



## Dear Friends and Family

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank you for your prayers, support, and concern. Below are some updates from us.

### Family Corner

Early morning on Friday November 24 we welcomed Sofia Kate to the world. She came in weighing a little over 9lbs! Tine and Sofia are doing very well, although no matter how many 2 a.m. lectures we give her, Sofia doesn't get the concept of sleep during the night and awake during the day.

Although Jonas and Isabella were both born in Albania, we decided to have Sofia in Germany as Germany's medical system is a higher standard than Albania's. Even though Andy has to continue his classes with subs and internet, we are very glad we made this decision as many things are much easier when family is nearby. Jonas and Bella also love having time with their grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles. Andy is working hard on his Master's thesis for his education degree: educational standards for high school Bible classes. We are able to spend Christmas with family and we will fly back to Tirana on the 27th of December.



## GDQ Family Highlight

The families of Andy's students do a variety of missionary work in Albania. This is an excerpt from Dawn and Ken Bishops' recent newsletter.

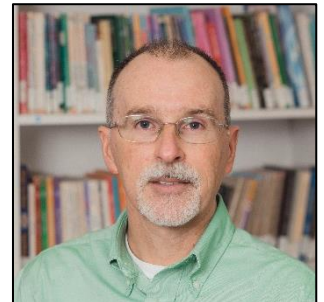
*Morning Sun Daycare exists to provide **affordable daycare to the children of single working mothers and other disadvantaged caretakers.** Morning Sun provides care for about 30 children which includes breakfast, lunch, playtime, educational lessons and nap time. The staff are also able to minister to the parents. Recently, the director's wife, in cooperation with another Christian agency, was instrumental in helping convince a couple to remove their children from begging in the street. The boy is now in the daycare and the daughter is in school. The father is sustaining his family by gathering scrap metal and plastic. **Your support helps make this possible.***



## GDQ School Update

A big highlight for me (Andy) this year is **teaching a new class** to the Sophomores called Old Testament Wisdom Literature. In the past I've done an Old Testament overview class but depth over breadth seems to be a much better approach. We have spend the whole first semester looking at wise living from the Proverbs. Next is Ecclesiastes, then Song of Songs, and Job. Balancing the vastly different themes of these four books will, I pray, not only inform their worldview but draw the students closer to God. They are a mix of students from believing and non-believing families.

With a **new head principal at the high school**, Andy continues to serve as the assistant principal. New leadership always bring new changes but so far the new principal has done a great job of transitioning into the position. Len (pictured right) and his wife Betsy have served in education and missions for many years in Latin America and are transitioning well to life in Tirana.



## TCK Corner

Andy thoroughly enjoys teaching and ministering to Third Culture Kids (TCKs). A British newspaper *The Telegraph* published an article entitled, **The 10 Biggest Struggles for a Third Culture Kid\***. It said...

1. *Answering the question, "Where are you from?"*
2. *Explaining your "international accent"*
3. *Mixing up your languages*
4. *Planning holidays*
5. *Long distance friends and relationships*
6. *Dealing with ridiculous questions*
7. *A constant need to travel*
8. *Passports and immigration*
9. *Explaining your lifestyle*
10. *Different currencies and costs of living.*

The #1 question, where are you from, is one of the trickiest questions for a Third Culture Kid to answer. TCK students have told Andy that **they answer this question differently depending on who is asking them.** They often have multiple passports and have lived in a few different countries or continents. It's really a geographical question but many TCK's lack the geographical roots needed to answer it. So if you really want to know where a TCK is from, a more fitting question to ask is, **what's your family like?**

For a more detailed explanation of why the question is so hard, see the video entitled *So Where's Home: A Film About Third Culture Kid Identity* by Adrian Bautista: <https://vimeo.com/41264088>

\*the article goes into finer details about each of the questions <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/expat/education-and-family/the-10-biggest-struggles-for-a-third-culture-kid/>

## Prayer Points

- In the past weeks there has been a lot of rain and **flooding in Albania**. Many homes have been flooded and families have lost much of the little they have. Pray for wisdom for the political leaders in Albania to know how to handle the situation.
- **Andy's 9th grade class** is now finishing up the youth Alpha Course video series. Not all of the kids come from believing families. Pray for soft hearts and open minds as they hear many compelling reasons to follow Jesus.
- Teaching well is an emotionally, mentally, and spiritually draining ministry. **Thank God for a great GDQ staff** and pray for them to be continually **filled with God's spirit to minister effectively** to their students.
- For **Tine** as she now manages 3 kids, 4 years and under. The lack of sleep lately does not make it easier. We are blessed to have so much family helping now but that will change quickly when we arrive back in Tirana.

## Thank you....

for your love and support.

*Tine, Andy, Jonas, Isabella, & Sofia*



What we wish our life was always like.

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Unfortunately, the reality is often different! :-)

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