



# The Harvest Times

A Publication of World Missions

## Reaching the Roma in Albania

If you had been born to an Albanian Romani family, you would have immediately faced some specific challenges.

Your parents may have been 13-15 when they were married, are probably illiterate, and make a living from what they can find in the city dump. Not only that, Albania itself has poor infrastructure since it was a closed Communist nation until the 1990s.

Almost one out of every four Romani children has stunted growth due to malnourishment, and your family also faces a high infant mortality rate and a need for healthcare.

There is perhaps only one Roma family in the large city of Tirana that has decided to follow Jesus.

So where is the hope? The source of all our hope is in Jesus. But the Roma people have many basic needs (food, healthcare, etc.) that must be addressed for the people to be able to hear about Him.

This is the bridge the Wait family wants to help build as they begin a new chapter of ministry in Shkozë in the outskirts of the capitol city of Tirana. This month, Gabe, Erica, and Claire are joining another family already in ministry there.

One of the goals of these two families is to open The House of Hope this fall. The team has been providing literacy training, health visits, food distribution, youth soccer, prayer, and Bible reading. Now they are seeking a permanent space next to the Roma community to serve as a base.



*Gabe, Erica, & Claire Wait*

The team estimates that rental for a facility may cost \$4000 up front and operational costs may run \$1200 monthly.

The team will be seeking to implement Community Health Evangelism, empowering the Romani to identify their own needs and seek ways to address them.

Please pray for Gabe, Erica, and Claire as they seek to share Christ's love with one of the most marginalized and discriminated people groups in Europe. Pray also for the House of Hope, that the team will find the right location and that the Father will use this community center as a tool to draw many of the Roma people to Himself.

To give to The House of Hope, send a check to PO Box 4711, Overland Park, KS 66204, or go to [coghworldmissions.org](http://coghworldmissions.org).

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The church building at North Sound, Virgin Gorda, completely lost its roof.



St. Thomas church and school after Irma

## AROUND THE WORLD

### HURRICANES DEVASTATE CARIBBEAN

Within 12 days in September, two category 5 hurricanes battered the Caribbean. Hurricane Irma arrived the first week of the month, one of the most powerful Atlantic storms on record. Our churches on the islands of Virgin Gorda, Tortola, Anguilla, and St. Thomas were hardest hit. Then less than two weeks later, Hurricane Maria swept through, devastating parts of St. Croix.

Electricity was down everywhere and was not expected to be completely restored for months. Trees were stripped of all greenery, buildings were flooded or destroyed, and even some graves appeared to have been opened.

First, we are grateful that there has been no loss of life to anyone in our churches. But there was much physical damage: roofs lost, buildings flooded, parishioners in need. In St. Thomas, for example, the church on the first floor was flooded, and the school on the second floor was devastated by the loss of the roof from Hurricane Irma. Pastor Kenrick Buckle's home was also damaged. Hurricane Maria flooded the church a second time, worse than the first.

The recovery process will be long. Will you help our brothers and sisters in the Eastern Caribbean by contributing to this need?

To give to Hurricane Relief, mail a check to World Missions, PO Box 4711, Overland Park, KS 66204, or go to [coghworlmissions.org](http://coghworlmissions.org).



## World Missions

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