

You Have Great Value! An Albania World-CARP Project

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One of our local World-CARP chapters, in Korça, the major city in southeastern Albania, organized a project called You Have Great Value. As in many other places in the world, we were aware that in this city live some very poor families who do not have enough to eat and whose living conditions are bad. Therefore, the young members of CARP-Korça divided into three groups and discussed what our CARP members might do for them. We had already done this type of project once before, in January. This article covers the second project, which we carried out in April. Through these projects, we have helped support six impoverished families.



Our intentions

Our purpose in carrying out these projects is two-fold. On the one hand, we want to help young people become aware of the difficult reality in which many people find themselves, thereby helping them develop empathy for others and to help inculcate in them the value of living for the sake of others. On the other hand, we want to provide substantial relief to these poor families, to alleviate some of the difficulty and the accompanying stress that burdens them.

Our CARP meeting

In a meeting with CARP members, we spoke about historical figures who invested themselves in bettering others' lives, and thereby changed the world. We spoke about the significant work and investment of Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, Thomas Edison and Rev. Sun Myung Moon. In a previous activity, we had presented a video of the famous movie, "The Great Dictator," which Charlie Chaplin directed, produced and starred in. In a speech featured in the movie, Chaplin's character, the Great Dictator, said "I should like to help everyone if possible—Jew, Gentile, black man, white. We all want to help one another" and "You are not machines.... You have the love of humanity in your hearts. You, the people, have the power...the power to create happiness." This was an inspirational video, through which we encouraged members and guests to do things in life from which other people can benefit. Each of the teams decided to collect money, clothes and food to support poor families.

Activity to raise funds

For most of the guests, this was their first experience of raising funds. Actually, we were worried about how they would react to the experience, but what we saw and felt after the activity was nothing but inspiration and happiness. We could experience how wonderful it is when we invest ourselves for others' sake.



Visiting Poor Families

Each team visited one poor family and gave them all the things the team members had collected. These families invited us to go inside their homes. We sat together and listened to each family's story. Their stories touched us all. Most of their situations were beyond anything we had ever imagined. These experiences made us think a lot more about life.

Reflections

In our next CARP meeting, we asked some

members and guests to share their experiences.

—I know there are many poor people in the world, but a great difference exists between knowing and seeing this with my own eyes. I was shocked. This caused me to reflect deeply. In one part of the world, there are many material things and a lot of food, which is even being thrown away. However, on the other side of the world, people are suffering because of starvation. Why is it so difficult for people who are wealthy to share with people who are not? I am very grateful that W-CARP gave me this great experience.

—Through this activity, I understood that there are still many people who need help...

Results of the project

After the activity, our relationship to our guests became closer. We also more clearly understood that if we put True Father's words, "live for the sake of others" into practice, we can do many good things for others that make some difference in their lives but that we also gain great energy and happiness.

Here are links of two videos we made about this project: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9iG8FaZ3h4
www.facebook.com/FFPBB/videos/1333499573333613/



UN Information—Albania

Albania is located in southeastern Europe bordering the Adriatic Sea and Ionian Sea, between Montenegro and Kosovo in the north, Macedonia in the east and Greece in the south.

Albanian history and culture is fascinating. Butrint, one of the world's archeological wonders, a city inhabited beginning in pre-historic times—now a UNESCO World Heritage site—in the south of Albania provides a glimpse of Mediterranean civilization from the Bronze Age through the Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman

periods—all atop a cliff overlooking Corfu.

Throughout the transition period Albania has been faced with a number of extremely complex challenges in order to establish stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law and human rights as well as to operate a functioning market economy and to cope with competition and market forces.

Albania has enjoyed a high, sustained rate of economic growth over the past several years, averaging about 5–6 percent per year, placing Albania into the group of countries with a high Human Development Index (HDI).

Albania represents a considerable market in the region, due to several agreements on free trade with neighboring countries and the European Union, as well as an attractive investment destination. Life expectancy in Albania is 77.1 years at birth according to the 2013 Human Development Report. According to the same report, 45 percent of Albania's population uses the internet.