

"The farmer sows the Word of God... Some seeds fall into good soil and produce grain, growing & increasing, yielding 30, 60, or 100x what was sown!" (Jesus' Parable of the Sower)

2023 WBC Greece "O.J." GO Team



"Operation Joshua" is Hellenic Ministries' 10-year project to distribute 1.5 million New Testaments in modern Greek language throughout this key European nation. This July, O.J. aims to complete the project, delivering packets to over 150,000 homes in villages north of Athens. WBC's MissionsFest Giving Project supported Hellenic Ministries with \$30,000 toward purchasing New Testaments... but we want to participate with our hands & feet as well, sending a vibrant team from our church to join in this remarkable outreach. (Our time in Greece will also include visits to Athens and to ancient Corinth.) Would you consider joining us?

WHAT: distribution of New Testaments packets to village households in Greece **WHEN:** June 30-July 11, 2023 **WHERE:** near Athens
WHO: WBC members of all ages (men, women, & families) alongside hundreds of volunteers from dozens of nations under the leadership of Hellenic Ministries. Our GO Team will be led by Pastor of Global Outreach Bill Oberlin as we support WBC missionary Johnathan Macris.
WHY: Greece is a nation where the gospel flourished in the early centuries of the church – but among whom now less than 1% of Greeks claim a transforming faith in Christ. Few Greeks attend worship, have a Bible in their home, or have ever read or heard the Word of God in modern Greek language. Operation Joshua is aimed at changing that... in service, fellowship, & worship together with fellow-believers.
HOW: Volunteers will be apportioned to 4 regions north of Athens, with dozens of smaller teams distributing N.T. packets to homes. O.J. "sows the seed" of God's Word among these villages, laying the foundation for further cultivation, watering, growth, & fruit.

FAQs:

Will we have any training or preparation? Yes! Our WBC team will meet 3-4 times throughout the spring / early summer to get acquainted, for team-building, and to take part in cultural & missional preparation in advance of our July trip. Our daily schedule in Greece will also include sessions of practical guidance as well as for debriefing daily experiences & sharing ideas.

What will our schedule look like? Departing Friday, June 30th & arriving Saturday in Greece... unwind & join all O.J. participants in worship Sunday before proceeding to regional locations. Monday through Friday: enjoy breakfast & devotions; head out for distribution with lunch in local cafes; return afternoons for debrief, dinner, & evening worship gatherings. Saturday July 9th we'll all come together for the final O.J. celebration. Sunday & Monday will be WBC team times to visit Athens & ancient Corinth, returning home Tuesday, July 11th.

Where will we stay? At modest but comfortable hotels near the villages we'll be visiting. Camping options may be available for those who prefer them.

How much does the trip cost? We are planning \$3,000 per person (incl. airfare, accommodations, food, & special activities). We can offer discounted costs for families. NOTE: Most GO Team participants who share their trip plans with family, friends, & fellow church members find that others are eager to become prayer partners and help with financial support (typically covering the trip cost among GO Team members). Our Global staff will give you guidance in this process. *** Please note you will need a current U.S. passport with at least 6 months remaining. ***

When is my application due? By Sunday, March 12th – although we'd love to hear from you *earlier* if you are interested in this opportunity! (The early application date helps us take advantage of substantially lower airfare costs.)

Are there any special qualifications? Ability to walk distances of 2 to 3 miles per day in summer weather, an open & flexible team spirit, and a willingness to pray for & lift up others. Contact Pastor Bill Oberlin (see below) for an application.

What if I have other questions? That's good – contact Pastor Bill (630.723.7128 / boberlin@wheatonbible.org) and let's explore it further! For further info, see <https://hellenicministries.org/operationjoshua/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1QinAYEYak>