

SUMMER 2026 TRIP UPDATE

elena & michelle

English Camp in
The Balkans



Before our trip, we asked if you'd pray for safe travels, against the enemy's attacks, for good relational connections, and for good health. **You prayed; He answered!** We had no issues traveling, including navigating the airports, and I am happy to report that I had only one migraine the entire trip!

We are so thankful for your prayers and support through our time in the Balkans. God's fingerprints were all over this opportunity. In keeping with the "Mission Possible" theme, let's see where we can spot Him!



The Power of Prayer *by Elena*

One thing God taught me on this trip was how powerful prayer is. Leading up to the trip, my mom and I were doing a devotional together on the armor of God. The devotional really highlighted the importance of prayer, with days devoted to prayer and instructions to help people remember to pray. Before going on the trip, I was really frustrated because prayer seemed futile, yet everyone was telling me to pray. Then on the trip, we had a team meeting every day before camp started. During that meeting, there was time for people to reflect on the day before, talk about wins or struggles, or ask for prayer. Each day someone would ask for prayer for something, be it for energy that day, their group, a single kid, or just something. And every day someone would share how a prayer had been answered the day before. This was not a requirement for how the time was used; it just ended up being that way. There was always an answer to prayer each day. Those whole two weeks, I got to see God at work through prayer and connection to His people.

One day after the trip, I cleaned up my room. In that clean-up, I gathered the prayer cards that I had hung on my wall from my devotions before the trip. I decided to rewrite them all in a notebook so I could keep them in one place and use that notebook for prayer. As I was rewriting them, I saw how every prayer I had prayed before the trip had been answered in some way. **I saw a before, during, and after look at God working through prayer, and it was beautiful.** I was reminded of the small prayers I had prayed on the trip asking for help to get through that day and them being answered. I remembered the team meetings where there was always at least one prayer answered, and the prayers always felt meaningful. Then I saw how my prayers were answered even when I didn't think they had really meant anything. Through this trip, God has revived the meaning of prayer in my life, and I am so grateful that I know the truth of this divine gift God has given us all. He wants a relationship with his people, and He wants to hear us tell Him what is on our mind.

Learning Culture

We had the opportunity to visit the local museum, Mosque, and Orthodox Christian Church. Because this is a primarily Muslim community, we heard the Call to Prayer five times each day. It was a reminder to me to pray for these kind, family-oriented people who do not have a relationship with Jesus.



Michelle with her co-leader from VA (middle) and her translator (left)

Michelle reconnected with a boy who was in her group last year.

SPY GOGGLES



I Spy Fingerprints on Friendships



English Camp at the Hope Center is quite similar to VBS, except without a faith component. While that may seem odd, it is an excellent platform for relationship building with the children, their parents/families, and the local teens who volunteer to translate during camp. Elena and I joined in with the long-term Crossworld workers, a small college-aged team from Canada, and a team of teens from Virginia.

Elena led a group of young kids along with a girl from VA and her local muslim friend you've been praying for, Rosa.* They were so excited to be face-to-face again instead of texting! They also had the opportunity to go for coffee and ice cream a few times – always good for relationship building! The enemy may have meant to create discord as group leaders, God used the chaos of their large group of young kids to strengthen their friendship.

** Name changed for security*

Pray for Rosa* and that Elena might have opportunities to ask faith-related questions.



Thank you so much for praying for and supporting us this summer! We appreciate you sending us to the nations!

Michelle & Elena