

# Missions Adventures Newsletter from the Babcock's – January/February 2019



Dear friends, Greetings from Albania! We hope you had a happy new year! A lot has been happening since we got back last June from America. First of all, the kids had fun traveling to new places! There were two church camps (Sam and friend on left), followed by a 4-week family trip to Macedonia. In the photo below we are at Café Istanbul in the city of Struga, Macedonia, where they all enjoyed meeting new people, translating for the teams doing outreach, and giving out invitations to the street meetings.



That month we ministered in five cities before loading up to drive home across the mountains. There was more excitement when they found out that we would re-pack the van when we got back to

Tirana, and the next day to go on a trip to Montenegro, and this would be followed by a visit from friends coming from America!

Kevin & Janice Simburger, along with Terry Malloy, from our home church, Grace Fellowship, arrived for 10 days of ministry. It was a great blessing to our family to have their fellowship, and many souls were also touched! (See family news cont'd on side 2.) We can't share about all that happened in the last three months, but wanted to write a little about how God surprised us recently. One day we met a pastor by the name of Roberto (below), who was planting a church among the poor on the outskirts of Tirana. He asked us to do a seminar for his people on how the Holy Spirit works through united prayer.



The theme was John 2:11, "This beginning of his signs did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory, and his disciples believed on him." It seemed like God wanted to do a work among the poor, and that seeing it, they would put their faith in him in a greater way. We kept encouraging them that we can never know what the Lord is going to do in our lives when we are praying and the Holy Spirit is moving. At the finish there were testimonies and many felt different spiritually or even physically, but this wasn't all the Lord would do.

The Pastor had been helping a number of needy families with bread each month and their needs were a heavy load on him. During prayer an idea from the Lord came to give them something to begin supporting themselves more, not to have to ask the church for help all the time. Union with Christ together in prayer was the key to knowing how to bring a change in their circumstances. They needed something to start working with.



For some it was a goat, for others it was tools, etc. In the picture above Lulash, his wife Vjollca, and children, Sueli and Sjamet live on \$100 a month. The goat's milk will help their diet and a baby goat born this year will provide more income later.

For the couple pictured at left, with an income of \$83 a month and a son in prison, life is difficult, but they are now believing in Jesus, and the goat came as an encouraging surprise. The family in the photo below at right was without work, but now the chickens



provide them with eggs to sell. Two other families in the church were also helped in this way.

During the seminar the Lord met with this Church when it gathered together. It reminded me of 1 Cor. 5:4 which says, "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus."

What is the Church's position in the eyes of God that Paul would say, When you are gathered together in a public way in one accord, you will see a marvelous operation of power? The authority of the Church is that Christ, the sole depository of God's power toward this world, is in immanent *union with it!* The Corinthians knew that He was present with them and that He is not weak toward them!



We access an inherent power as we seek and *rely upon the aid* of Christ! In Luke 6:17-19, whole multitudes sought to touch Jesus, "For there went virtue out of him, and healed them all." Let us pray for many to be gathered to Him, again, in our generation!

In the natural we gather things to protect them. We collect things that were once separated. Today, in this shaking time, God wants us to gather together in the shelter of His power.

In Acts 12, Peter came to the house of Mary, mother of John, and found many praying. There they were safe from Herod and the Jews, and his life also was spared. Oh, the Body of Christ in unity! Gathered, the Spirit is in the midst to teach us to pray together, and move in the spirit with those assembled to win victories together!



Gathered with Jesus there is power and wisdom for solving problems, far greater than we have just praying individually -- because as the Body of Christ we have the mind of Christ.

The Father says, "Do you want to solve things? Band together in corporate prayer. Lift up your voices in concert! Connect to Jesus together and it will bring change to the lives of whole congregations here and in America!"

We didn't know what to expect as we began the seminar with Pastor Roberto, but were blessed to see the outcome of more than 100 people receiving this type of assistance in different forms right before Christmas!

It started with a precious family in America who decided to forego Christmas gift giving and asked us to use the money for poor believers however we could. This provided for seven families. Along with that, a percentage of everything that comes in to us monthly is laid up for the needy. Through this fund, and the American family, 20 families besides these pictured, also received a goat, chickens or tools (such as a chainsaw, weed-eater, drill, cement mixer, nail gun, etc). Each one who gave in 2018 had a part in this.

We have run out of room but will add two last stories of God's provision. The Gypsy family (above left) was without an income when the husband went to Greece and didn't find a job. A wheel-barrow and some tools were a start for him to find some work in his neighborhood. We also found a used washing machine for his wife, something she never had before!

Many Albanian families cannot afford schoolbooks. With the copying machine on the right many children can now come to the church to print the pages they need for their lessons and learn about Jesus! Pray for the families above that they will all know Him more.



**Family News continued:** After Kevin, Janice and Terry's return in November, there was one last trip out of the country. Catherine and Daddy went to Kosovo. (She felt very big to be going on a ministry trip with him all by herself!) Then in December we moved to a bigger house here in Tirana. PTL! We now have a back yard and 3 bedrooms. Thank you for your prayers for our protection on the roads, our health and ministry! God bless you all! Dan, Semi, Danielle, Rilinda, Samuel & Catherine.

