



HELLENIC LINK – MIDWEST Newsletter

A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC LINK WITH GREECE

No. 52, April– May 2005

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<http://www.helleniclinkmidwest.org>

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Upcoming Events

Orthodox Missionaries

On Sunday, April, 24, at 3pm, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Dr. Spero Kinnas, of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, in a lecture titled “*Societal Challenges and Accomplishments for Orthodox Missionaries in the Field*”. The event will held at the Four Points Sheraton hotel, 10249 West Irving Park Road at Schiller Park.

Dr. Kinnas, a board member of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC), will discuss the challenges OCMC missionaries face in their efforts to bring Orthodoxy, a sense of human dignity, and a hope of a better life to the people of impoverished countries. It is common for missionaries to be transferred to social environments unfamiliar to them in communal structure and behavior. One of the greatest challenges they face in the field is acceptance in the social structure where they work. To succeed, American missionaries must be identified as “friends” of the community rather than affluent visitors from whom as much as possible can be taken before departure. These factors become particularly difficult when there are language barriers and a class separation consciousness.

The presentation will discuss, through examples, real life societal adaptations and success stories of OCMC missionaries in poor third world countries. Starting with a narration about a relatively new OCMC mission in Albania, Dr. Kinnas will present the type of human and structural challenges facing a missionary who begins with little or nothing. Then he will present OCMC missionary work in Kenya at Chavogere, a self-supporting mission for over a decade. Starting in a plain field in the middle of nowhere, the missionaries at Chavogere built the Church of St. Mark, a busy medical clinic, and, in cooperation with the local community, a fully operating high school. Although societal challenges are different in Africa than in other regions of the world, Chavogere is a strong witness that a Christ-centered community can emerge from nothing and benefit the natives regardless of religious affiliation.

Dr. Spero Kinnas received a BS degree in chemistry at Santa Clara University and completed his medical education at the Kapodistriako University in Athens. He is a board certified ophthalmologist and fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Kinnas is on staff at LaGrange Community Hospital, Elmhurst Memorial Hospital, Hinsdale Hospital and Surgery Center and maintains an Academic appointment as Clinical/Surgical Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Among other distinctions he was awarded

the American Academy of Ophthalmology Lifelong Education for Ophthalmologists Award. Dr. Kinnas has interests in philanthropic/Christian activities. From September to December 1983 he was an ophthalmic surgical instructor at Santo Toribio de Mogrovejo Indigent Eye Hospital in Lima, Peru. He has been a national board member on the medical committee of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center based in St. Augustine, Florida, since 2001.

Cyprus One Year After Annan

On Sunday, May 15, at 3pm, Hellenic Link–Midwest presents Endy Zemenides in a lecture titled “*Cyprus One Year After Annan: Prospects For A Solution*”. The event will be held at the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, 801 West Adams in Chicago.

Year 2004 presented Cyprus with two historic opportunities: (1) to join the European Union, and (2) to reunify the country after 30 years of occupation by Turkey. Despite unprecedented diplomatic efforts, only the first opportunity was realized. Therefore, Cyprus’ first anniversary as a member of the European Union will be followed by its thirty-first as an occupied country.

To seriously consider prospects for a solution to the Cyprus problem, a comprehensive and honest assessment is needed of why the Annan Plan failed so spectacularly. It must also be examined what has changed, or may soon change, in international relations that makes a solution either more or less likely. Relying on European Union membership to be the catalyst for a solution has not yielded the desired results, and a new approach is needed.

Endy Zemenides is a partner in the law firm of Acosta, Kruse & Zemenides, LLC. His practice focuses on government relations, land use, economic incentive, zoning, legislative and public sector related matters. He graduated cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center in 2000. He also holds a Bachelors of Arts from DePaul University and a Masters in the Theory and Practice of Human Rights from the University of Essex in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Zemenides has represented several civic and charitable organizations—including the Mexican Fine Arts Center and Museum, the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, and the Midwest Immigrant Human Rights Committee—pro bono. Mr. Zemenides’ involvement in foreign affairs includes serving on the Editorial Board and Board of Advisors of the National Strategy Forum, a Chicago based foreign policy organization, and as a Lecturer in International Relations and American Foreign Policy in DePaul University’s Political Science Department.

In Brief

British document on Turkish invasion of Cyprus made public

Confidential documents of the British government for 1974, which were made public on January 1, 2005, revealed that Britain, as third guarantor power of the independence of the Republic of Cyprus, gave free movement to Turkey to invade Cyprus, promising that it will not obstruct the implementation of its plan.

One Foreign Office document refers to the critical talks between Turkish prime minister Bulent Ecevit with his British counterpart Harold Wilson, at the premier's office at 10, Downing Street on the night of July 17, 1974, which lasted for three-and-a-half hours, and in which the foreign and defense ministers of the two countries participated. Ecevit asked the British to allow the arrival of Turkish troops through the British Bases to avoid, as he said, bloodshed.

'Greek' to be dropped from the title of groups in Turkey

The Turkish Association for the Superiority of Justice requested the Turkish Ministry of the Interior to drop the name "Greek" (or "Romios", meaning Greek) from the title of any group or association operating in Turkey.

Devlet Bahceli, President of the far-right Nationalist Movement Party, during a recent party gathering, said that the blessing of the waters by the Greek Orthodox Church on the Day of Epiphany means that one is trying to change Istanbul into Constantinople. Also, speaking to a group of party followers, who on the Day of Epiphany had gathered outside the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Phanar, he said that "they sent their message which says that if it is need to, they will do what their ancestors did."

Turkey's Human Rights Committee said that it would file a suit against Bahceli for encouraging violence against Turkey's Greek citizens. Ismet Betkan, chief editor of the newspaper "Radikal", in an article written on January 17, 2005, said that based on Paragraph 312 of Turkey's penal code, Bahceli's comments constitute a criminal offence, because they contain elements of clear and direct threat of violence.

Greeks prefer salaried employment

A recent report prepared by the Eurobarometer states that the average Greek, just like the average European, tends to prefer salaried employment, in contrast to the average American who continues to prefer to develop his/her own business. In the year 2000, 24 percent of Greeks declared preference for salaried employment, while in 2004 this figure increased to 46 percent. On the other hand, 70 percent of Greeks had declared in 2000 that they preferred the status of an independent professional compared to 52 percent who gave the same reply in 2004. At the European level, 51 percent of Europeans declared preference for salaried employment in 2004 and 45

percent for the status of an independent professional. In the United States, 34 percent of people said they preferred salaried employment and 61 percent the development of their own business.

The report also states that: 63 percent of the Greeks believe that the main advantage of salaried employment is salary stability; 56 percent said that salaried work provides more certainty of employment; and 10 percent believe that the main advantage of salaried employment is social security coverage.

Individual investments in Greece

A recent report by the Investment Barometer, prepared worldwide twice a year by the GfK Custom Research Group in cooperation with the Wall Street Journal newspaper, states that 12 percent of Greeks declared that their private investments exceed 50,000 euros (excluding real estate), while 88 percent declared amounts below this figure. The percentage of Greeks who prefer high risk investments does not exceed 9 percent in the 30-49 age bracket, 7 percent in the 50+ age bracket and 6 percent in the below 29 age bracket. Figures provided in the report also show that 62 percent of Greek households prefer to invest in bank accounts, 19 percent in life insurance and 11 percent in pension funds, while 26 percent had made no capital investment. In the United States, one out of two American citizens declared having private capital exceeding 50,000 dollars and 14 percent said that their private capital is higher now than it was six months ago.

Need to reform public finances and pensions

A recent European Union report said that Greece needs to create long-term viability in public finances and reform its pension system. The country still had excessive deficits in 2004; and pension reforms appeared insufficient to contain a budgetary burden arising from an ageing population. After one and a half years of implementation of the EU guidelines, Greece had achieved limited progress in meeting EU targets. Despite robust growth, measures were not taken to lower the public debt and fiscal deficit at a brisk enough pace, and the country still deviated from a target of a balanced or surplus budget.

Only eight EU countries managed to achieve or maintain a budget close to balance or in surplus. This places them in a better position to deal with economic fluctuations and the impact of ageing populations. Furthermore, the impact of measures taken in Greece to improve productivity was unclear, although there is some progress in the effort to switch to an information society.

In the electricity market, full competition had yet to be attained, although measures taken were in the right direction. And although attempts have been made to simplify the economic and taxation environment, the rate of harmonization of national and EU law has slowed.

Limited progress has been made in the effort to reduce structural unemployment and boost employment, especially

among women. Measures taken to match wages with productivity differentials were inadequate. The impact of government moves to spur part-time work and flexibility in the labor market was unclear due to major stumbling blocks. The viability of public finances and of social insurance systems, including pensions, was found very questionable.

Finally, Greece's performance in adapting national legislation to EU rules worsened in 2004. By November 30 of 2004, the country had failed to incorporate 5.1% of Community directives that were due by then, placing Greece 20th in an EU-25 ranking system on harmonization; and by October 31 of 2004 Greece had 84 pending cases on breaches of the bloc's law on the single market, placing her 10th in the EU-15 ranking system.

From Our History

Empire and the Price of Arrogance and Greed

From Thucydides History of the Peloponnesian War

The Athenian expedition to conquer Sicily started in 415 b.c and ended disastrously for the Athenians in 413 b.c. The catastrophe in Sicily marked the end of the Athenian empire, that came a few years later. The section that follows, tells the story of the calamitous end of the Athenian adventure in Sicily.

During the night Nicias and Demosthenes, seeing the wretched condition of their troops, now in want of every kind of necessary, and numbers of them disabled in the numerous attacks of the enemy, determined to light as many fires as possible, and to lead off the army, no longer by the same route as they had intended, but towards the sea in the opposite direction to that guarded by the Syracusans. The whole of this route was leading the army not to Catana but to the other side of Sicily, towards Camarina, Gela, and the other Hellenic and barbarian towns in that quarter. They accordingly lit a number of fires and set out by night. Now all armies, and the greatest most of all, are liable to fears and alarms, especially when they are marching by night through an enemy's country and with the enemy near; and the Athenians falling into one of these panics, the leading division, that of Nicias, kept together and got on a good way in front, while that of Demosthenes, comprising rather more than half the army, got separated and marched on in some disorder. By morning, however, they reached the sea, and getting into the Helorine Road, pushed on in order to reach the river Cacyparis, and to follow the stream up through the interior, where they hoped to be met by the Sicels whom they had sent for. When they arrived at the river, they found there a Syracusan party engaged in barring the passage of the ford with a wall and a palisade. Forcing this guard, crossed the river and went on to another called the Erineus, according to the advice of their guides.

Meanwhile, when day came and the Syracusans and allies found that the Athenians were gone, most of them accused Gylippus of having let them escape on purpose, and hastily

pursuing by the road which they had no difficulty in finding that they had taken, overtook them about dinner-time. They first came up with the troops under Demosthenes, who were behind and marching somewhat slowly and in disorder, owing to the night-panic above referred to, and at once attacked and engaged them, the Syracusan horse surrounding them. with more ease now that they were separated from the rest, and hemming them in on one spot. The division of Nicias was five or six miles on in front, as he led them more rapidly, thinking that under the circumstances their safety lay not in staying and fighting, unless obliged, but in retreating as fast as possible, and only fighting when forced to do so. On the other hand, Demosthenes was, generally speaking, harassed more incessantly, as his post in the rear left him the first exposed to the attacks of the enemy; and now, finding that the Syracusans were in pursuit, he omitted to push on, in order to form his men for battle, and so lingered until he was surrounded by his pursuers and himself and the Athenians with him placed in the most distressing position, being huddled into an enclosure with a wall all round it, a road on this side and on that, and olive-trees in great number, where missiles were showered in upon them from every quarter. This mode of attack the Syracusans had with good reason adopted in preference to fighting at close quarters, as to risk a struggle with desperate men was now more for the advantage of the Athenians than for their own; besides, their success had now become so certain that they began to spare themselves a little in order not to be cut off in the moment of victory, thinking too that, as it was, they would be able in this way to subdue and capture the enemy.

In fact, after plying the Athenians and allies all day long from every side with missiles, they at length saw that they were worn out with their wounds and other sufferings; and Gylippus and the Syracusans and their allies made a proclamation, offering their liberty to any of the islanders who chose to come over to them; and some few cities went over. Afterwards a capitulation was agreed upon for all the rest with Demosthenes, to lay down their arms on condition that no one was to be put to death either by violence or imprisonment or want of the necessaries of life. Upon this they surrendered to the number of six thousand in all, laying down all the money in their possession, which filled the hollows of four shields, and were immediately conveyed by the Syracusans to the town.

Meanwhile Nicias with his division arrived that day at the river Erineus, crossed over and posted his army upon some high ground upon the other side. The next day the Syracusans overtook him and told him that the troops under Demosthenes had surrendered, and invited him to follow their example. Incredulous of the fact, Nicias asked for a truce to send a horseman to see, and upon the return of the messenger with the tidings that they had surrendered, sent a herald to Gylippus and the Syracusans, saying that he was ready to agree with them on behalf of the Athenians to repay whatever money the Syracusans had spent upon the war if they would let his army go; and offered until the money was paid to give Athenians as

hostages, one for every talent. The Syracusans and Gylippus rejected this proposition, and attacked this division as they had the other, standing all round and plying them with missiles until the evening. Food and necessaries were as miserably wanting to the troops of Nicias as they had been to their comrades; nevertheless they watched for the quiet of the night to resume their march. But as they were taking up their arms the Syracusans perceived it and raised their paean, upon which the Athenians, finding that they were discovered, laid them down again, except about three hundred men who forced their way through the guards and went on during the night as they were able.

As soon as it was day Nicias put his army in motion, pressed, as before, by the Syracusans and their allies, pelted from every side by their missiles, and struck down by their javelins. The Athenians pushed on for the Assinarus, impelled by the attacks made upon them from every side by a numerous cavalry and the swarm of other arms, fancying that they should breathe more freely if once across the river, and driven on also by their exhaustion and craving for water. Once there they rushed in, and all order was at an end, each man wanting to cross first, and the attacks of the enemy making it difficult to cross at all; forced to huddle together, they fell against and trod down one another, some dying immediately upon the javelins, others getting entangled together and stumbling over the articles of baggage, without being able to rise again. Meanwhile the opposite bank, which was steep, was lined by the Syracusans, who showered missiles down upon the Athenians, most of them drinking greedily and heaped together in disorder in the hollow bed of the river. The Peloponnesians also came down and butchered them, especially those in the water, which was thus immediately spoiled, but which they went on drinking just the same, mud and all, bloody as it was, most even fighting to have it.

At last, when many dead now lay piled one upon another in the stream, and part of the army had been destroyed at the river, and the few that escaped from thence cut off by the cavalry, Nicias surrendered himself to Gylippus, whom he trusted more than he did the Syracusans, and told him and the Lacedaemonians to do what they liked with him, but to stop the slaughter of the soldiers. Gylippus, after this, immediately gave orders to make prisoners; upon which the rest were brought together alive, except a large number secreted by the soldiery, and a party was sent in pursuit of the three hundred who had got through the guard during the night, and who were now taken with the rest. The number of the enemy collected as public property was not considerable; but that secreted was very large, and all Sicily was filled with them, no convention having been made in their case as for those taken with Demosthenes. Besides this, a large portion were killed outright, the carnage being very great, and not exceeded by any in this Sicilian war. In the numerous other encounters upon the march, not a few also had fallen. Nevertheless many escaped, some during the events, and others later while serving as slaves. These found refuge at Catana.

The Syracusans and their allies now assembled and took up the spoils and as many prisoners as they could, and went back to the city. The rest of their Athenian and allied captives were deposited in the quarries; but Nicias and Demosthenes were butchered, against the will of Gylippus, who thought that it would be the crown of his triumph if he could take the enemy's generals to Lacedaemon. Demosthenes, was one of her greatest enemies, while the other, Nicias, one of her greatest friends, owing to his exertions to procure the release of the war prisoners by persuading the Athenians to make peace. For these reasons the Lacedaemonians felt kindly towards him; and it was in this that Nicias himself mainly confided when he surrendered to Gylippus. But some of the Syracusans who had been in correspondence with him were afraid, it was said, of his being put to the torture and troubling their success by his revelations; others, especially the Corinthians, of his escaping, as he was wealthy, by means of bribes, and living to do them further mischief; and these persuaded the allies and put him to death. This or the like was the cause of the death of a man who, of all the Hellenes in my time, least deserved such a fate, seeing that the whole course of his life had been regulated with strict attention to virtue.

The prisoners in the quarries were at first hardly treated by the Syracusans. Crowded in a narrow hole, without any roof to cover them, the heat of the sun and the stifling closeness of the air tormented them during the day, and then the nights, which came on autumnal and chilly, made them ill by the violence of the change; besides, as they had to do everything in the same place for want of room, and the bodies of those who died of their wounds or from the variation in the temperature, or from similar causes, were left heaped together one upon another, intolerable stenches arose; while hunger and thirst never ceased to afflict them, each man during eight months having only half a pint of water and a pint of corn given him daily. In short, no single suffering to be apprehended by men thrust into such a place was spared them. For some seventy days they thus lived all together, after which all, except the Athenians and any Siceliots or Italiots who had joined in the expedition, were sold. The total number of prisoners taken it would be difficult to state exactly, but it could not have been less than seven thousand.

This was the greatest Hellenic achievement of any in this war, or, in my opinion, in Hellenic history; at once most glorious to the victors, and most calamitous to the conquered. They were beaten at all points and altogether; all that they suffered was great; they were destroyed, as the saying is, with a total destruction, their fleet, their army—everything was destroyed, and few out of many returned home.