



Albania Team Newsletter - *Edition # 2*

Eternal Investment

By: Corey Munsell

“G, stop licking the spoon!”

Four years ago, one of the neighborhood boys happened to come to my house as I was trying to make one of my personal favorites- no-bake cookies. G was about 11 years old at that time, and he really liked the flavor of the still hot no-bake cookie “dough.” He liked it so much so that he would lick the spoon and then use it to scoop the cookies onto the wax paper. Who could imagine that simple moments like those could have eternal rewards?

When I first met G in the neighborhood, and from time-to-time, he would come to help me with a puzzle or to cook something, but our time together never went much deeper than surface level conversation. After I went back to America for just over a year, I lost contact with him, and even after returning, I still did not see him again until last summer when he came with his sister to an art camp. G sat down next to me and asked if I remembered him. I did. I asked how he had been, and I saw that his eyes were welling up with tears. He shared with me that just over a year before, his dad passed away in an accident. He did not seem to want to share much more than that, so we moved on to other topics. Over the last year, I have spent time with G, and our conversations have begun to go deeper and deeper. At times, I felt God starting to put specific questions on my heart to ask G. At first, G seemed to be shut down by the questions, but after a while, he began to open-up more and more about his dad and struggles that he has had since then. At one point, G, who was raised a Muslim, shared with me that before his dad passed away, he promised his dad that he would never become a Christian. At this point, Emilie and I realized that we would really need to be in prayer for him.

This last July, a team from the River Church in Marion, Indiana came to help us put on an English Camp. G has an interest in learning English so, naturally, he attended the camp. At this camp, we played a lot of games, taught some English, but at the end of the day we would have a devotional and spend some time in worship. On the fourth day of camp, we had an opportunity for the campers to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior for the first time. G raised his hand and said that he needed a Savior. What a beautiful moment it was!

Over the last year of spending time with G, God has been teaching me more and more about investing in others around me- not just spiritually, but emotionally and physically too. My friendship with G started off by making cookies, and putting together puzzles and more recently, teaching him how to run the sound system at youth group. It eventually came to the point where the Lord opened the door to have more and more spiritual conversations with him. It was never anything that I felt like I had to push because it happened so naturally. In spending time with G and teaching him skills such as cooking, putting together puzzles and running a soundboard, natural conversations opened into deeper and deeper topics to the point where G has begun allowing others to invest in him spiritually.

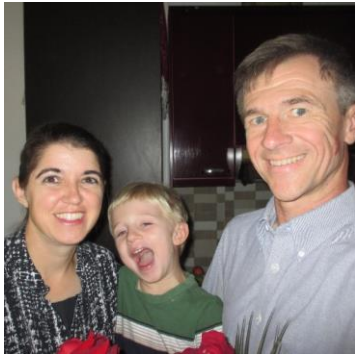
I know that we all have people around us that we have the opportunity to invest in. I want to encourage you, too, to share and invest in others. Listen to them, pray for them, share your story, and watch God begin to work in their lives. I can assure you that it could be one of the greatest investments you ever make.



Emilie and the three girls that went to Ersek camp



The River Church (Marion, IN) helped host English Camp



Stevens Family



N, E, G -- taking a break on their 8 hour hike!

Discipleship Making Stories

Several of the Albanians who participated in a recent training on disciple-making movements seem to be making renewed efforts to reach out to friends and co-workers who need Christ. G, from the Aukerman's home fellowship, has been sharing about his faith in Christ with his friend G. G considers himself a Muslim, but has willingly engaged in dialogue with G. To help answer some of G's questions, one week M helped G find an article about the reliability of the Bible. Not long afterward, G mentioned seeing the Jesus film on television and wondered if G could find a copy on DVD for him to borrow; once again M helped. Please pray for God to work in G's heart, and for the Spirit to guide G as he reaches out to this friend.

V is another Albanian who participated in the DMM training. This summer she has been working long hours at a hotel and has struggled not being in Christian fellowship. Our prayer has been for our young adults to have opportunities to share their faith with coworkers and live a lifestyle of love that draws others to Christ. V invited two colleagues to a worship night at our church, and one stated she's never felt so loved or encouraged in her entire life. That evening V and another believer, A, were able to share their testimonies with V's friend. Since then V has been able to pray with a few girls at work. Please pray for V that she would have the boldness, courage, and wisdom to disciple her friend. It would be incredible to see a Bible study start at their hotel!



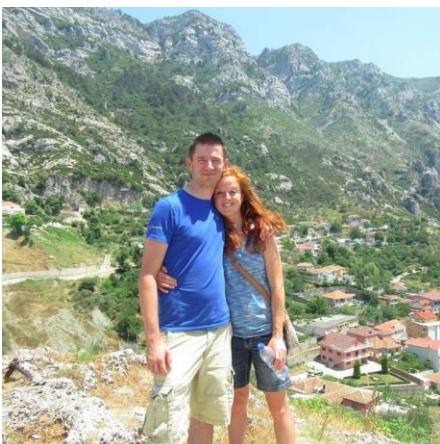
V, H, A



D and K dropping S off at university!



N celebrating graduation in Albania with his family



Corey and Emilie in Krnje



While English Camp was going on, J and H were playing detective!



The River Church (Marion, IN) selling our Anti-Human Trafficking products!



A teaching at CEF camp this summer



N, G, P, and K singing the worship song they wrote at kids camp

Funding Needs

- Year of the Family Program is a program in which we engage the entire nuclear family in positive change to the family and community. This project needs funding in the amount of \$2,000 dollars to continue.
- Ken and Dawn Bishop Support: The Bishops are currently in the States for fundraising. They are still in need of 40% of faith promises.
- The Child Care Center program offers care for younger children of single or abandoned mothers while they work to provide for their families, keeping some of these children off the streets. This program is in continual need of funding.