

A Rewarding Week of Intensive Greek

What do you get when a ministry school takes the word of God seriously and places a high value on the original languages of the Bible? A match made in heaven. *And this is exactly what you find at the 3D Training Center of Disciple Makers Multiplied.* In the first week of October, I had the privilege of teaching an intensive course in Koine Greek – the language the New Testament was written in – to a group of roughly 20 persons at the center. Adapting proven modern methods for teaching languages, I used Koine Greek as the language of instruction. We met eight hours a day (Monday to Friday), with roughly 90% of class time in ancient Greek!

We began with simple commands that could be easily demonstrated and understood by anyone, without background in the language (like “stand up,” “sit down,” walk around”). By the end of the week, students were not only able to read a foreign alphabet, but, much more, they could orally interact and answer a myriad of questions, as we did dramatic activities in class or read from a workbook. Students truly entered into the world of Koine Greek, interacting with many sayings and phrases from the New Testament.



And class time, rather than stuffy or boring, was engaging and, at times, downright fun. Some highlights were: a modern re-enactment of Jesus washing Peter’s feet and a staff member lifting two other grown men off the ground, as we learned new vocabulary and grammar. And all of this was done in Koine Greek!

When I did speak in English, it was often to draw out, more fully, aspects of our Heavenly Father’s faithful and merciful character. For beginners in Greek, that sort of conversation is still best done in English.

In Greek, we covered adapted versions of biblical stories, including Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan, Saul’s conversion, the healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda and part of Jesus’ restoration of Peter. (We also went over the seven days of creation, using the Septuagint of Genesis as a base text. The Septuagint is the ancient Greek translation of the Old Testament, known by Paul and other apostles.)

In intensive courses, team teaching is crucial. (Teaching Greek for eight hours daily was a new experience for me, though I’ve been teaching Greek for years.) So, I was delighted to be assisted by Jayme Nazworth and Moe Charles through to the end of the course. They did a great job!

There is something great to be said about dedicating a chunk of time to one task only: here learning a biblical language. Students improved leaps and bounds in this short period. The pace was exhilarating... and exhausting. Students will be glad, I’m sure, to have more time to do homework, as the remainder of the course will be held online (from now until January).



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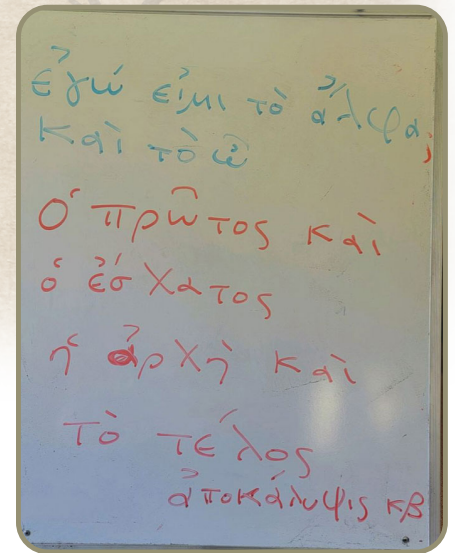
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Perhaps the highlight was a number of hours on the final day, when we looked at saying after saying from the New Testament. Students could understand these sayings directly, with only a little help. Not bad for just five days, right?

I enjoyed the peaceful location of the 3D Training Center. But more than that, the godly environment, the readiness towards believing prayer among the staff and students and the continual, worshipful focus on Christ were a joy to encounter! *Jesus' name is truly lifted up at this center. And his word is cherished.* The leadership has my respect. The center is a good example of the kind of Christ-centred education that we should be providing Christian young people with, including equipping them with Koine Greek.

On Saturdays on either end of the week, I met with students and staff with more background in Greek. In these workshops we covered stories of Jesus' healing Peter's mother-in-law and his calling of Matthew. Both were taken directly from the New Testament. (We also looked at replica ancient coins, while considering Jesus' majestic teaching on rendering to Caesar what is his and to God what is his.) I could see these more advanced Greek learners, after further training, going on to teach Greek (and training other teachers!).



For God's glory,
Jordash Kiffiak, PhD
Omilein.org



Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Bret and Wanda Nazworth as they head to Bolivia October 14-30. Week one Bret will teach the book of James in Cochabamba and week two he will teach 1 and 2 Peter in Los Negros, Bolivia.
- Pray for Brad Rigby and Craig Northcott as they head to Cameroon October 27 to November 6 to teach Romans 1-8.
- Pray for safe travels, good health, and for many to be blessed by the teaching.
- Pray for the 3D program in Texas and in Bolivia. Pray also for the opening of 3D programs in other countries in the future.