The Best Kept Secret
The Story of a Semester Abroad in Greece by Dr. Terry L. Edwards

It was decided that it was time to make public one of the best kept secrets of Faulkner University. I was chosen because I have just returned from a most amazing journey with a happy band of Faulkner students. We were privileged to “hide out” for the spring of 2012 over 5,000 miles away from Montgomery in a village on the coast of the intriguing land of the Greeks. We left Alabama in January. Eleven plane rides later, weary and yet fascinated by thousands of kilometers of travel by train and bus, amazed by sea voyages in the Mediterranean and the Sea of Galilee, having visited over 10 countries of Europe and the Middle East, we have a story to tell. It is the story of a Semester Abroad.

Faulkner University began offering this amazing opportunity to its student body in 2005, and these programs have operated out of London, Tuscaloosa, and now Greece. There are two days in the life of a field director which are very special: the day the Study Abroad participants meet at the airport to begin the journey and the day when they all reunite with families at the same airport at the end of it all. It is impressions, thoughts collected on such days, that I would like to share.

A new group is gathering today in Atlanta to fly via Lufthansa Airlines to Frankfurt on our way to Athens, Greece. Their faces are excited and scared because they are anticipating the adventure, yet leery of leaving the familiar (their cars, their beds, their food, their language).

I know that welcoming faces await us in the grey-marbled Arrival lobby of the E. Venizelos airport, and I am hoping they are able Soar

Baptistry in the Basilica of St. John

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The Best Kept Secret cont..

Once you’ve entered Gordon’s Garden tomb in Jerusalem, you fully understand why the central tenet of early followers of the Way was the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are landing in Atlanta in 10 minutes. It was the incredible journey I wished for them. We all grew during our miles on the road in Europe and the Middle East. The students are exhausted, but a mixture of joy and melancholy has set in. I hear them say they will be happy to be home but sad that the journey is over. They could not seem to rest before our early morning departure for the US, as if they wanted to squeeze out every last memory of their days in Greece. By God’s grace we never had any lasting sickness, or lost luggage or missed planes. Visiting the “Shrine of the Book” in Jerusalem and seeing the scroll of Isaiah from the 2nd century BC was a critical moment. Baptizing into Christ one of our own in the Sea of Galilee has to be the highlight of the entire Semester Abroad, but so is “breaking bread” on the Lord’s Day in Nazareth on the hill from which He escaped those who were rejecting Him.

Witnessing a Catholic mass in the Church of St. Augustine in Rome, climbing up to Mt. Tabor, Qumran and Mt. Hermon in Israel, and seeing the Parthenon. Once you’ve stood on Mars Hill, you never read Paul’s speech to the Athenians in Acts 17 again without envisioning the immense courage that it took to speak out as he did in the shadow of the Parthenon. Once you have been in a small boat on the Sea of Galilee, you cannot sing “Master, The Tempest Is Raging” without a knot in your throat.

A Team Player

We are excited to announce that Dr. David Warren has joined the Bible faculty as a full-time professor. Dr. Warren brings both academic and practical expertise to the classroom. Dr. Warren received his doctorate (Th.D.) from Harvard Divinity School.

tdwarren@faulkner.edu.

A Semester in Greece

The China Connection

How can technology facilitate evangelism? Ask Professor Don Myers. He recently returned from a mission trip to China where he taught and preached about Christ and His church to many Chinese students whom he has been studying the Bible each week via Skype™. As a result of Myers’ efforts, more Bible studies have been initiated. Don Myers can be reached at dmyers@faulkner.edu.

Dr. Terry L. Edwards (tedwards@faulkner.edu)