

Mire dita! Si jeni? Greetings from Albania! My apologies for not being in contact sooner. As I've been thinking of all that I have to share with you, it's hard to bring it into focus. As you know, I experienced my first home assignment from March through to mid June. It was a wonderful time both for being back with family and friends as well as visiting with churches and groups to share what has been happening during my time here in Albania. Your encouragement, hospitality and support were overwhelming. I also enjoyed being home for my parents' 50th wedding anniversary – it was a lovely time!

Updates

The summer has flown. Many of you have been praying for the teams that were to come to me in July and August. Thank you so much – it was an incredible time – crazy but good! I won't have enough space to go into all the details but here are some of the highlights. The first team from the Grace Memorial and Grand Bay Baptist churches in NB arrived on July 20th. Part of the team worked with me in Sauk with the children while the other part of the team ran a children's camp for missionary kids (mk's) in and around Tirana (which is a huge support and help for the parents). Both groups did a phenomenal job. The Sauk camp ended with almost 70 children in attendance and we only lost power once – on the last day. ☺ That was a big difference from last summer. It was encouraging to see the changes in the children (even if only small) in attitudes and actions towards one another.



Bible story time in Sauk at the first camp with a few from the Grace Memorial Baptist team

The team also spent a lot of time at Bethany Orphanage (on the outskirts of Sauk) helping both with the babies and toddlers as well as providing labour and supplies for painting. As well, they took part in the service at the church that I attend (Udha e Shpreses) and were a real blessing there to the Albanian believers.

On July 29th, we headed to Leipzig, Germany for the Worldwide Baptist Youth Conference. I cannot begin to explain how moving it was to worship and gather together with over 6000 other believers from 89 different countries. It was a truly exciting time – God is at work!! I also deeply enjoyed being able to visit with the other CBM global field staff who had brought teams as well as the CBM home office staff who were helping to coordinate all of us.

I then flew back with the team from Southside who came to the conference first and then worked with me in Sauk. Our time together started in a very "interesting" way...we arrived in Tirane at midnight with no baggage whatsoever. Thankfully it did arrive within 48 hours but it did make for some "fun" times for a few from the team as well as a couple of very late nights for me (having to get the baggage at 3 in the morning). But all the baggage did arrive in the end...God is good.



Time with the kids in Sauk – Southside team

We concentrated on three areas – a second kids camp in Sauk, continued help at Bethany Orphanage and a football (i.e. soccer) camp for boys also in Sauk. Like the

first team, they also took part in the service at Udha e Shpreses.

An unexpected area of expertise that a few from the Southside team brought had to do with art work. Some of you may remember that a mural was started from the Lewisville team last year. Well, we were able to finish it! In the evenings, while a group helped at the orphanage and another group hung out with kids in the village outside of the ministry rooms, a third group concentrated on bringing the mural to completion. They decided to focus on the parable of the Lost Sheep. It's absolutely beautiful!☺



Camil – one of the two main masterminds

Changes

The work of the teams now leads me to my next piece of news. Those of you I met with while home know that a change is coming. For those of you who may not be aware, it's been decided that I'll be leaving Albania due to lack of team. I am excited to confirm that I will be joining the Bolivia team around the end of the year. I head home to NB on September 6th and will have time with family and friends while also beginning language and culture learning on my own to help prepare me for the move. I'll provide more details in my fall update but right now, I'm just trying to concentrate on what I need to be doing here.

The work of both teams was absolutely crucial this summer. Not just in the time and teaching for the children but also in helping bring closure for me - I cannot begin to express my appreciation to both teams. I was able to see and truly believe that God has been at work in the lives of these children and in the village and that it's going to continue. And I've had the awesome opportunity and privilege to be a part of it.

This coming Tuesday, we're going to host a "cocktail" – party – for the kids and their parents so that I can explain about my leaving and pass the torch on to Antonio (a Brazilian pastor) and the others.

Praise and Prayer Items

- Praise for the help and encouragement of the two summer teams.
- Praise for a great conference and time of learning in Germany.
- Praise for a successful home assignment.
- Praise for the raising up of workers for continued work in Sauk.
- Pray for Southside as they continue to seek God in how they are to proceed in their work and call to Albania – especially Sauk. As well, for Antonio and the others as they increase their ministry in Sauk.
- Pray for understanding amongst the friends I've made and the children in Sauk regarding my leaving.
- Pray for a safe (and relatively stress-free) return to Canada. That all the finishing-up details come together. As well that I transition easily and quickly back into life in Canada and begin the prep stage for heading to Bolivia.
- Please pray that I finish well and that I am faithful to the call that God has placed on my life.

Financial Considerations

Many of you are already supporting me both financially and through prayer for which I am so encouraged and thankful. If you know of anyone who would be interested in what's happening or would like to support my ministry, please forward this ministry update to them.

CBM continues to make it easier for you to partner with those on the field. You can contact Eileen Moore-Crispin from CBM at (905) 821-3533 or email her at eileenm@cbmin.org for more information and/or to make a donation.

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