

# LIFE WITH LANEY

## July Newsletter

### SEFLEE ♡♡

This month I have had the incredible opportunity to get to know and spend time with Miss Seflee Foster! Seflee has been a part of the AIM world for a long time, growing up in Lubbock around the program and becoming an AIMer herself! She was part of the first team to go to Mexico City and serve the Lord there. This past year Seflee has been working all over Europe as a traveling sous chef, and through all of her AIM connections ended up spending the summer here with us in Berat! She was such an encouragement to us and an absolute joy to be around! We were absolutely blessed to have Seflee and I am very excited for her next journey!



Seflee and I

### LUSHNJE/ BERAT VBS

Lushnje is a small town about 45 minutes from Berat. Every year the Lushnje church puts on a 3 day VBS, and this year they invited us to come help! The Lushnje church does things a little bit different, which took a little bit to get used to but I ended up loving it in the end! They spend the first 30 minutes of the day entertaining the kids with different activities, stuff like face paint, nail polish, temporary tattoos, stickers, games, and dancing. This little bit of time dedicated to welcoming the kiddos really helped us build relationships and connections with them! The Lushnje VBS was a great opportunity to learn new things and I am so grateful for their leadership and hospitality.

This summer we have been traveling all over Albania helping with different VBS's, but this month we made it a priority to have a VBS in Berat! We spent about two weeks preparing and getting everything organized and all of us AIMers had different responsibilities for the VBS. Jayden and Chloe were both in charge of organizing and making crafts for the kids, Daniel was in charge of the games/ activities, and I was in charge of making the slideshows for the lessons and putting together fun skits for the kiddos! Berat has not had a VBS before, so we spent many afternoons passing out flyers and encouraging people to come. We really had no idea how many kids to expect but we ended up having about 10-12 kids everyday! I am very grateful for how engaged and patient the kids were! Even though everything may not have been perfect, the kids were so encouraging and I am so proud of them all!

### PRAYERS! ♡♡

It's crazy to think that this time last year I was starting my AIM journey in Lubbock! As the new AIM class starts their adventure this month, I ask that you keep all the students in your prayers! All the AIMers have officially made it to their AIM fields, please keep us all in your prayers as we go through culture shock and time away from home!



## KAMPI VEROR BUNEC 2025

All summer the church in Albania looks forward to their big church camp in Bunec. Bunec is far south on the coast of Albania and it sits right on the Ionian Sea. The cool thing about this camp is that all the churches in Albania get involved in some way, putting on this camp is really a community effort. Getting all the kids to the camp is probably the most confusing part, there is a small van that comes up from Polican and they pick up kids from Berat and Fier on their way to camp. Then there is a huge bus that picks up kids from Tirana, Dures, Vlore, and any stragglers along the way. It is a very confusing process but everyone arrived safely to the camp with good attitudes and eager hearts! The camp site is very cute, there are trees surrounding the camp grounds and tons of places to explore. All campers and staff stay in old refugee tents and even the kitchen is set up in a tent. This first week of camp is for 5 to 13 year olds, which was honestly so fun! The kids were excited about everything, they never complained and were just so happy to be at camp. As an outsider who doesn't know a lot of the language or expectations, everyone was happy to help me learn and understand what was going on which was a huge blessing! Each day was filled with valuable Bible lessons, beach time, quality time with the kids, and hard work! The second week of camp was very similar to the first week. Second week is focused on the older groups, so the 13 to 18 year olds. Second week was harder for me, this group did not know a lot of English and I had a harder time connecting with the kids.

The theme for the two weeks was ,Dashuri Poshte Dallgeve, which translates to, Love Under the Waves.They focused on the story of Jonah, him running away from God, the consequences, and coming back to God. The leaders did a great job teaching this subject, challenging the campers, and explaining what those things meant.

They do a lot of the same stuff as the first week of camp, young men would lead morning devotions, beach time, and evening keynotes. At the end of the first week and start of the second, a huge fire broke out around the Bunec area. At first the fire was not a huge threat to the camp but it ended up getting .3 miles close to the camp ground. The whole situation was very nerve-racking, the leaders were having trouble deciding if they needed to evacuate the camp, or what other options looked like. Helicopters started flying water from the sea and dumping it on the fire, and thankfully by Monday night the fire was gone! A bit of a tense situation but everything was okay and we were able to continue the week of camp!

During free time there were multiple tournaments the staff put on. Volleyball, Basketball, swimming, football, darts, and even chess! Jayden and Daniel were in charge of hosting the chess tournament and they had so much fun! The tournament spanned across the whole week and about 14 kids participated. It was super fun and gave us all opportunities to connect with the campers. I am very grateful for these two weeks of camp and am already excited to go back next year!