## Generation Peace Academy Overseas Vlore, Albania's First Sunday Service

Akira Watanabe March 1, 2022





Vlorë, Albania, Independence Monument

## 2/27/2022

Hey guys, it's your weekly update! So today was a Sunday and we were able to attend our first Sunday service here at our center. It was really nice to come together with the other members of the community and listen to our center leader Lubin's sermon. After that we had other fun plans like driving down to the monastery to dig deeper into the religious history of Albania. It was cool to see a building that was built many many years ago by people back then that were connected to the priest and how they held holy ceremonies and traditions. We all definitely learned a lot! Looking out from the historical building was a lagoon that had such a pretty view of the distant islands around and surprisingly of flamingos! Next up we went to a fancy-looking cafe. The beverages that we got were very delicious. It for sure satisfied my sweet cravings from the chocolate shake I ordered there! Then we headed back home to the center house and cooked dinner together. That was our day today! Thank you~

## 2/28/2022

Hello it's me again from Albania! Are you ready to hear more about our experience here in Vlore? Well, to start off we were able to go witnessing again! It was such a blessing though because when we thought that after having two runs was gonna be it for the day, we found out that E. Rissanen's guest was going to be coming to our center to listen to a lecture of the introduction to the Divine Principle. So they got in contact with them and we ended up really meeting in person and they gave the lecture in front of them. It was such an exciting event! We are very grateful that they even took time out of their day to come to our center. Shortly after that we headed back to our center home, ate dinner and had a team meeting as part of our evening program! I think it was nice being able to share about our experience in Albania so far and about how we want to move forward in witnessing and our own personal goals to strive towards so that we can really solidify our experiences to make the most out of this trip! And that wraps up today's report! Thank you for reading!

## 3/1/2022

Hello! Back with another update! So today was another day of witnessing, and it was a little rainy outside today but the cold rain drops felt nice. It also didn't stop us from investing into the people! Witnessing overall today was really amazing! For me personally, even though in the beginning it was hard to tell how the run was going to go, what helped was before my approaches, I would say a short prayer. By doing so, I was able to let go of anything that was clouding up my mind, and I was able to have smoother approaches. Also in the morning before going out, we all declared our intentions as a team for our runs, so mine was to think simply, instead of overthinking. To just make my spiel short and simple! I felt successful in that today! Witnessing has been a really great experience for the rest of us too! We've already had someone, as you may know, come to our center and receive a talk about Introduction of the Divine Principle, and now another guest is scheduled to come today to receive Introduction. We haven't heard anything back from them yet, but we will update you on that, coming up so stay tuned! We were able to meet a bright young lady who was very interested in CARP and had some time to visit our center this evening. She wants to meet again tomorrow to discuss more about what we do. It's really exciting too because for some of the other approaches we made, they mentioned that they could possibly come to our center to know more about the organization. Tomorrow we will also be holding a movie night with our guests! How fun will that be! There is so much going on and we really can't help but jump up and down in anticipation and excitement for our visit here in Albania! Afterwards we started to work on a video project for social media in Vlore! It was fun being able to brainstorm ideas for the video and seeing it come to life with the finished product! I really hope you enjoyed today's weekly update!