

**Subject:** ----GCCM Update - Albania March 28, 2018 Salvation, Healing Storms--  
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## **GCCM UPDATE**

March 28, 2018

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On behalf of our family, our churches in Albania, the board of GCCM and Brian Lise our Director of Advancement we want to wish you a very Happy Easter. When I was in Israel about 40 years ago they took us to the tomb where Jesus was said to be buried. As we went to go into the tomb there was a sign overhead that read, "He is not here, for He has risen as He said." What a blessed hope we have that Jesus the Risen Lord has the power to work in our lives and give us New Life.

**"He is not here, for He has Risen as He said."**

Some great things have happened since our last newsletter. For a number of months I was asking you to pray for Jeton, our emerging young pastor's, mother. She had cancer and the costs of treatments were very high. In our last newsletter we heard the great report that she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Saviour. Since then the doctors were surprised as she has been healed of the cancer. We want to thank you for your prayers and we give all the glory to Jesus.

### **Wind and Rain Storm - Floods and Damage**

Every once in a while we get some very heavy rains which causes flooding in various parts of Albania. A few weeks ago there was another downpour and again there was flooding in Albania, this time in our City of Durres. Here is a picture and video of one of the roads. You can copy and paste the link into your browser.  
<https://www.facebook.com/messages/t/dpennoyer>



As well as the rains there was also a big wind storm which caused much damage to our building. As you can see from the pictures the wind blew off the awning on the front part of the church and also some of the flashing on the roof and it is causing leaks in the building. We didn't realize the extent of the damage but now we are going to have to replace the awning on the side as well. As a result of all this the estimated costs have gone up tremendously. We are still waiting for final quotes but it is going to be well over \$6,000 CDN for which we need a miracle. If someone feels lead of God to pay for the whole amount or 10 of you were able to give \$600 or 20 people give \$300 we could meet our target and get all this fixed. Please pray about what God would have you do.

*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.*



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**A**nother exciting thing is that a young man who use to be in our feeding program as a child has decided to turn his life around for Jesus. He has agreed to go to a Christian treatment centre for drug addicts. Jeton has personally covered the costs of the treatment



Renato and Jeton



Jeton with leaders and participants

and his travel up to Kosovo and I would like to pay Jeton back as it has taken close to one month of his salary. The cost to help this young man would be approximately \$190 CDN. If you would like to invest in this young man's future please let us know.

One last thing about Jeton. He needs to get some work done on his teeth and the costs would be around \$1,500 CDN. Again that would be many months of his salary. He gives himself to the work of the ministry without complaining and it would be nice to help him with this. Can you help?

## **Ministry Opportunity**

We really need some help. If someone would like to come to Albania for 3 months to help drive one of the vans while picking up children for the Children's Bible School, we would appreciate it. For more information please contact us. It would be during the months of June, July and August.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Praise the Lord for answered prayer for Jeton's mother's, salvation and healing.
- Pray for our 1st Missionary as she travels to various regions of the country she is ministering in for outreaches.
- Pray for finances mentioned throughout this newsletter to be realized and for others to give to our General Fund. We need some miracles.
- Continue to pray as we negotiate for the building of the Seafarers.
- We Praise the Lord for what Pastor Bert Phagan has done with assisting the Spitalle church and supporting them and seeing good growth.
- Pray as Pastor Leon Evans and his church in England as they talk with us and plan on assisting and supporting the main church.
- Hela is moving to Italy to join her husband so we are going to be searching for a new director of the Foundation in Albania. Pray that God would lead and guide us.
- 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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## Jeremy's Egg

Jeremy was born with a twisted body, a slow mind and a chronic, terminal illness that had been slowly killing him all his young life. Still, his parents had tried to give him as normal a life as possible and had sent him to St. Theresa's Elementary School.

At the age of 12, Jeremy was only in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy irritated his teacher. One day, she called his parents and asked them to come to St. Teresa's for a consultation.

As the Forresters sat quietly in the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students!"

Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here."

Doris sat for a long time after they left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read or write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Oh God," she said aloud, "here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared with that poor family! Please help me to be more patient with Jeremy."

From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loudly enough for the whole class to hear. The other children snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Wh-Why, that's very nice, Jeremy. Now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

Yes, Miss Miller!" the children responded enthusiastically - all except for Jeremy. He just listened intently, his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them. That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their Math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arms. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out.

The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that is new life, too" Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine."

Next Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that the moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom. "My Daddy helped me!" he beamed.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty! Surely it must be Jeremy's, she thought, and, of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another.

Suddenly Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "but Jeremy - your egg is empty!" He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty too!"

Time stopped. When she could speak again. Doris asked him, " Do you know why the tomb was empty?"

"Oh yes!" Jeremy exclaimed. "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then his Father raised him up!"

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away.

Three months later Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.

Written by Ida Mae Kempel

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

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