



PRAYING OUR WAY IN ATHENS

WRITTEN BY PETER AND ANNA CRAWFORD



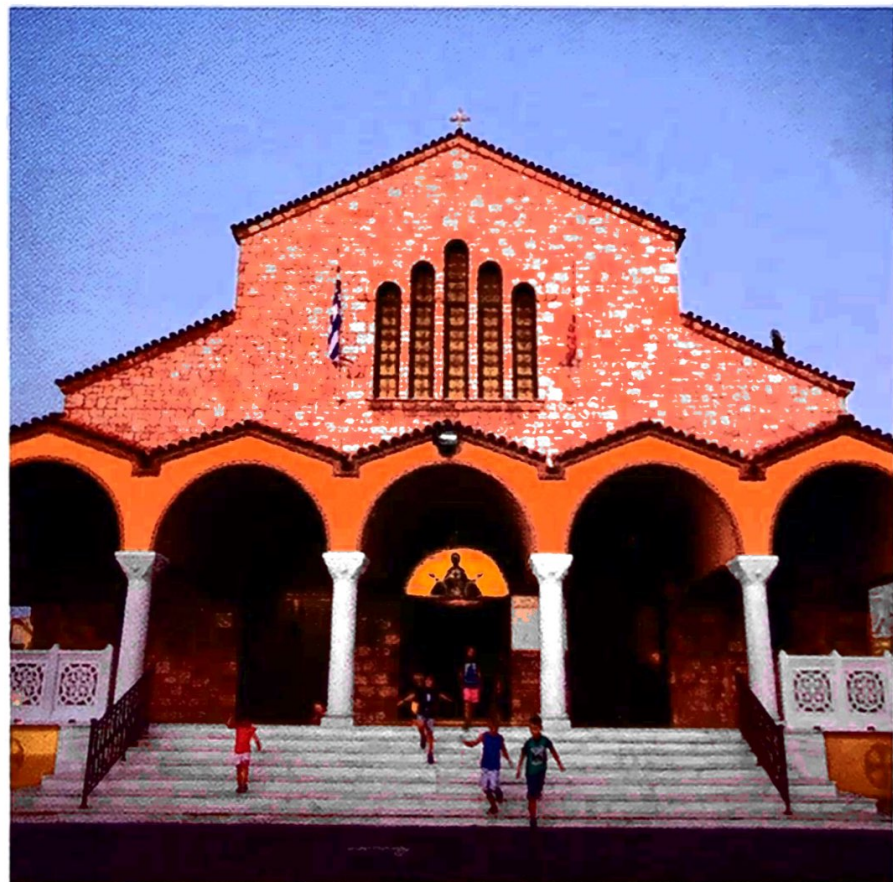
Peter and Anna Crawford worked in Lisbon, Portugal for 13 years and in July 2020, they moved to Athens, Greece.


When we first arrived in Lisbon to be part of a new church plant, we planned a prayer walk around the area we were living in, and invited friends to join us. We decided that we should do the same for our new local area in Greece. Come along with us...

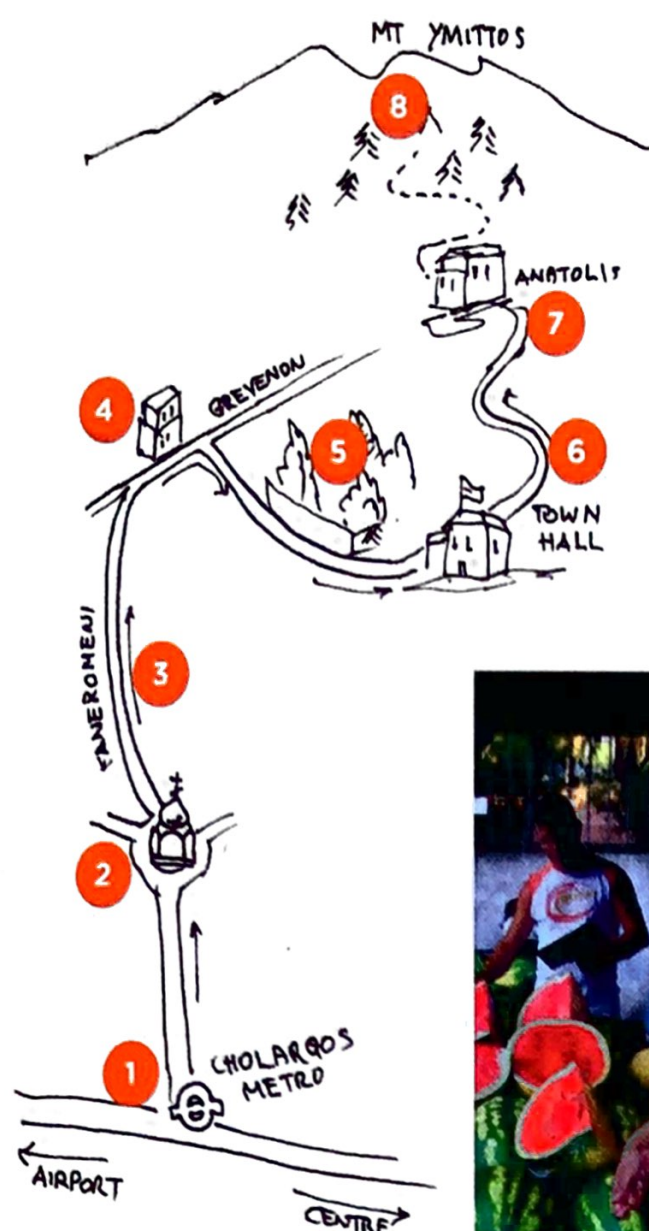
1. Step out of Cholargos Metro station (20 mins from Athens centre) into the commercial bustle of Mesageion Avenue, one of the main arteries out of the city toward the Airport and the Aegean coast.

 Pray for the economy of our city, having just recovered from the economic crisis, and now reeling from the effects of the pandemic.

2. Walk up Faneromeni into the suburb of Cholargos, stopping next at the impressive Greek Orthodox Church, set in the middle of a large roundabout. In an increasingly secular Greece, the church still dominates the life and culture of the community.



 Pray for our engagement with local residents and openings in conversations to talk about Jesus.



3. Faneromeni hosts the weekly “Laiki” (country market, which is typically found all over Greece). Coming here on Mondays, we have had our first interactions in Greek - ‘how much?’ ‘what are those called?’ all while trying to remember our numbers.



Pray that our communication in Greek would improve.

4. 10 minutes up the hill brings us to George and Luciana’s apartment on Grevenon. This is where it all began for us, three years ago, when we were invited to stay with them on occasional visits to Greece.



Pray for our ECM team and the small community of believers who live in this area. Pray for Luciana’s ministry with a Roma community and George’s as he provides wifi and internet services to a wide range of Christian ministries.

5. We go through a park, which is closed up and empty, with just a few groups of teenagers trying to socialise now that their schooling is online, until we reach Cholargos Town Hall.



Pray for local authorities and for opportunities to bless our local area in practical ways.

6. One of the main schools for this district is found beside it. Probably among the laughing crowd in the playground are David and Sarah’s two kids. They are a Christian family in the area we have come to know.



Pray for young Christian families, that we would find ways to support and encourage them. (Peter currently meets with David weekly for Greek conversation.)

7. On the way to our own apartment, we pass the ‘safe house’, though (for obvious reasons) we don’t know exactly where it is.



Pray for those whose lives have been impacted by the refugee crisis in Greece, especially for the women cared for here, having been rescued from sex traffickers in the city.

8. Finally we reach Anatolis 85, where we live, but before we go inside, let’s take a quick walk further up the hill to get an amazing view of this great city of 3 million people, reaching right down to the hill of the Acropolis and on to the sea at Piraeus.



Pray for God’s blessing on this place we now call home.