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GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

George Galanis Wants
To Preach As A Baptist.

PIRAEUS, Greece (BP)--This port of Athens was originally built in the fifth century by Themistocles, creator of Athenian maritime power. Its busy waters host ships flying the flags of all nations.

A young man came to this city in 1943 during the German occupation. Although it was against the German law, he engaged a teacher for English lessons. "I wish to learn to talk like American cowboys in the movies!" George said.

The teacher was a Christian, son of a minister who had been killed by the Turks in the Near East. He saw the inner turmoil his student was experiencing as George sought to overcome his passions and make something of himself.

The teacher began to question young George about the purpose of life, the existence of God. George was intrigued, for he did not have the answers. The teacher gave him a New Testament and that night George read the Bible for the first time in his life. God had been preparing him for this moment and before he went to bed, he had made his decision to turn from sin to Christ.

Eager reading of the Bible followed. His best friend rejected him, declaring he was sick! George Galanis became a minister of the gospel.

Galanis has been greatly influenced by the writings of Spurgeon and other Baptists. His beliefs, through study of the New Testament, are like the Baptists.

He wishes to preach as a Baptist but there are no Baptist churches in Greece. So he serves as an independent evangelist, burdened for the need of his countrymen for the New Testament gospel.

In the January 1960 Commission magazine, John Allen Moore, European missionary, gives the history of evangelicals in Greece. After 100 years of labor there are only approximately 12,000 evangelical Christians in all Greece and no Baptists.

Galanis and other Greeks are praying that the door will open for a more vigorous evangelistic program that will reach the people whose ancestors Paul sought to reach nearly two centuries ago.