

phone call to the Bar Association we could have learned his malpractice. The 1st thing he did was to ask for money & wouldn't counsel with us after the 1st time, saying, "I'm the doctor & you're the patient - just trust me!" Paul's counsel was to go to him to find out everything that was going on & cut expenses-- & from that moment he refused to tell us anything & we saw his true colours. TG, we followed the counsel regardless of what we knew the lawyer would think, & that opened our eyes to where he was at. Next we went to N., a woman lawyer, she was O.K. but not a fighter & did not really "throw in her lot with David" (128:3). We'd just read "They Can't Stop Our Rain" & claimed a lawyer who would fulfill this & get turned onto the words. So N. ended up dropping us when Angelo got upset at her as she wasn't doing enough (which was quite true). All this took 1 1/2 weeks, working with these 1st two lawyers which were costly mistakes as both asked for money the first time before they'd do anything.

**THEN WE WENT TO OUR PRESENT LAWYER, K.** On February 19th, who was actually the 1st lawyer we contacted, but he had to go out of town the 1st day so we got involved with the other lawyers. He was a man we had met out singing previously, & once before he had offered his services free of charge for an MMM family needing legal adoption. He was the 1st one to open to us so much more information about the case, & offered to do the case at a very minimal expense, & not receiving any cash until he had rendered much, much service to us, & took the time to explain the law to us in detail. He explained how Angelo could be set free in 40 days if the extradition papers from Italy had not arrived by then, & at the same time warned us that the papers usually do arrive at the very last 1-2 days. So he advised us to prepare as if the papers were arriving - saying, "Expect the best but prepare for the worst." And sure enough the papers did arrive March 19th - the day Angelo could have been legally set free.

**IN THE MEANTIME,** Sarah & Abel went to visit the Minister of Justice, & were finally granted a personal interview with him on the 22nd of February - a real miracle! He is the one man who can stop the extradition process, even if the courts decide to send Angelo back. God

only knows the effect our meeting had on him. We pray he felt our sincerity & desperation, as he is a man who has also suffered at the hands of the system in his fight against the Junta in bringing Socialism to Greece. Abel & Rose also visited the Embassy of our friends down South, who treated us very well with long meetings with their two top men. They oohed & aah'd over our political lit - even saying, "God will have to help you because of the righteousness of your cause," and who promised us to stop the extradition, & to help us financially, etc. They did visit the prison for us to try to obtain favours for Angelo, but it seems like they were scared out when the prison officials warned them not to get involved with this Italian case. Perhaps they were even persuaded by the lies of the enemy in the charges against Angelo. In times like this we felt like David of old when he said, "There was none to help...no man to help." (Psalm 22:11). But we knew we had the Lord, who is a very present help in trouble, & the prayers of our worldwide family! TYJ! And we had received many times, "God is not limited by many or by few" - also one of the 1st verses Dad got for the situation & passed on to us.

**WHILE ALL THIS WAS GOING ON WE WERE VISITING ANGELO** three days a week for a period of 15 minutes each visit, in a noisy room across a table. And we were very fortunate to have this, as most foreign prisoners can only talk from behind a dark screen. The director of the prison granted us this special privilege, & even permitted me (Abel) to go in, as I said I was part of Sarah's family. Ha! - "As deceivers yet true" (2Cor. 6:8).

**THE FIRST FEW WEEKS** were very hard for Angelo & we were only bringing him in photocopied letters & smuggling small amounts of the Word in, bit by bit. Eventually we started bringing in greater amounts of the Word & even whole books, & the Comix in many languages to fatten Angelo's flourishing flock behind bars. We didn't put it in the normal way for printed material to pass through, as most publications have to go through censorship. But we just passed it in open. In his food bag as if it were nothing, & it seemed like the more openly we did it the easier it was to get away with. We were sending him amazing amounts of lit, all the new Mags, posters,

calendars, & nearly a whole set of volumes, & the Word began to have its effect & give Angelo more faith to fight! Go our M.S. printers & pub workers throughout the world for this abundant supply of the Word in print & pictures! - And more souls were added to the Church! TYJ! (See Angelo's Catacomb Church Story, taken from his personal letters.)

**"GOD IS WITH OUR ADVOCATES"** (128:3). During this time period also, our lawyer K. (who is also a musician & poet himself) was being drawn closer to the bosom of David as we fed him with MMM tapes & with the Letters, which he wanted to study to prove that the charges just stemmed from religious & political persecution. This is the only ground in Greek law that can stop the request of another Government for extradition. It seemed that our lawyer had such a hunger to study these Letters, it became quite obvious that he wanted to read them for more reasons than just to prepare for the case! He was becoming a convert! Saying such things as, "They just want to wipe small groups like you off the face of the earth" and that "If you guys are a prostitution ring, so are all the judges & lawyers", adding that, "I guess that makes me part of your prostitution ring!" He also seemed to like very much the Letters he read on Ffing, & as he is divorced himself, he no doubt found great comfort in such Letters as "Infidelity" & our liberal views on love, after experiencing the legalism of the rigid Orthodox laws in his own life. So please pray for him. "God is with our advocates. He makes them 10 stories tall! They are become as the mighty men of David! They cannot lose! Tell King Og I love him. If he throws in his lot with David, he cannot lose." (128:3)

**BRIGITTA:** An interesting thing happened one day in K's office, when we met a German girl in his waiting room with 2 guitars! We found out that she had two friends in jail on drug charges & she was trying to get their guitars taken in to them. So we told her that we also had a friend in jail who is a musician. She asked, "Is he Angelo?" We were amazed as she told us how she met Abishai & Francoise in Southern Greece & they had told her about Angelo! The girl, Brigitta, was truly one of the Lord's sheep, & was really drawn to us. She spent several days & evenings with us before returning

to Germany with loads of lit to read. She wants to go to India, so we pray that she will & even join us there.

**AS MARCH 19TH DREW NEAR,** We had our hopes high that the extradition papers would not come in. Angelo's 40 days in jail were being fulfilled, & the Greek prison cannot legally hold a man after that if the extradition papers do not arrive. That day while going to pick up Angelo, we had a funny feeling while reading that day's Daily Might, March 19th, that all might not be finished yet. As the Daily Might said, "This is what the enemy's attacks are for: to publicize us & God's Message all the more, as well as to keep scattering it & us further and further abroad - through this God is also bringing everyone to a decision to accept either the Truth or the lie, so He can judge them accordingly!" Well, it certainly scattered us all the more, as most of the vital elements of MMM had to immediately flee. But it had not yet "publicized us and God's message all the more", nor had it brought everyone to a decision...so He can judge them accordingly! And sure enough, the extradition papers arrived a few hours before Angelo was to be set free. It was to cause a heartbreak & despair for us, realizing we had to go through the long court procedures, & poor Angelo would have to spend several more weeks in jail as he awaited the long court trial. When the papers came in, we decided to go to court & fight the extradition here, rather than face a dubious future in Italy. But it was during dark & despairing moments like this that Angelo wrote some of his sweetest letters, such as his vision of God's burden for lost souls. "Now you don't know, & thou canst find such joy until thou hast found such heartache & thou hast found such deep, deep sorrow! Only from such deep sorrow can spring forth such light, such satisfaction! Only from such pain can suddenly come forth such surcease & relief! Only from such death can life be born anew in the breast of thy Father!" (503:64)

**BUT IT WAS STILL A REAL BATTLE FOR ANGELO,** & for a few days he was hit with doubts & the depths of despair - as the other prisoners were telling him he'd be there for at least 18 months, & how bad the mosquitos would be, etc. And at the same time his Italian lawyer friend was telling him to come back to Italy. But somehow it

didn't seem right, to go back to a country that already rejected him & us, when there was a country that hadn't yet been brought to a decision. Conditions became increasingly difficult as there was a rare snow in late March & it was very cold in the prison. The walls of Angelo's room are stone, & the water was quite cold, etc.

**AFTER THESE DARK NIGHTS CAME ANOTHER DAWN,** as Paul & Marianne's prayer request with Dad's comments was published in the FN - which we received along with a big card & photos & notes from our dear MMM family! He also received beautiful letters of encouragement from Dad & Maria's own personal staff, & the crowning blessing was 2 hours of tapes of comforting scriptures on "Power in Persecution" read by our Queen Maria! - with a beautiful dedication to Angelo & our precious brother in Korea, Don, who has been tortured for his faith. All of this was truly like "angels ministering unto him" after his 40 days of temptation in the wilderness! GBY all! "We belong to the greatest family in the world, the family of God's Love, with the truest & most loving brothers & sisters in the whole world, who will help you, do anything for you, even die for you, give their lives for you, their bodies & whatever." (551:23). Angelo said that Dad's comment especially encouraged him & really

gave him faith! "Romans 8:28 - Pray God has His way & accomplishes His purpose in all this, then releases Angelo to continue his work." "One glimpse of Jesus makes it worth it all!" & one word from Dad certainly helps us to see Him through all this! TTL for our wonderful shepherd & shepherdess! Angelo was not able to hear Maria's tape at this time, as he's not allowed to have a tape recorder, but we transcribed it for him, & later he was able to listen to it in the court room, before the 1st trial, & he was moved to tears.

**AS WE WAITED FOR THE TRIAL,** the next 16 days were very hard as the trial was continually being postponed. When we saw Angelo, sometimes we lifted him up with news of the family or testimonies of our friends who said they would stand up for us in court - and other times, when we had nothing & arrived tired after a hard day's work & a long 42 kilometer drive through city traffic, Angelo would have a heavy testimony which would lift us up - Praise His Name! He never fails!

**APRIL 7th - THE TRIAL, AFTER 56 DAYS IN PRISON.** And we were ready & prepared. We had a line of witnesses to testify on behalf of Angelo, more than any other court trial had seen recently, including prominent personalities of the Athens area. The prosecuting attorney was expecting to win this trial easily as usually extradition cases do not bring up too much opposition, as foreigners usually don't have that many friends to stand up for them in a foreign land. So the "devil's advocate" did his dirty work, & after 5 minutes, when the trial was in process, seeing our offensive and how our lawyer had done his homework, the prosecutor postponed the trial till 2 days later - April 9th, the Good Friday of the Roman Catholic world, when they commemorate the death of Jesus, & our own Angelo would be on trial once again.

**APRIL 8th - THE ENEMY'S DIRTY WORK:** The story of Angelo's charges hit the headlines. One headline read "The you-know-who are pimps", as one of the charges was "misusing women". He had tried to stay out of the papers to protect our P.O. Box & Song Book Team, & we felt that if he reached the papers before-hand, the church might stir up persecution against us here too & we would have no chance in court. One paper had wanted to do what they said would be a favourable article on us before,

but we had declined as this paper was known for its bad reputation & had done bad articles on the family in the past. So the papers only had the negative from the prosecuting attorney to publish. The papers had wanted interviews from us during that 1st trial, April 7th, but we had refused to give it to them - contrary to what Dad advised in (318B - Local Pubs) - to sock it to them with interviews. "But when it comes to God's business of preaching & showing the truth & answering the devil's lies with your own innocent, happy, smiling faces in the power of God's Spirit that comes clearly shining through to all who see, those lawyers know little or nothing at all! Even the ones...gave better advice that told you to issue an immediate press release denying everything & stating the truth!" (318B:16). Lord help us, & perhaps we were a little bit naive thinking we could keep it out of the papers by not saying anything. So we went to the press that night, Athens' largest paper, to try to refute the lies. This newspaper already had an article there which they were preparing to publish against us, & they only twisted our words, quoted Comix out of context, etc. In an even worse article a few days later. "Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil!" (Psalm 56:5) but (1John 5:19) "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness". Lord protect us. Thursday's "Shit Sheets" did their dirty work & scared out some of our most prominent witnesses from appearing at Friday's trial.

**APRIL 9th - THE TRIAL -** Only 3 of us were permitted to testify in the trial, Sarah, Abel & our Greek doctor, along with Angelo too. Though other witnesses did come: Trust's aunt, who came to testify that all of the people in our little village love Angelo & all of us & we've never done anything wrong here; S., boutique owner & TRFert; & J., caterer from an influential family. The lawyer also had a long list of the discrepancies in the charges, & even how certain ones contradict each other, & yet the conservative 5-man jury's minds were made up & they didn't want to be confused with the facts. Angelo also gave a beautiful testimony saying that he knew he was there to be a witness for Jesus & he was proud to stand up for the truth. (We'll be sending in a full transcript of our witness in court soon!)

**IT MADE FRONT PAGES AGAIN** in the next

days' papers, & "the Gospel was spread even through their contentions, nevertheless Christ is preached" & all Greece heard the message. Though once again the news misquoted many things that were said, they did give Angelo's testimony of forsaking all, including his big money-making job to follow Jesus, & also the message of the coming war. So these articles were not as bad as the 1st ones as they at least contained some of the truth along with beautiful, smiling photos of Angelo & Sarah & their family. In our home village where the MMM Camp had been for 2 years, people showed a deep concern for Angelo & didn't believe the enemies' lies at all. One lady ran up to us & emotionally told us, "We love you! We're sorry for what happened to Angelo! Please don't leave us or we'll be cursed!" Others said that it's a sin that Angelo's in jail. Our provisioning contacts at the market, faithful friends for nearly five years, were not persuaded one bit either by this last blast of the devil's putrid spray.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR US** as we fulfil Luke 21:12-15, "Being brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake", and that we may "have a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries may not be able to gain-say nor resist," and that He may accomplish His will & bring everyone to a decision. Please also pray for Emanuele & Rachel, as we talked with Emanuele about it several times & he's shown a real concern for Angelo. Maybe Angelo's example of standing up for the faith will be a stimulus to bring them back closer to the family. God's will be done.

**AS WE ARE WRITING THIS,** we are preparing for the Supreme Court trial. So please pray for our dear brother Angelo, who has been such a shining example to all of us through this ordeal. He just returned from visiting him today, his 70th day in prison, as he awaits the Supreme Court Trial. At all times he's so sweet and humble, often smiling, sometimes laughing, as we fill him in with the latest news, always concerned whether we are OK, and about our safety & welfare. He's always sharing faith-building testimonies of lives being changed in prison, encouraging us (and convicting us) to write to these brethren in bonds. He has truly turned his weight to wings & has made his cross into a cross of love, pouring out His Love in prayer for the lost, the Lord has truly made him "fruitful in the land of his



Here is dear Angelo, listening for the first time to Maria's beautiful tape of encouraging and 'fighting' scriptures for times of persecution, which his bondage inspired!

The photo was taken during the break in his first trial, while the 5 judges were recessed to deliberate their 'verdict'. (April 9, 1982) (Photo by Uriah)