

WHO WILL BE OUR "MAGNIFICENT 7"?

The successful and productive time spent by Chris Nikkel in Albania has confirmed me in what has long-seemed to me an important developmental step for Lightbearers, i.e., the posting of support-based staff overseas to represent Lightbearers interests by working with the various ministry partners to whom we have provided project funding.

"Back in the day" I had figured to make the initial trips to each of the 60+ countries in the 10/40 Window all by my little old self, to establish the network of ministry partners in each country, and to pass that network (complete with projects!!) along to my successor—whomever and whenever that might be. Vanity, thy name is Compton.

But each "discovery trip" that resulted in project funding then required a follow-up accountability trip. Why?

Because were not going to be some outfit that just wrote checks and threw money willy-nilly at folks in foreign lands. DUE DILIGENCE always has been and always will be the order of the day for this ministry. There are not a whole lot of others besides us who are in the business of mobilizing resources and connecting those resources to other ministries; but we do not intend simply to be good based on the standard of "in the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king". We know that we can be, and are becoming, the very best in searching out the partners, the projects and the progress that will allow us to look anybody in the face and—without stuttering, blushing or qualifying—tell them

that their missions dollars invested in and through Lightbearers Ministries will be the most effective, efficient and economical use of those dollars. That our ROI (return on investment)—their investment—is second-to-none.

With accountability trips added to discovery trips added to the age at which I began taking such trips (50 years old before I took my first-ever mission trip), it was becoming pretty clear that I was not going to get this done by myself. But who could help me?

A visit to a young graduate from the University of Arkansas living and planting churches in Burkina Faso, West Africa opened my eyes to the existence of people who might do these kinds of things for Lightbearers while at the same time living in-country rather than commuting from the States as I was doing. From there it was an easy step to look at the maps in my study at home and to see the 10/40 Window as 7 separate regions...West Africa, North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia, India and South Asia, China and East Asia, and Southeast Asia.

We could have singles or couples live in each region and both work with existing projects and missionaries as well as develop new contacts for us. Chris Nikkel was our "test case". We know now it can work...and work well; both for us and for our partners.

Thanks, Chris. Job well done. And now will you each and all join our Board of Directors and me as we pray for our eyes to be open that we might see the Magnificent 7 that the Lord sends our way to be Lightbearers Regional Reps.



MIKE COMPTON, founder and executive director of Lightbearers Ministries, received a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Southwest Missouri State College (now Missouri State University) in 1970; a master's degree in History from that institution in 1971; and a doctorate in Higher Education Administration/College Student Personnel from the University of Arkansas in 1980. His career includes professional positions in university administration (University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC; and Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, MO), church staff (University Baptist Church, Fayetteville, AR; and First Baptist Church, Moore, OK), and county government (Washington County, AR). He established Lightbearers, a collegiate residential discipleship ministry, at the University of Oklahoma in May 1995. Lightbearers is an IRS-designated 501 (c) (3) organization. Tax deductible receipts will be issued for all contributions to Lightbearers Ministries.

LIGHTBEARERS

M I N I S T R I E S

Fayetteville, Arkansas



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BACK FROM ALBANIA

Chris Nikkel



Immersion back into America has been an interesting experience. After being in Albania for one year as a Lightbearers staff member, I have returned to the States and started work at Community Bible Church...my home church in San Antonio. I have the great privilege of reaching out to people in their 20's in this city of 1.5 million and telling them of the one true God who loves them without hesitation. To come back and be able to work with so many friends and supporters is an amazing gift from above.

When I first got back here in June, I really was in a state

of shock. The opportunities, friendships, and resources I have here are amazing. However, to live in a place like Albania where these things are not in abundant supply have left marks in me that run deep.

Albania has other things in great supply... identity with family, trust in each other, and passion. This has also left an irremovable impression.

I can also say that my faith in Jesus has never been more tested...not in going to Albania, but in coming back to America. I love my country.

God loves this country. I long to see the church in America become even more mobilized in reaching the unreached for Christ, right here and overseas. I long to see the in-breaking reign of Christ take hold of us in a way that our schools, hospitals, cubicles, government offices, softball fields, and grocery stores become brighter lights for Him.

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him" ~ 2 Corinthians 2:14



END OF ACTION REPORT

Dear brothers and sisters at Lightbearers -

Greetings to you from Tirana, Albania. Before I begin this brief summary report regarding Chris Nikkel and his work with us in Albania in the past year, let me just say "Thank You" for all your support and encouragement that you have given to our student ministry BSKSH over the years. We are very grateful to you for the funds, the prayers, and the personnel that have reached us and have had a very positive impact on our ministry.

Chris Nikkel served with BSKSH for one year (June 2006 - June 2007). During this year Chris was responsible for our student movement in Elbasan, one of the 4 university cities where BSKSH is present. We asked Chris to lead the work in Elbasan because we needed a mature worker to develop student leaders in a very difficult place. In fact, our student work in Elbasan was suffering due to the lack of workers in the past two years before Chris' arrival. So, Chris had to rebuild the movement from scratch almost. That was not an easy task, but in our opinion Chris did very well.

Even though one year is a relatively short period of time, for BSKSH Chris' involvement with our work was extremely helpful. As the General Secretary of BSKSH I knew there was a mature responsible leader in Elbasan so for one year that set me free to concentrate on the work in other cities, and have more time for my theological studies and local church ministry in my city. That is to say, Chris' service with and for us was not ben-



Chris With Albanian Students

eficial to Elbasan only, but the whole of the ministry. In fact, Chris traveled quite a bit to participate in events nationally (and at least once internationally), and during his visit with the other BSKSH leaders and students from the different cities he was very helpful in providing encouragement, teaching, and support for the work in those places.

In Elbasan, Chris reorganized our student ministry and was extremely helpful in organizing and leading weekly Bible study group meetings. The church leaders in Elbasan really appreciated his involvement both with the students and the local church there. The pastor of one of the main churches in Elbasan, who is also the chairman of our student ministry, involved Chris in the teaching and preaching ministry of his local church.

In conclusion, I would like to say Thank You for sending Chris to work with us. We have benefited greatly from having him in Albania for one year. This is so much so, that we at BSKSH would welcome Chris or anyone of his caliber that Lightbearers could recruit for missionary work in Albania. We still need workers and

based on the experience of our relationship with Chris, we would still love to receive short-term or longer-term missionaries to work with us.

May God bless you and thank you very much for your help.

**In Christ,
Zefjan Nikolla - BSKSH
General Secretary**

THE EYE OF LONDON



Ross Cully
(A member of the Lightbearers Board of Directors and Director of our Strategic Planning Advisory Group)

Yesterday I 'attacked' the city of London sightseeing. I had 12 hours to be in the city before my ride north, Tom Addington, landed at Heathrow. So off I went with a Fodor's City Pack to see the highlights. The day was beautiful and I truly enjoyed the history of this place as I experienced the sights and buildings that have stood for many years.

At the end of the day I was looking for a place to eat dinner and I decided I would get out from central London and find a less touristy spot to eat. I took the Tube to Notting Hill and found a quiet restaurant to eat. After eating, I thought that I would head back into London and get on the Eye of London, a huge farris wheel that overlooks the city.



As I was walking to the Tube, I heard faint singing. The melody sounded familiar and at that moment God showed me His sovereignty in a way that seemed more real than most. He stopped me in my tracks and drew me toward the singing. As I got closer, I realized that the sound was a familiar praise song. It was a group of people from a local church that were evangelizing by singing on the street and having conversations with people passing by. I walked over and sat down outside a shop by the group and began singing with them. The Holy Spirit gave me such a joy at singing with brothers and sisters in Christ from another country. It was a feeling that I felt when singing with the believers in Bangladesh. It was a foreshadowing of what we will undoubtedly feel in heaven when we worship Jesus with every tongue, tribe, and nation.

As people stopped to listen and engaged in conversation with the group, I felt called to pray. As my eyes passed over every conversation, there was one that especially drew my

attention. Two young men were speaking with a young woman. I was praying for their salvation and the words that she was sharing, and praise God, they prayed to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. Two young men from Barcelona, Spain came to know Jesus through a black English woman while a white American from the Ozarks prayed over them. What a picture of the kingdom of God? What a privilege to witness such a glorious sight.

The group then turned their attention toward me. A young man from Nigeria, a woman from New Guinea, and a young woman from England came over to ask if I knew Jesus. I was happy to explain that indeed they were my brothers and sisters in Christ. As I spoke with the pastor, he explained that they are a church of 17,000 and have 190 nationalities represented!!! They focus on street evangelism in London because of all of the tourists that come from around the world. They can reach many nationalities with the gospel on the streets. Their church is sending missionaries around the world as well.

I am so thankful for God pulling me away from a bird's eye view of London and to a bird's eye view of His Kingdom! I guarantee that was the best sight I saw all day!