

Rasul

An unexpected opportunity

When I first arrived in Marneuli, I was told that I would be living with one roommate, my classmate and teammate Chris. We soon learned that we would be joined by a 17-year-old young man named Rasul. Rasul was born and raised in Azerbaijan. His parents split up when he was a child because his father found out that his mother had become a Christian. When Rasul was 15, he and his mother moved here to Marneuli. His mother grew in her faith and has decided to travel with YWAM to do ministry in Ukraine. Rasul has been living with Chris and I for three months and will live with us for the next two months while his mother is still gone.

My biggest opportunity for ministry this far has been living with and mentoring Rasul. He is the only Christian in Marneuli his own age and because of this he does not have many friends. He has not had a father for a long time and has never had a brother. During my time with Rasul I have seen him grow as a young man and in his relationship with Christ! Please pray that I can continue to mentor and disciple Rasul in the ways that God wants me to. Rasul has a lot of potential as a future leader here in Marneuli but he needs a positive and consistent male role model in his life.

December in Marneuli

Christmas away from home

There has not been snow yet in Marneuli but that does not keep it from feeling like Christmas. The local Orthodox Christians will celebrate Christmas on January 6th, but we were able to celebrate on our traditional December 25th. This drew a little curiosity and eventually I was able to speak about how we celebrate Christmas in an interview with the local radio station! Here are a few photos of what December has looked like for us here in Marneuli.



The local Bazaar and Mosque in Marneuli during December.



A look a Georgia's landscape near Bakuriani

My team and I took a few days off for Christmas break. During this time, we spent a few nights in a Georgian village called Bakuriani. We spent our time there relaxing, bonding, and enjoying Georgia's beauty.

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Prayer Requests

1.

This week we begin full time ministry with the many local workers here. Pray that my team can be effective in showing the love of God to all those around us. Pray that we are a light to the community of people we live amongst.

2.

Pray for my roommate Rasul. I wrote about him in the side column on the first page. He has become like a little brother to me and I love him dearly. He struggles in many ways being the only Christian his age here. He will not even go to school because of it. Pray that we can show him the boldness that we can have in Christ and pray that God will remind him that he is NEVER alone.

3.

Pray for many of us who are missing home. The holidays are a tough time to be away and it has hard for many of us. Pray that God will remind of why He has called us here and why we left behind all that we knew.

Thank you all for your support. Please feel free to contact me with the information in the side column. Our work here feels as though it is just beginning and I know that God has amazing and lovely things in store!
