

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

1:ONE

LONGEVITY

DRIVEN BY OUR VALUES, LED BY LOVE



ITeams missionaries Randy and Linda Pyle serve alongside an Albanian Christian fellowship, where baptisms are becoming more and more frequent.

ONE ENDURING LOVE

KOSOVO – In the predominantly Muslim nation of Kosovo, an elementary school teacher recently asked **Randy Pyle** a question he could not have imagined hearing six years earlier: “We’ve been reading about Jesus and all the things he did, and how he was crucified. Is that true?”

Through over two decades of missionary service in Austria, Albania, and Kosovo, Randy and his wife **Linda** have formed deep, long-term relationships. From 1993 to 1999, they helped plant a church in rural Albania, and directed a refugee camp that cared for 109 Kosovar Albanians who were expelled during the Kosovo war. When the conflict in Kosovo ended and the refugees were allowed to return home, the UNHCR could not airlift out one quadriplegic refugee. Randy responded by making a bed in his van, helping the man inside, and driving 20 hours to bring him to his burnt out village. Randy and Linda then moved from Albania to Kosovo to help families rebuild their war-torn homes and comfort them with news of God’s love for them.

In Kosovo, the Pyles met an Albanian man who had lost his foot to a landmine, and they organized an Irish mission team to rebuild his home. The community noticed this **act of kindness**. A local school then invited the Pyles to lead a sports day event. During the next six years, short-term teams from Austria, England, Northern Ireland, Spain, and the USA made building improvements to local school facilities. At a special inauguration for four new classrooms in September 2008, Randy asked a teacher if any of the other teachers might want a Bible. The teacher’s enthusiastic response overwhelmed Randy: “**They ALL want Bibles.**”

Says Randy, “This Muslim community’s openness has increased dramatically. We would never have been able to share the Gospel so effectively without first building **long-term relationships.**”

LONGEVITY

Sustainable change requires a lasting commitment. We want to be there **before** and **long after** the big campaign rolls through town.

We want to build **deep and long-term relationships** in the communities we serve.

Longevity is one of our twelve values. Learn about our other values at: www.iteams.org/about



The Pyles’ relationship with a local elementary school began with a sports day event. Over time it has grown into a deep, trusting connection and opened doors for spiritual dialogue.

**“DIALOGUE WITH THE PEOPLE IS
RADICALLY NECESSARY TO EVERY
AUTHENTIC REVOLUTION. THIS IS
WHAT MAKES IT A REVOLUTION, AS
DISTINGUISHED FROM A MILITARY COUP.”**

**-PAULO FREIRE,
PEDAGOGY OF THE OPPRESSED**

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

PRAY

Would you pray with us?

- » Pray for more Kosovar Albanians to bravely explore who Jesus is, despite societal pressure to remain Muslim.
- » Ask God to embolden French youth as they speak and demonstrate Jesus' love during the Lyon Light Festival.
- » Thank God for guiding our teams as they grow deep roots into the communities they serve, and pray for unity as they forge new connections.

GO

Long-term opportunities are available in **Kosovo** for entrepreneurs to teach small business skills to Kosovars, and for youth workers who passionately desire to bring Christ to the next generation.

For more opportunities to GO, visit iteams.org/go

GIVE

Ministry of ITeams USA - A gift to the ministry of ITeams USA will support our workers who are breaking down barriers with the love of Jesus, and investing their lives in the dreams of communities in Kosovo, France, and beyond.



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

**You can GIVE a gift online
at iteams.org/give**

ONE INCOMPARABLE LIGHT

LYON, FRANCE – Every year on December 8th, nearly all of Lyon's 1.5 million residents place votive candles in their windows for the world-renowned Light Festival. Through this act they pay homage to the Virgin Mary, whom was believed to have saved the city from attack by enemy troops in the nineteenth century. However, for many, this cultural phenomenon lacks personal conviction. "There is great spiritual apathy in France," says ITeams missionary **Paul Musser**.

"When we first arrived, we knew that to be effective we would need to stay for the 'long haul'. Ministry takes place around the dinner table in France. It requires taking the time to build **trusting friendships**." Paul and his wife **Elizabeth** have served in France for 20 years.

Through their work to establish, build up, and support the French evangelical church, the Mussers have witnessed joyful transformations in many lives. Today they are investing those years of experience in the lives of young people, and equipping them to **reach their peers**.

During the Light Festival, French youth who serve alongside the Mussers will stroll the streets of Lyon. They will take surveys and offer hot cider and Gospels of John to passersby as an authentic expression of their faith. "Please pray for their boldness and for follow-up with interested individuals who hear about hope in Jesus, the **true light** of the world," says Paul.



In addition to ministering to youth in Lyon, ITeams missionary Elizabeth Musser shares the light of Jesus through Christian fiction. Learn about Elizabeth's writing ministry at www.elizabethmusser.com.

Mobilizing international teams to build transforming communities

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