

# The Najera Family

Greetings from Albania,

August 2007

I am writing you a report of our ministry here. I want to apologize because for a lot of time I did not write you anything in English. I hope that this will help you to know what is happening here.

## CHANGES

Some things have changed in the model that we are using to plant a church. We are not working any more using the traditional church model. We are now using the group church model instead of a church with groups that are different.

Why are we changing to this model? There are many reasons, but the more important are:

- ❖ To involve more church members. In the past, only a few church members were involved. We are trying to get more members who will live close to Jesus so that this will be reflected in their compassion for others and be moved to reach them.
- ❖ To give more responsibility to the church members. Their responsibility is not to only come to the meetings; they are to participate, grow personally and speak to others.
- ❖ To teach them the commandment to grow and share with others. In other words, to make disciples. This is not only the pastor's responsibility.
- ❖ To share with them closely, to let them to participate and to interact. It is very important that they think carefully about what they are learning. In a small and homogeneous group, they can interact more as a family than in a big group.
- ❖ To prepare leaders (people that are directing the groups) with training and experience in a leader's role so that, in the future, they can be the church leaders. They know that if they want to multiply, they need to train others.

## MINISTRY

1. *Boys' Group*: I am working with a group of ten adolescent boys every Saturday. They are receiving Bible lessons and we are playing soccer. We have special activities like campfires at night and a summer camp. At the summer camp, we had 9 boys and 11 girls. Some of these boys had been coming to the meetings for four years, beginning with the summer camp and following with the Kids' Club.



2. *Kids' Club*: We have a Kids' Club that is called "Straight to the Treasure" where we present Jesus to ages 8 through 12. Later, we continue to follow them with the groups from ages 13 and up. We have a meeting every last Saturday of the month.

3. *Young Men's Group:* Alan Bryant and I are meeting with this group of five men every Sunday afternoon.
4. *Couple's Group:* Together with Douglas and Gloria Livingston, we are working with two couples. We are also trying to reach other couples.
5. *Girls' Group:* We are meeting with six girls. Our beginning meeting was a prayer meeting and now we are studying Ephesians.
6. *Pastoral Team:* I am a part of a pastoral team. Douglas, Alan and myself meet together to discuss church business. God has given me the privilege to preach at the Sunday church service and to share the privilege of taking care of some of the church members, especially kids, youths and young men.

We are seeing a lot of enthusiasm with how the church is moving. At the beginning, it was difficult and some church members were not very enthusiastic about the church group model. They were accustomed to following the traditional form and the group model looked strange. We know that the group model is not easy because every member needs to participate. They need to share about their lives and what is happening in their walk with Jesus Christ. They need to share their faith in order to reach others so that they can grow. But we are encouraged to see many members taking the initiative and making the effort to be multiplied. Now their Christian life is not so common; now some members are having struggles in their lives and they are going to grow more in Christ.



### **FAMILY LIFE**

We thank God that Naomi is one year old and that He is taking care of her. We thank Him that she is healthy and has not had the necessity to visit the hospital. (The hospital conditions here in Albania are not good.) Migena is using more of her time taking care of Naomi and the house. We pray that God can give us a special testimony in front of many Albanian families that we know. They are influenced by the Islam and we like to show them (not only with words) who our God is and what we believe.

### **FURLOUGH**

Our Field Director, Douglas Livingston, and our church have authorized our furlough for November 25, 2007 to April 26, 2008. We would like to be in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras from the end of November to the end of March and we expect to visit World Reach Headquarters and some churches during the month of April 2008.

In Christ,

*Giovanni, Migena and Naomi Najera*

**World Reach – Celebrating 25 Years of Ministry**

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