

Kosova Trip April 08.

The GORAN Language.

Joan and I have travelled to many places around the world with Language Recordings UK over this past ten years and have met and fell in love with people from many country and cultures.

Just last week we flew out of Gatwick with a team from Smile International and Blythswood Care to Pristina in Kosova. We didn't know what to expect. Years ago we had seen the television pictures and read about the war in 1999, but since that date had heard nothing much about the country or its people.



About 6/7 years ago on my return flight from a recording trip to Macedonia I met Clive Doubleday from Smile Int. We shared about each others work and over the years became great friends. His heart was and still is to help the widows and orphans after the trouble there. He mentioned later if we had anything recorded in the **Goran** language. He said they were a group of about 30 to 50,000 speakers living in 28 villages on the Kosova/Albanina border. There were no known believers among them. Since that time of our first meeting together, my wife Joan and I always had in our hearts the Goran people. Some day we had hoped to record in their language.

Two months ago I met Clive again at a Balkans region conference and the first thing we said to each other was about the Goran people. Clive said he was taking out a small team in April and would we go to see what The Lord would open up and perhaps meet someone who could help us. Clive said he would contact a Norwegian pastor/doctor and see if he knew of anyone.

We arrived at the Smile centre on the Monday evening and the next morning in walked a guy from the Goran people, with an Albanian evangelist who had travelled 23 hours by bus. The Goran man was called Mukin and he had become a Christian believer 2 months ago and had come to record in his language for his folk.



We were so excited and we began to record in his language. After 2 days we had recorded some material in the Goran language. I could tell he was excited about the materials he was speaking. This was all so very new to him and it was wonderful to spend time with him.



We were able to supply him with lots of humanitarian aid, Albanian Bibles, CDs, cassettes in Albanian, tape players, clothing, a guitar, pens, pencils, note books, hats, scarves, shoes for his 5 children, blankets. The villages are nominal Muslim and he wanted to distribute materials to those in need. We packed up a car with all this stuff and drove for a few hours to near his village where the road ended. He said he had to walk about 30 minutes to his home but he would call his son on his mobile and get him to bring the horse and cart to transport his "precious cargo" home. We laughed at this, his son with a mobile on a horse and cart...the old and the new.

We asked him if he would like to come to church with us on Sunday and he arrived early. He had all these new clothes on which he had received from us a few days earlier. He was so proud and excited. When he saw the friendliness of everyone at the church and the lovely music and the preaching he was really touched as he had never been to church before. He was able to listen in his second language of Ship. Later the pastor gave him some 6 or 7 sermons on cassette in Ship and also a small walkman to play them on. He was so delighted. On our way home in the afternoon we visited a church where around 150 children were attending and singing praises to God and playing games. They were all mostly from Muslim families. Our friend was so blessed to see this amazing sight.

There are over 10,000 widows in **Kosova**, many of whom are in their late 20s and early thirties. During 1999 the men were lined up and shot, the houses torched and the young girls and women raped. Since the media left people around the world have largely forgotten these lovely folk, but God hasn't and he has raised up faithful people who endeavour to support and encourage them. Unemployment is around 75% with young people no hope of getting work. Those who do work earn maybe 25 Euros a month (Approximately £17 sterling...\$34 US). They have a widows day at the centre when they come from



a meal and relax, hear a short Gospel presentation and then are sent home with food, blankets and all the aid they can carry. The Biblical principal of helping the widows and orphans is in operation through these aid guys and it was such a honour and privilege for Joan and me to help out in a small way.



Most of the widows wear black and have little chance of remarrying. A problem is that many of the graves of their husbands, sons and brothers are outside their houses. This is like a constant reminder of their despair and hopelessness. Other are buried in mass graves. Some have never been found and many of the children and teenagers are still waiting for their daddies and brothers to return.

About 4 weeks ago **Kosova** got her independence and we pray that the UN and other organisations will pour in aid and development to this place. They need jobs in industry and commerce, medical centres, schools, colleges, social service and invar structures.

We intend and are planning to return to Kosova in the autumn and hope to take a small team with us to do distribution of these new recordings in the Goran language, but also to distribute aid to the needs of the widows and orphans and Romany folk living there. We are also planning to do more recordings in the Goran language.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen"

If you would like to know more about things in **Kosova** please let me know and maybe I can encourage you to help and prayer for this lovely country. Many thanks,
Kenny McKee.