

Ledio's Story

Albania

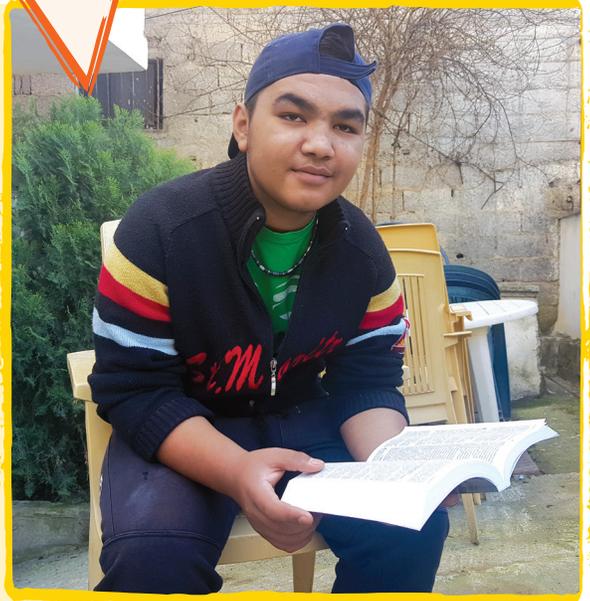
"I live in a very poor family," begins 15-year-old Ledio who is part of the Roma community in Albania (people often viewed as outcasts). Since he was young, Ledio has collected cans and bottles each day to sell. "We can't afford to feed ourselves," he says.

His family practiced Islam, but the religion didn't give him any hope or joy. He explains, "I did not feel Allah's love. It seemed that he judged me more than he loved me."

Ledio's life changed when he was invited to a local church. He started in Bible League's *Project Philip* Bible studies for children, then began attending the youth Bible studies. He notes, "I realized that Jesus really loved me and He had died on the cross for my sins. I gave my heart to Him."

Ledio began reading the Bible every day. When his dad found out, he forbid him from attending church. He notes, "I read the Bible in secret."

Last year, an earthquake damaged Ledio's house. The church helped Ledio's family with food, but his dad was still angry. Then, the pandemic hit, and again the church helped. Ledio says, "The love that the church showed, as well as my prayers, softened my father's heart." Now, Ledio is back at church and his parents are reading the Bible. He says, "I have the opportunity to talk to them about Jesus. My life is now full of love, and I don't feel alone."



Questions:

How is Ledio's life different than yours? _____

Have you been through a scary event like the earthquake Ledio experienced? What did you do?

How has studying the Bible helped Ledio? _____
