

Albanian Encouragement

October 18, 2012

(Because I had a lot of e-mails returned to me after my last knee-mail with photos, I am not including them any longer in the e-mail messages; however, you can go to: <http://imccracken.net/athens-ministry/> to see photos at the BOTTOM OF THE PAGE)

Earlier this month, I had the privilege to go to Albania and visit for a week our brother Gregor and his wife Kela (and their 3 boys). (If you are new to our list you might want to check out their story at: <http://refminathens.blogspot.gr/2009/06/gregors-story.html>). They returned to northern Albania over a year ago after church-planting in Kosovo for 7 years.

They (and their church) were a great encouragement to me as I had the opportunity to share some leadership lessons from the life of Joseph with leaders from their church, and then an overnight marriage retreat with couples, and then the opportunity to preach about "Spiritual Adoption" on Sunday.

We were also honored to see our sister Kudret baptized during the couples retreat! Kudret is an older lady from a reputable Muslim. Her son Ridi had come to the Lord many years ago and after many prayers, witnessing and a couple of miracles in her life (one being recovering fully from a stroke in three days while her son was praying for her) she gave her life to the Lord several months ago and got baptized in the sea during the marriage seminar she attended with her unbelieving husband. It is so precious to see the Lord working in her life and be reminded that it is never too late to start living for God and his purposes in Christ Jesus.

Also, I learned that Gregor's adopted sister Esmerelda (who is of Gypsie ethnicity and used to live in a cave with her father before she was taken in to the Menga family by Gregor's parents), has graduated from university, is engaged, and is (along with her fiance) raising support to work full-time with Campus Crusade in Albania! She is a beautiful young woman who radiates the love and grace and of God!

I always leave Albania more encouraged than when I left Greece by seeing and hearing the testimonies of lives transformed by the power of God! Please continue to pray for Gregor, his family, his church, and their efforts to follow the Lord and reach Albanians for Jesus.

Grateful for your partnership in the Gospel,

Scott and Vicki