must I."
Then tell me, why wars? why do people still die?
They say I should climb the stair of success,
Then why do many "great" people make such a mess?
You want my goal to be this crooked way?
—The superficiality & horror of the world today!
I'd rather be "crazy" & truly fulfilled!
Just because "everyone's" in it
Doesn't mean it's my world!
I'd rather be different & do what is right
And I'll be free from tradition
That traps you in the night. (GBY, Sweetheart! ILY! D.)

My Friend
My Lord & I are going to chat
My Lord and I.
For me
The marvels of His universe he unfolds
For Him
I give the little secrets of my soul.
My Lord & I are best of friends
I live on the precious love He sends
And give my heartbreaks for Him to mend
My Lord & I are friends.
All I can give is my loyalty
My hopes
My dreams, sincerely.
Know that small as I am
I'll always be His little lamb
Who'll never leave the Shepherd's side
And in the light of His love abide.
So when my Lord & I go for a walk
We talk & talk.
And passers-by must wonder why
I smile just so
You see, they don't know
That altho' my Friend they cannot see
He's really all in life to me!

CALLING ALL TEENS! Got a testimony, tip, photo, artwork, idea?—Here's your chance to SHARE IT! Send it today to TEEN SCENE c/o the FNI! (See Want Ads Page for address!)

Tips On Teaching English!

From Paul Poet; India:

WHEN IN THAILAND I APPLIED AT A FEW LANGUAGE SCHOOLS & they all wanted to hire me. But realising the vacuum for English teachers, I prayed about it & decided to stay private & self-employed because 1) I could design my own curriculum, & 2) I could get twice as much salary per hour.

SO I PUT AN AD IN THE LOCAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER. For this you need a telephone or answering service available. I didn't feel qualified to teach beginning English as I knew no Thai, so I figured that

to read the ad they'd have to already know at least a little bit of English.

I ADVERTISED FOR ENGLISH "CONVERSATIONAL" CLASSES. That way the whole class is simply a discussion, & I can choose the subject. I designed a whole series of classes from the Mo Letters, avoiding in the text blatant preaching as I could work that into the discussion later. I chose 4 or 5 simple sentences from Letters like "Happy Endings", "Musical Key", "Squeeze Don't Jerk" etc. & then put a list of questions for discussion at the end. That way

it was a witness & support at the same time & sometimes led to salvations!

IN INDONESIA I WAS ON A ROAD TEAM with another brother. When we went DTD, for a "foot in the door" we'd say we were English tutors looking for students. Within the first dozen houses in the wealthier neighbourhood we had two steady students, one of whom was the wife of the police chief. So you can also find your private students while going DTD. Hope this is a help! Love, Paul Poet.

(PTL! GBY! Great idea!—D.)