

# News from Albania

## The Najera Family

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DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS,

After four months of winter in which we had cold, gray days with fewer hours of light, lots of work, many days of staying inside as protection from the cold for mothers and children and many nights of being up with sick kids, our plum tree is finally blooming. The tree in the photograph is the first to bloom and gives us notice that, without a doubt, Spring is coming. Even though there are still cold



days and snow on the mountain, we have no doubt that these frigid days are over. Jehovah spoke to Jeremiah, the prophet, *“Moreover, the Word of the Lord came to me saying to me, ‘Jeremiah, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘I see a branch of an almond tree.’ Then the Lord said to me, ‘You have seen well, for I am ready to perform my word.’”* (Jeremiah 1:11-12)

In the same way that there is not the least doubt that Spring is coming, so also we are very sure that God watches over His Word to put it to work. In other words, as sure as we are that after Winter comes Spring, so also He will put His Word to work - that what He said, He will perform. And so, we should have confidence and hope, even when we have days that are gray and cold, when we go through trials and difficulties. Our hope is in God because His Word will perform. It is the same for those that do not obey and do not give Him glory. There will be judgment for them because His Word will be fulfilled.

**ANABELLA'S HEALTH** We thank the Lord that my sister has responded marvelously to the chemotherapy. This treatment is finished and the doctors have indicated that her breast tumor has been greatly reduced to the point that there may only be scar tissue left. The pain that she had in her bones is also gone. They have indicated that she will not need a mastectomy and have continued with radiotherapy. We are also thankful that, along with my mother, she is studying *“The Purpose Driven Life”* with a dear sister

from our church. Our desire is that my sister, mother, family and others will glorify the name of our Lord since this trial and that their lives will have a new purpose.



**NIKOL'S BIRTHDAY** We are grateful to God that on February 12th we celebrated Nikol's first birthday. She was surrounded by her sister, friends and the children of couples from our church who gave thanks to God for her life. We are so thankful for her health and for the Lord having entrusted us with her life. At the same time that she is a responsibility, it is also true that every moment we have with her is a joy.

**A FRIEND FOR CHRIST** We are encouraging every believer from our church to pray for at least one unsaved friend this year - seek them out, drink coffee with them, testify with our lives and explain the Gospel to them. We understand that our ministry is to reconcile men to God and we want to be specific in doing so. Sazan is my "Friend for Christ" (*in the photo*). He's a 24-year-old military man with whom I have met over coffee several times. I am cultivating a friendship with him and have the desire to share the Gospel with him and that our Father will bring Him to Christ.



### **PLEASE PRAY**

1. That God would continue to manifest Himself in the life of my sister, Anabella, and that His name will be glorified through complete healing in her life.
2. That each member of Tirana Bible Church fulfill their ministry and God draw our friends to Christ.
3. That every day each of us be transformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is our focus for the year as a church.
4. For us as a family - that we walk worthy in the service to which the Lord has called us.

In Christ,

***Giovanni, Migena, Naomi and Nikol***