

# ALBANIA 2026 INTEREST MEETING NOTES

- 1) Is A Mission Trip Right For You? Three things you need:
  - a. **A desire to serve others.** Followers of Jesus should continually seek out ways to serve others – in their local church, in their communities, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.
  - b. **A desire to grow your faith.** Following Jesus is a “learn by doing” exercise. We won’t grow our faith if everything we learn stays in “the classroom;” we need to get in the trenches with it in our daily living. A mission trip is about serving others which grows our faith as we’re forced to look at our strengths and weaknesses.
  - c. **A willingness to learn from others and expand our understanding of the world.** If you believe you have nothing to learn, then you’ll always see yourself as the teacher. This almost never goes well. Instead, it feeds into the lie that those of us with the privilege and means to travel are somehow more capable, knowledgeable, or worthy of respect and praise. The truth is, we’re all broken people living in a broken world. On a mission trip you must show up with open hearts (humbly giving what we’re able to) and open hearts (taking in whatever God might want to teach us through the people we meet).
- 2) What Are The Trip Details?
  - a. **Dates:** July 9-21, 2026
  - b. **Camp Location:** Erseke, Albania
  - c. **Serving:** YoungLife Albania
  - d. **Map** – RED, BLACK, GREEN circles



- e. **Timeline:** Leaving Dulles evening of July 9. Sixteen hours of travel later, we arrive in Tirane afternoon July 10. There will time to acclimate and see some of the capital on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. On July 12, we'll load up in a rented van and make the four hour drive to the camp. July 13 will be serving by setting up for camp. July 14-18 will be serving during camp (meals, game prep, leading a workshop, etc). July 19-20 we'll take time to decompress and learn more about the culture. We'll then fly home on July 21.

### 3) Video

- a. This is a video of the camp that YL rents to hold their camp at. The guy speaking is the director of that camp, not the YL Director that we'll be working directly under. *Video: <https://torchbearers.org/centres/crossroads/>*

### 4) Trip Cost

- a. **Total:** \$2,500 (airfare is the unknown ... pray for a favorable ticket price)
- b. How WE see the price
- c. How GOD sees the price
- d. Deadlines
  - i. Application by **Feb 8**
  - ii. \$200 deposit by **Mar 1**
  - iii. \$800 payment due by **April 30**
  - iv. \$1,500 payment due by **June 15**
- e. How do you raise support?
  - i. Support Letters
  - ii. Saving paychecks, bday gifts, etc
  - iii. Doing odd jobs

### 5) Is God Calling You To Go? Five steps you should make:

- a. **Pray and read His Word.** Prayer and engaging with Scripture enlarges our vision of who God is, tunes in our hearts to His heart, and allows us to experience His presence and work in our lives and throughout the world. Cultivating an intimate relationship with God enables us to overcome our fears.
- b. **Know Yourself.** Self-awareness increases our understanding of who God made us to be and how we can be used for His glory. So, take some to prayerfully consider your strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes, skills and talents, passions and dreams. Let these inform your decisions about missions, since God can use all that He's given you to be part of His kingdom work!
- c. **Seek godly counsel.** God didn't intend for us to go through this process of discernment alone. Oftentimes, other people notice things about us that we never realized about ourselves. Being surrounded by a godly community of

people you trust is key – inc. your family, pastor, mentor, discipleship coach, small group leader.

- d. **Talk to your family.** Your parents know you best and their blessing is important. Their decision to support and not allow you to go on this trip is rooted in their deep love and concern for you as their child. Rather than seeing them as a barrier or obstacle, see how God is leading them and leading you on a journey of trusting Him.
- e. **Serve locally.** Getting involved locally can grow your heart for a particular group of people, equip you for future ministries, and enable you to be part of God's global mission here and now.

#### 6) Your Move

Once you've completed the five steps above, and you want to apply to take part in this mission trip, you will complete the attached Mission Trip Application and submit it to the Trip Leader by Feb 8, 2026.