



# LAUNCH

TWO YEARS ON MISSION IN EUROPE

**VLORE,**  
**ALBANIA**

**with Caleb & Haley Patty**

# Program Overview

## *Two Years to Make an Eternal Impact*

The Launch program is specifically designed to expose participants to all aspects of what is required to be an effective cross-cultural Gospel worker. It accomplishes this by deploying cohorts of three to six people for 2 years to work alongside some of GEM's most effective missionaries in a variety of strategic locations. You can expect to receive customized training in support raising, discipleship, church planting, community development, and in some cases language learning. In addition to the structured training programs and curated ministry opportunities, each cohort will be hosted by a dedicated mentor couple or team whose goal is to personalize the experience for you and help you become as effective as possible. While this program is designed as a structured 2-year missions experience, those who feel God's further call on their lives can transition to full time service at numerous points along the way.

## *Program Snapshot:*

**Year 1: Application, orientation, support raising training, and coaching**

**Year 2: Launch to Europe, cultural and language training, discipleship training, active participation in ministry**

**Year 3: Transition from training to more focused ministry in a variety of settings**

# Discover Vlorë



Vlorë is a lively coastal city in southern Albania, home to about 100,000 people. Known as the birthplace of Albania's independence, Vlorë's local culture has cultivated generations of tough spiritual soil. Most people here are Muslim, with a mix of Sunni and Bektashi traditions, and there is a small Orthodox Christian community.

While Vlorë is modernizing quickly, many still hold tightly to traditional values. There's a deep sense of community, but spiritual needs are significant and not often explored. It's a city where relationships open doors, and where a real opportunity exists to extend hope and help to a welcoming but largely unreachable people.

# What makes Vlorë unique?

## Community-Centered Life

Vlore's relational culture prioritizes family and community above all else. Whether over coffee at a cafe, at seaside gatherings, or through everyday interactions, people value time spent together. Ministry here isn't just about programs - it's about showing up, sharing life, and demonstrating Christ's love through authentic, intentional relationships.

## Warm and Welcoming

Hospitality is a core part of life in Vlore. Locals are known for their warmth and openness, often inviting strangers into their homes or sharing coffee at a cafe. This culture of welcome makes it easier to build initial relationships, offering natural opportunities to share the gospel through genuine connection and shared experiences.

## Transition and tradition

Vlore is a city on the move, rapidly modernizing with new infrastructure, businesses, and tourism. Yet, it still hold onto its traditional roots, creating a dynamic mix of old and new. This transition brings both challenges and opportunities for ministry, as people navigate change and search for meaning in an evolving world.

# Program Specifics

- Cohorts of 1-4 individuals
- Ministry through a specialty cafe (hospitality, community events, relationship building, mercy initiatives, Bible study, prayer gatherings)
- Wide variety in relational ministry, both structured and unstructured (relational discipleship)
- Supporting local church programs (sports, youth, children, women, camps)
- Village outreach initiatives (kids, youth)
- High interest in creative community-building groups, events, and initiatives (art, language, outdoors, sports, etc.)



# Meet *Caleb and Haley Patty*



## About Us

Caleb and Haley live in Vlorë, Albania, but share a deep connection with Colorado, as well as Eastern Europe. Haley was born and raised in Colorado, while Caleb regularly visited extended family in the Denver area from the Czech Republic, where he grew up. They met as young teenagers, and Haley moved to Slovakia with her family later in high school. After that, they attended the same Bible college in Chicago, during which they were married. The Lord had softened Caleb and Haley's hearts for cross-cultural missions together partially through an internship in Bulgaria during college. They didn't expect the Lord to lead them to Albania eventually; nevertheless, they are serving their seventh year in Vlorë in the Lord's strength.

Caleb and Haley are passionate about lifelong discipleship to Jesus in all its forms. They love camping in the mountains with their kids, Charlie, Jenna, and Wes, and sharing fun meals or delicious coffee with new and old friends. Caleb and Haley aspire to live unhurried, present, and loving lives in union with Christ, and they invite anyone to journey with them for a short or lengthy season.