

**Subject:** --GCCM Update - July 6, 2018 A New Season, Children's Graduation, Water Baptism--  
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**Date Sent:** Saturday, July 7, 2018 4:07:00 AM GMT+01:00  
**Date Received:** Saturday, July 7, 2018 4:10:14 AM GMT+01:00

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## **GCCM UPDATE**

July 6, 2018

Today is the first day of the Calgary Stampede 2018. It is kicked off with a big parade which is happening now. With all that is happening here, to me, it can't compare with the excitement and thrill of the trip that I made to Albania in June. Let me share some of the events that happened while I was there.

**"The theme this year that the Leadership Team chose in January is, "A New Season". How true!"**

I arrived Saturday afternoon to hear that one of the men of the families that we told you about in the last newsletter, that were being helped in the Local Outreaches had just killed his wife. Although this was not good news it shows how much more work there is to do in reaching the people of Albania with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The next day was a great day as we turned over the responsibility of the main church to Pastor Leon from England who is going to be able to go down to Albania more often and work with the Leadership Team that is doing a wonderful job. The Elim denomination has also now a working relationship with our church in Durres which may see more teams from England coming down and helping. At that service we were able to appoint and then pray for Jeton as the Pastor in Training.



**Pastor Leon and myself praying for Jeton**



**Leadership Team after the service.**

During that first week, among all the other things that were done, we had a very enjoyable time taking part in 2 Graduation Ceremonies for our 4 Children's Bible Schools. Out of the 120 children it was thrilling to have 40 children graduate into Grade 1 from our CBS's. It was a far cry from our first CBS which Valbona started in Feb. 2005 with Elona our first missionary and Rudina our new director. We sure have a great need for a Christian School that these children could attend.

*Remember that what you donate to GCCM and our ministry around the world, is tax deductible and goes to see lives transformed by the power of God. What you give today affects eternity.*



**Children Singing in their Grad Gowns**



**Grad children in Traditional Dress from various areas of Albania**



**Our First CBS - February 2005 was started by a donation from Elsie Tomm who is now in Heaven. Look what the Lord has done!**

On the last Sunday we made the announcement that Hela who has been our Director for the last 5 years is moving to Italy with her family and that we appointed Rudina Metani as our new Director. Rudina has worked with us when we lived there but now she is taking on a bigger responsibility. Please pray for Hela as she moves on and Rudina as she assumes her new role.



**Rudina is on your left and Hela on your right**



**Etien Opari**

As a result of Hela leaving we appointed a young man to be on the Leadership team. Etien has proven his love for God and the ability to assist in this area and the whole team felt very comfortable adding him to the team.

In the last Leadership meeting I watched as they prepared to baptize 8 people in water. One of the ladies who was baptized was Jeton, our Pastor in Training's, mother who you have prayed for and has within the last 6 months been healed of cancer and given her life to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. On my first Sunday back I was able to watch via livestream the baptismal service, which was the first one in 23 years that I did not participate in. Can you say "mixed emotions"!?



**Water Baptism - June 2018**

**A**s you can see I had a great time while there **EXCEPT** when I saw the great needs that really must to be met, yet not having the resources to meet these needs. As is evident, although we are not there, the work of God is and must go on but the ministry in Albania is still dependent on your love gifts. Let me tell you about one of the many needs I saw.

While there it was hot and very muggy. Sometimes it was hard to breathe. While visiting the various areas and talking to the staff one thing that was apparent was that many of the air conditioners were not working. It was very noticeable in the Children's Bible Schools. I asked why they weren't repaired and was told they have been repaired many times, but now they are so old they can't be repaired any more but need to be replaced.

The units that are normally used in Albania, and the cheaper way to go, and the ones we use are heaters in the winter and air conditioners in the summer. Some of the parents have been complaining that it is too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer and some have threatened to take their children out. Of course we fully understand their position.



**Sample New Heater/Air Conditioner**

While there we priced out some units and have found out that we really need 5 units. In order to secure the ones that are suitable for the areas we need them for would cost us a minimum of \$10,750 dollars (\$2,150 each). As a result of the fluctuating dollar these are approximate. If you know anyone that could supply this need right away it would be thrilling to the staff and the children.

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## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Praise the Lord for many answers to pray. Keep an eye open for the next newsletter where I will share more.
- Praise the Lord for a very successful trip to Albania.
- Praise God for Pastor Bert Phagan and Pastor Leon Evans as they assist and support the two churches we have.

- Pray for our 1st Missionary as she prepares for a team from our church to go on a missions trip to her country. Pray that God would supply all their needs and protect them.
- Pray for the finances of the ministry so we can continue our ministering to the poor in Albania. Pray that many would give to our General Fund. We need some miracles.
- Pray for Rudina as she now is the director of our Foundation and Society in Albania. Pray for Hela our Director as she is moving to Italy to join her husband.
- Pray that more churches would open up for me to come and share about the ministry in Albania. If you would like for me to come to your church contact your pastor and myself and we will see if it can be arranged.

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*Come, give, pray  
that they might have life!*

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