



### *The Power of Curiosity:*

Returning from our mission project in Albania has challenged me to reflect on the experience and what God was doing in and through me while I was serving in Tirana. I'm sure many of you understand that when you have had such an powerful experience, it is difficult to capture it in a concise way, but I will do my best to share a snap shot with you! One of the most significant takeaways throughout this mission to Albania for me was the impact that having a curious and patient perspective would have. I'm not naturally very patient and I'm developing a curious perspective, but usually I try to get to the root of things fast so we can figure it out and move to the next thing. This opportunity to learn people's stories in a new context and very different culture showed me the need to slow down and observe more. I am learning how doing this differently builds trust and shows respect or care in a new way. As God opened up connections with women like Abbe, Olta, Denesa, Lisi, Greta & Blerina, I was so humbled to learn what has shaped their lives and to be more patient (which is hard when you think "I only have a short time with them") and trust God for the bigger picture and process He has us in. He is pursuing our hearts and revealing His love to us and transforming us over time. Its like when He shines light onto a flower bud which moves it from being a tight bud into an open blossom. While in Albania, there was a devotion time focused on John 3:22-36. We talked about John the Baptist's ministry, and him preparing the way for the Lord. It was a powerful reminder that we are tilling soil and planting seeds, but the Lord sees and takes care of the whole picture of each person's journey of growth!



### *Building Connections in Albania:*

The big goal of our ministry in Albania was to cultivate connections and create opportunities for the other missionaries that are there long term. We hosted a "Friends & Sport" Volleyball tournament for college students to meet new people. During times between games, we had good conversations in order to get to know the students more. We also invited students to be part of a game night outreach. They will have that community night every Thursday night for the rest of their semester! At the game night we hosted, Phoebe (a basketball player from St Thomas Univ. who joined our trip) shared how having a relationship with Jesus has changed her life! We also took 100+ students into the mountains for an excursion one day, as they celebrated a national holiday. It was really special to experience their culture this way, to have an Albanian Bar-B-Que, and to dive deeper connecting in that time. God opened up opportunities to meet with the women's soccer coach & team at the Sport University in Tirana and also share with several classes there. It was challenging having such limited language to understand each other, but also incredible to witness the Lord knitting our hearts together in ways that only He could do when words seemed to fail us. We are so grateful for the doors that the Lord opened and are trusting Him for the followup relationships with Anni, Alban, Erin & Juli!



We appreciate your prayers that empowered our whole family in this mission! I felt it while in Albania and Kyle and the kids felt so cared for as they did great together holding the fort at home. We would treasure your prayers for travel mercies and our family again as Kyle heads to a training and development conference for all of our AIA staff this coming week. Thank you for being in our corner, encouraging us the ways you do, and for being with us on mission!

Kyle.Wenig@athletesinaction.org  
Jayne.Wenig@athletesinaction.org

Kyle's cell - 937-266-6226  
Jayne's cell - 937-266-7757

[www.TeamWenig.com](http://www.TeamWenig.com)

#### The Wenig's ADDRESS:

6613 Montclair Lane  
Madison, WI 53711

Tax deductible gifts can be sent to our address above with checks written to Athletes in Action & staff acct #0581139 in the Memo Line. You can also give at <http://give.cru.org>

**We're grateful for your partnership! Thanks for your impact on the mission!**

**Much love,**

Kyle, Jayne,  
AJ, Leisel, George & Simon