

PRAYER AND PRAISE UPDATE – July 2019

Enris & Sylvia Nase

Tirana, Albania

...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.

Mat 28:20

Dear friends,

The Lord Jesus at the end of his earthly journey gave the Apostles two specific instructions that form the Great Commission: preach the Gospel and disciple the new believers. Faithful Christians throughout the centuries have kept these two instructions as fundamental aspects of their ministry and to this end we also seek to divide our time to the best of our ability between preaching the Gospel and discipling new believers.

Assembly life

We are very encouraged with the progress of the little assembly. There is a sense of unity and belonging among the believers and more brethren are becoming involved with outreach, teaching and practical works.

We have just finished studying 1st Corinthians on Thursday evenings at our weekly ministry and prayer meeting. We have been considering biblical doctrines and practice, underlining the importance of NT truths.

Each Saturday morning, a group of believers meet to distribute tracts around the streets near to our meeting place. As we seek to share the Gospel and make contacts with passer-by's, we have watched some of the young men develop a real gift in this area, become emboldened in their faith and grow in wisdom. I am particularly encouraged to see them continue even when I am unable to be with them! Keeping them supplied with literature is a challenge at times, but a good problem to have.



Giving out tracts

We continue to have small group Bible studies with several young believers in the assembly on a weekly basis. As they are at different stages of their Christian life, we consider it beneficial to take the additional time to lead them through the Scriptures and to teach them more fully the ways of the Lord. It also provides an opportunity to come alongside them and to help guide them through difficult circumstances, especially the intense periods of attack from the devil himself that they so often face in the early days after trusting Christ. Among others, there is a Bible study with a group of five young men in their mid-twenties. We are studying together the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ and it is good to see their eagerness to learn more about this vital subject. One of them used to attend the Mormon Church but is disillusioned and has been attending regularly with his friend who is a believer. We pray that the Lord, through the Holy Spirit may show him the truth regarding the lovely person of Christ.

Another of the systematic Bible studies is with a young couple who got baptised and joined the assembly last November. Their spiritual progress is evident to all. G, who was very opposed to the Bible and refused invitations to attend despite his wife having professed, has turned out to be a real trophy of grace and full of the joy of the Lord. He is a faithful attender at our 6.30am Tuesday prayer meetings and just this month they were blessed with a beautiful baby daughter. Please remember this new family in prayer, that they will be faithful witnesses for Him.

We continue to meet with the teenagers on Friday afternoons. One of them has been witnessing to his friend at school this past year, resulting in his salvation. Unfortunately, his parents do not allow him to come to the teenagers' class, but we have been able to supply him with a Bible and other literature to read while answering his many questions through our mutual friend! It is such a joy to see the youth interested in the Scriptures and sharing their faith at school. At times the depth of their questions amazes me, but I really enjoy spending time with them. When I (Enris) first heard the Gospel and trusted Christ at 16, I had no one to turn to with my many questions so spending time with these young people is essential and I have been immensely enriched in return.

At the end of the school year, we organised a three day camp for around 25 teenagers at our home. It is a great way of getting to know them better, for them to spend time with one another and together to study the scriptures. Those who attend regularly invited friends so we had some for the first time and the Lord gave help as we considered the centurions of the NT.



Teenagers' camp

One challenge that we have encountered this year has been our meeting place. On a Lord's Day when everyone is out, we are full, so we have been searching for another place to rent instead within the same geographical area, but it is proving extremely difficult to find. The owners of the venue where we are are very understanding and don't complain about us singing or any of our activities, but this is not the general situation in Tirana... Please pray for opportunity and wisdom as the search continues.

Publishing and printing

We are currently translating into Albanian one of the most recently published books of Prof. John Lennox. The process of publishing is a time consuming one, but vital for the spread of the Gospel and for equipping the believers.

We are also working on another book for non-believers and hope to have it ready by the autumn. Meanwhile the preparations are under way for the 2020 calendars; these should be with the printer by September -DV.

Following several years of absence, we have the opportunity to be back at the Tirana National Book fair this year again. The organisers continue to refuse my applications but the brother who prints our literature here in Tirana is now established as a publishing house and his application was accepted! We look to the Lord for fruitful conversations such as we have had in the past and praise Him for this open door.

Bible exhibition

At the beginning of April, we had another showing of the Bible exhibition – this time in the East close to the Greek border. The exhibition was advertised throughout the town on billboards and leaflets. The number present for the opening evening was really encouraging and many others came to visit during the week. A few Roman Catholic nuns visited the exhibition and brought some young girls with them. We were planning to have another showing in Librazhd, a Muslim town, in May but due to Ramadan (Islamic month of fasting) we had to postpone it.



The opening day of the Bible exhibition

The Hiding Place, Gjirokaster (Children's Home)

For the first time in 25 years, as a board of trustees we had to take the decision to let one of the staff members go. It came after months of discussion and prayer, but following the decision, there has been a unity and harmony at the home for which we are thankful. The children are all well, three of them have returned to their biological families so we have been able to accommodate others. Ester arrived at the home as a week old baby and will stay until the next court decision when the process of adoption will likely commence.

ABC Clinic

Sylvia continues to be busy at the ABC Clinic and is currently working on setting up a palliative out-patient service. Although the staff at the clinic has complete freedom to pray with their patients, they see this as an even greater opportunity to come alongside patients and their families to share the Gospel as they care for them holistically. Recruiting new staff is becoming increasingly difficult as Albania continues to see an exodus of doctors and nurses to Germany which includes many of the Christian health professionals. This year one of the nurses from the clinic left for Germany and now one of the doctors is preparing to go with his family too.

Your on-going interest in the work here and your remembrance of us as a family is much appreciated.

With warmest Christian love,

Enris and Sylvia