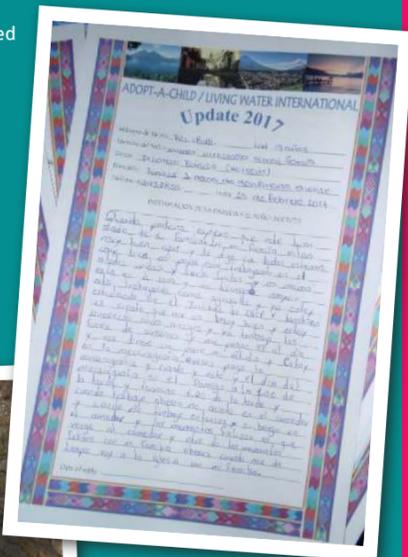


# Annual Child Updates

Our teams in Guatemala and Albania are busy again this year visiting all the children and families in their homes, gathering information and taking photographs for this year's updates.

They have done things a little differently in Guatemala this year, with the children writing their own letters to their 'Madrinas' and 'Padrinos'. What they have written is then translated by our office staff, ready to send on to sponsors.

We have used a new, more colourful, format for our updates this year to match the letters actually written by the children in Guatemala (see photo), with a similar format using the Albanian colours of red and black for the updates from there.



# Guatemala Postal Service

## Urgent update for Guatemala sponsors!

We have just been informed that the Royal Mail in the UK have suspended their postal service to Guatemala. Therefore please do not send any mail to Guatemala! Letters posted since April should be returned to you by Royal Mail if you have put your home address on the back of the letter, otherwise they are being held somewhere in the UK and we cannot tell you if they will be processed in due course or not. This is outwith our control and it would appear that the postal service to Guatemala is being suspended in many other supporting countries too.

As Christmas is coming, we want to enable you to continue corresponding with your sponsored children in a reliable way. Therefore, from now on until further notice, all supporters sponsoring through the UK office please send all letters and cards for your Guatemalan children (no parcels or money) to:

**Child Name (Child File Number)**  
**Adopt-A-Child**  
**PO Box 5589**  
**Inverness**  
**Scotland**  
**IV2 7WG**

(For other countries, please check with your national office for any arrangements they have made.)

We will then forward your letters once a month by Courier service to our ministry base in Antigua, Guatemala. Please note we can only forward letters and cards as we do not have the resources to forward packages of any size. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Any money for gifts should be sent to your national office in the usual way and will be processed as normal.



# CHANGING THE WORLD ONE CHILD AT A TIME

- Christmas is Coming!
- Sweatshirts for Albania
- Christianity Explored in Albania
- 2017 Updates
- Guatemala Post

## Chixocol Programme

Our Chixocol programme, in the Quiche mountains of Guatemala, is where the Adopt-A-Child story began over 30 years ago when US missionaries Mack & Peggy McKeown starting feeding children from their trailer van. Today the Chixocol Centre kitchen provides the food for all six of our mountain programmes. The centre also houses a Living Water church which meets on a Sunday and Wednesday afternoon, a medical centre and classrooms where the children gather for Bible classes after their meals and a thriving 'Refugio' youth group meets.



Over the last year, Steve McDaniel, our Living Water Director in Guatemala, has had a vision to utilise more of the beautiful property that the Lord has blessed us with in Chixocol.

The first phase involved the youth group in a project to clear and plant part of the land with corn – The Blessing Field. They tended and watered the crop and are now sharing in the first harvest, with the rest of the crop going to help struggling families in the area, who grind the corn down to make tortillas. Recently the care of two cows was added to their responsibilities, with the stalks and leaves from the corn being used to feed them.



Many of the children in the mountains have very little opportunity to just be kids. They may have to work or look after younger siblings from a very young age, and there are few safe play facilities. Steve McDaniel writes:

"There remains one lone tree on the property and it is a beautiful one. I shared a devotional under that tree and shared the vision the Lord had given me for a playground. It seemed such a stretch at the time. Some doubted as this equipment is so expensive. But God touched the heart of one man to provide the funds, as he 'saw' the vision as I had shared it."

The result is a fantastic new play park for the children of the village to use in safety. The smiles on the faces of the children say it all, don't they?



We are thankful to God, and to all those who caught the vision and have given towards these projects, for the provision of all these 'new things' in Chixocol and the opportunity to bless the children, their families and the wider community we serve there.

**Children Registered:.....1425**  
**Children Sponsored:.....916**  
**Children Un-sponsored:.....279**  
**Programme Days:.... Tuesday & Friday**



Catch all the latest news on our website: [www.adopt-a-child.com](http://www.adopt-a-child.com)  
 On our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/AACLivingWater](http://www.facebook.com/AACLivingWater)  
 On Twitter: @LWAdoptAChild  
 On YouTube: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCeVBC0Zlb1cTdnKunNzEDZw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeVBC0Zlb1cTdnKunNzEDZw)  
 Charity Shop Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AACCharityShop](http://www.facebook.com/AACCharityShop)



You can visit us online at [www.adopt-a-child.com](http://www.adopt-a-child.com)

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# Christmas is coming!

Preparations are already well under way for the special Christmas celebrations for the children at all of our programmes at the beginning of December.

After the success of the food baskets for families in Guatemala last year (you can see the delight on their little faces), we plan to do the same this year in both Guatemala and Albania. Each family will receive an appropriately sized basket, whether the children are sponsored or not, and they will all be invited to a special Christmas meal and presentation.



With around 10,000 children attending our programmes, this is a huge undertaking that is not covered by the monthly sponsorship donations and we really appreciate the help we receive from our sponsors and supporters each year to enable us to provide these gifts. For many it will be the only Christmas gift they receive. If you are able to help towards these costs for your own child and/or unsponsored children, please

- send a cheque to your national AAC/LW office
- donate through the website
- make an online payment directly through your bank marking your gift 'Christmas Fund' (do not quote your own sponsored child's number on these). As we receive so many of these donations



each year, we do not routinely acknowledge each one unless specifically asked to do so, but please be assured that each and every donation is valued and helps towards sharing the love of Jesus with the children and their families at Christmas time.

Gifts sent for birthdays in November and December

are processed in the normal way, but if you want to send a personal seasonal gift for your child, please leave this until January when staff will be able to deal with them on their return from the Christmas break (Guatemala and Albania offices are closed for the last 2 weeks in December).



You can visit us online at [www.adopt-a-child.com](http://www.adopt-a-child.com)

# Alternative Gifts

Why not give something completely different to that difficult-to-buy-for friend or family member (we all have at least one!!) this Christmas or birthday time?

Something like school supplies for a needy child or baby things for a family struggling with a newborn mouth to feed? We have updated our Alternative Gift selection again this year, after consultation with our staff in Guatemala and Albania, and a copy of the latest leaflet is enclosed with this newsletter. Our more traditional gifts of Christmas presents and food are also still available.

When you choose an Alternative Gift, you will receive a colourful Christmas card (pictured here), or year-round card for a birthday or other event, and a gift slip with information about the specific gift you have chosen to give to your friend or family member to bless not only them, but a child or family in Guatemala or Albania.

More copies of the leaflet are available from our Inverness office. Other nations – please contact your national office for details of giving in your own currency.

Alternatively you can download an order form by following the 'News' link at the top right of the home page of our website. Visit [www.adopt-a-child.com](http://www.adopt-a-child.com)

Thank you for all your help and support for the children and their families.



# Sweatshirts for Albania

Towards the end of last year, Peter Barton, our Area Coordinator in England & Wales, was put in contact with Daniel Chan, Finance Director of Rowlinsons of Stockport, who manufacture school uniforms and corporate wear.

They had several thousand assorted sweatshirts and tops that they wished to give away to ministries working outside the UK and he was delighted when they offered us 500 for children in Albania. Peter duly collected 8 boxes of sweatshirts and has been storing them until we could organize shipment to Albania.

Last month Peter received a phone call from Daniel asking if we would like some more – of course he said 'Yes Please!' A further 800+ items were collected by Peter and Local Reps Peter & Dawn Ritchie, who kindly arranged to store them at their Church in Pensby.

Arrangements are now well under way to have all these garments shipped to Albania in time for distribution to the children and their families in time for this winter.

A big 'Thank You' to Daniel, to Rowlinsons and to all those who have helped in getting these sweatshirts to Albania – they will be such a blessing.



# Christianity Explored in Albania

It has been the vision of Albanian Pastor Erion Cuni, to make the Christianity Explored Course available in the Albanian language throughout Albania.

The aim - to bring many to new life in Jesus Christ through His life-giving gospel. The Christianity Explored Course takes small groups, up to 10-12 people, through the Gospel of Mark, pointing the participants to Jesus. A first production run of 10,000 CE Booklets, 2,000 Leader Guides and 1,000 accompanying DVD's is envisaged, whilst training 500 small group leaders over an initial 3-5 year period. Course materials will be given out free of charge to Albanian Churches, including our own.



But Erion needs help! Adopt-A-Child UK is partnering with Erion, who is based in the capital, Tirana, to make this vision a reality. Scott Ballantine (our Area Coordinator in Ireland and a newly appointed Director of our work in Albania) and Erion have joined forces to try and get this project off the ground, with Scott spearheading the fundraising - 25,500 Euros are required.

When asked why Albania needed Christianity Explored, Scott gave these reasons...

- There is a nationwide social, political and economic collapse in Albania. People are trying to leave in droves. Families and social networks are disintegrating and there is a sense of despair over the nation. The gospel is the only thing that can bring hope and change.

- Militant Islam is on the rise in Albania and Islam is being spread through schools that are founded by foreign Islamic groups in many of the major cities.

- Large areas of the country are still untouched by the gospel 25 years after the fall of communism. Many city neighbourhoods have no gospel witness, whilst villages are mostly devoid of witness. Just one illustration - in the Fier region, the second most populous in Albania, there are 106 villages, with just 2 churches and 5 evangelistic works. This resource will equip existing churches to do more and go further into the country.



CE gives the churches a tool that they can use at a time when workers are few. Most churches rely on the pastor or a few key leaders to do evangelistic studies. This will enable far more people within the churches to get the gospel out!

In just 4 months the Lord has abundantly supplied all the finances, and more, for this project. Prayer is now essential. Please pray that our two aims behind this project will be fulfilled.

- (1) that the name of Jesus will be lifted up across the nation of Albania to the Glory of God
- (2) that precious Albanian souls will be won for the Kingdom of God.

To keep up to date on the project as we proceed to the translation and production of the course materials, why not sign up to our facebook page - **Krishterimi i Zbuluar Shqiperi**. If you email Scott on [scottb-aac@wintl.org](mailto:scottb-aac@wintl.org), he will happily email you back a link to the page.

# UK Gift Aid

You may remember from last year that we were advised by our accountants to have all our Gift Aid forms signed prior to 2016 updated with new wording from HMRC.

We still have quite a number outstanding and I have begun contacting some of our sponsors directly by e-mail and letter.

Thank you to all of you who have already filled in a new form for us. If you still pay income tax and haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to fill in the Gift aid form below and return it to us so that we can continue to claim Gift Aid on your donations.

If you no longer pay tax, then let us know so that we can take your name off our Gift Aid list. Thank you.

**Anna Williams, Finance Coordinator**

## GIFT AID DECLARATION

I am a tax payer and I agree to Adopt-A-Child reclaiming tax on all my donations in the past 4 years and on any future gifts.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 I donate.

Full Name: .....

Address: .....

Post Code: .....

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Please notify us if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.

You can visit us online at [www.adopt-a-child.com](http://www.adopt-a-child.com)