

LOVING^{the} OVERLOOKED

Athens, Greece

August 2009

<http://lovingtheoverlooked.com>



Athens - hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants



Sofia - 19 months

ONE STORY AMONG THOUSANDS

“P” was born in Lebanon. His father had fled **Sudan** after his village was destroyed in the *civil war*. P’s parents wanted the best for their son, so - soon after P’s birth - they decided to journey into Europe.

P’s parents gathered together their belongings, however meager, and travelled through Turkey and into Greece. P was only **18 months** old when his family illegally crossed the border into Europe.

Exhausted and broke, P’s family found themselves in Greece with few *options* and little *hope*. This was **not** the Europe that they had imagined.

P’s father found work, but only intermittently. Life was difficult, but - with the help of charities - P’s parents were finding ways to *survive*. P’s family became regulars at our ministry center.

In this midst of this hardship, however, P’s mother **disappeared**. It’s unclear exactly what happened:

some say that she ran off with another man, others contend that she was abducted into slavery (as a prostitute or house worker).

It has been four months since anyone has seen P’s mother. Quite understandably, P’s father is **overwhelmed**: Because he alone is left to care for his 2 year old son, he can’t go out to find work; and since he has no money, he cannot find the childcare that he desperately needs. *This hopeless cycle leads quickly to despair.*

ONE STORY ABOVE ALL

Our call is to speak and live out the **hope of Christ** in the midst of such pain and despair. Tired clichés and “bumper-sticker Christianity” don’t carry much weight here. Practical *sacrifice* and abiding *love*, however, speak loudly of the hope which is ours in Christ Jesus. Please **pray** that this hope would be a tangible reality in the lives of P and his father.

“...let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of **faith** and **love**, and for a helmet the **hope** of salvation”

1 Thess. 5:8

BY GOD’S GRACE

We treasure your continued *prayers*, *support*, and *love*! Thank you for allowing us to serve God here - to share the **faith**, **love**, and **hope** that are ours in Christ Jesus with P’s family and so many others!

The Sanners