

## INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

## 1:ONE

ATHENS, GREECE – NEA ZOI

**MARIA'S STORY** BY EMMA SKJONSBY

Maria, a working prostitute from Albania, stopped by our office recently, excited to show off her new glasses. She had signed up to learn how to drive and needed glasses before she could get a learner's permit. She had also made a down payment on lessons at a nearby beauty school.

While Maria hasn't left prostitution completely, these are some of the small steps she is making toward a new life.

Maria was very suspicious of us when we first met in 2003. Over time, she opened up and even gave us a phone number, but then she disappeared. A year later, I learned she was in jail and went to visit. She had just tried to commit suicide and was in the hospital. I got to see her a few times before she was discharged and deported.

It was another two years before I saw Maria again. She had tried to leave prostitution, but it had proven too hard to survive as an immigrant mother with a young child. This time though, she was more accepting of our help, and began to trust us. Now we pray together and she acknowledges that God has kept her safe. She even sent her son to Christian camp this summer.

New Life

Nea Zoi reaches out to women and men prostitutes in Athens. We offer hope, assistance, and alternatives to those seeking a new life. Meet some of our volunteers:

- For the past year, Martha has been reaching out to transvestites working as prostitutes. (Picture your mom pouring tea for transvestites at 2 a.m.)
- Nicole is joining our core team after two years of volunteering with us.
- Dina, another volunteer, will be joining our team as office administrator and volunteer coordinator while Angelika, who's been filling this position, returns to Germany.

Thanks for your prayers as we navigate these new changes, which are an inevitable part of Nea Zoi. After all, our name means "New Life!"

Learn more about Nea Zoi at  
[http://www.iteams.org/wws/europe/athens\\_neazoi.shtml](http://www.iteams.org/wws/europe/athens_neazoi.shtml)

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

- » Each year, an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders (some international organizations place the number far higher), and the trade is growing.
- » Of the people trafficked across international borders, 70% are female and 50% are children. The majority of these victims are forced into the commercial sex trade.

(U.S. Department of State. *Trafficking in Persons Report*. Washington, D.C.)

**“YOUR PRESENCE ON THE STREETS  
MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO US...  
...DON'T GIVE UP ON US; WE NEED  
YOU!”**

## INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

### OPPORTUNITIES TO GO

**Nea Zoi has opportunities for individuals to serve in the following roles:**

- » **Communications person** (6 mos+) who could help us inform the public about trafficking issues and the triumphs and challenges of Nea Zoi
- » **Short-term teams** - up to 4 people to support us in prayer, learn about trafficking, and help with misc. projects. Especially welcome are people with experience in vocational rehabilitation, drug rehabilitation, and dealing with victims of trauma and domestic violence
- » **Long term outreach workers** - particularly those who speak Greek, Romanian, Russian, Bulgarian, and Albanian
- » **Psychotherapist** to provide support to volunteers and outreach workers, supervision

**For more opportunities to go, visit [www.iteams.org/minopps/](http://www.iteams.org/minopps/)**

### OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

- » **\$25** covers the cost of an outreach night.
- » **\$50** provides literature needs for a month.
- » **\$150** will cover phone support costs for a month.
- » **Ministry of International Teams**  
A gift to the ministry of International Teams-USA helps fund recruitment and training of new workers who bring hope and healing in Jesus through ministries like Nea Zoi.

**You can now give online at [www.iteams.org/give](http://www.iteams.org/give)**

## STEPHEN OF KAVALAS STREET

BY MARTHA POLYRAKIS

I joined Nea Zoi two years ago. My first outreach was on Kavalas street, and the first person I saw was **Stephen**, a big man in his mid 50s with long hair and a pretty face. Dressed in a miniskirt, he was showing off to attract customers. My mind searched for what could make him want to be a transvestite prostitute.

On my third outreach, Stephen talked with Joanna and me about his problems and his “little girl,” (his wife). Ever since, I have shared the Word with him. For his part, **he tells me he’s tired of what he’s doing and wishes he could stop.**

He kept inviting us to his home for coffee. I finally went to what was a regular house. Stephen was dressed as a man; his wife seemed like a normal woman. We talked about many things. He told me he missed church and wanted to come, so I arranged to pick him up the following Sunday.

**“Your presence on the streets makes a difference to us,”** Stephen told me before I left. “You are people we can trust because you love us. **Don’t give up on us; we need you!”**

