

September 2016

Love in order

In our hard work for transformation of our youths, we try to remember and meditate on this Scripture but still keep high standards of our ministry:

1 Corinthians 13

¹³ If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails.



Poverty without color

Look at the picture above. What do you see?

There are two little Albanian children trying to find something valuable so they can use it or sell it at the recycling materials center. Here in Albania, we are used to seeing Roma ("Gypsy") children

looking for different items through the trash in dumpsters. But here we have an Caucasian child, as well. It is heartbreaking when you see this picture. Eagle's Wings mostly has been helping children/youth from Roma communities, but since August we have two Caucasian girls living in our home, "Tamara" and "Debora." Their needs were so great, we did not know where to start. They tried to smile and to look good, but inside they came to us totally broken and almost destroyed.

Tamara and Debora

Tamara (17) and Debora (15) are sisters from a village close to Tirana. Their parents have been working in Greece as temporary workers, so most of the time they and two younger siblings were home alone. It is obvious that all the children were neglected. In addition, their biological father was physically abusing them most of the time, and he sexually abused Debora. Finally, in early July, both of them denounced their father in the police station; he has been arrested and now is in prison. They were referred to us by another NGO with the approval of State Social Service. When the sisters came in our home they were afraid and had an anxiety disorder. We have just started a long journey with them to help them in various areas. In the beginning of September, we overcame all the bureaucracies and got them enrolled in high school. Believing that Jesus is the real Healer, we encouraged Tamara and Debora to go to church meetings. At the beginning they were reluctant, as they come from a Muslim background. After seeing other girls who go to church, they decided to go with them (according to them, out of curiosity). Finally after a church meeting, they both received Jesus as their personal Savior. That was a very encouraging moment for all of us! They even shared that have experienced the Holy Spirit's presence. Now they attend church meetings regularly and pray in home as well. That is why we believe that our home is a home of hope. Your prayers have helped Tamara and Debora to soften their heart for God. Thank you for your prayers.



A LOVELY FAMILY

"Please fill your home with more girls in need, for there are many of them around. We like your home, your specialized and committed staff and your approach as well."

-that was the State Labor Inspectorate recommendation to us after a detailed audit and monitoring visit during summer. In addition, they said they will ask different organizations/state entities to refer cases to us by sharing with them (especially with State Social Service) their feedback for us.

And it was so.

After some months of prayers and fulfillment of procedures, finally our home is full.

It is wonderful how Rebeca, Ruth, and Elizabeth welcomed two new girls (Tamara and Debora). Rebeca and Elizabeth found employment and are working with integrity and commitment for the past 5 months, though this is a new and unknown phase of their life. They are adults now and are progressing very well as they prepare for independent life. Rebeca and Elizabeth are committed to go to church and are trying to trust God for their life.

Thanks to your prayers and to your financial gifts, they are on the right course for their life. We are

still working with them to improve some areas to help them to be independent and a successful citizens and followers of Christ.

We are very encouraged every time when Elizabeth invites Tamara and Debora for a coffee or for a pizza, as we are when Rebeca helps (financially) her biological mother in the village where she and her children lives in very poor conditions.

We are encouraged even when Rebeca (who has been living in our home for a longer time) gives the new girls good advice for their life.

Tamara and Debora after much red-tape and bureaucracy have started school; praise God!

Finally:

Our home is not perfect, nor are the people in it, but we think we are in the right direction and have the right motives.

Thanks to your prayers and to your financial gifts, our girls are on the right course for their lives, though it is a big change for them.

There are many more cases of vulnerable girls and boys who need a safe and healthy home, and most of all, who need Jesus.

We are trying to raise some funds here in Albania, though it is a challenge.

So, we will be dependent on your prayers and your gifts. Now with a full home the expenditures has been increased. We are facing challenges related to the new annual budget (2017)in to keep the home open and if possible to open a new home in order to help more children/youth.

Our needs as our home is full:

Fund raising campaign

- Albanian Board members and the Executive Director of EW has started a fund raising campaign in Albania.
- Ilir (Executive Director) and Richard, one of the Board members, will conduct a sponsored walking(sort of marathon) from west to east of Albania to raise awareness among Albanian Churches and society for the cause of anti human trafficking. Another important goal of the sponsored walking is to raise funds for our foundation.
- By the end of November Ilir with the support of the Board will visit USA. The main purpose will be fund raising for continuation of our home and if possible to open more homes.

Please pray for fund raising campaign and for our finances for we are facing difficulties to develop the 2017 annual budget.

Thank you for your prayers and precious support.