

Kosova Revisited.... November 2009

After an early start to Gatwick we met up with our friend Ray for our 4th trip to Kosova. We were excited to see what The Lord had planned for this trip. On arrival in Pristina we were glad to see Pastor Faton again and soon we were on our way to Gjakova. Once there we met up other church members to hear how things were doing since our last visit.

Every time we go there we hit the ground running. We had plans to record with our Goran language speaker, so we headed off the next day to the beautiful Goran region. Our good friend Berti was our driver, translator and guide. We had hoped to meet at a small school but when we got there he wasn't there. After travelling to another local village he had left a message that he had to work that day. This was a little disappointing, but we didn't waste our day as we spent it chatting to the teachers at the school and encouraging them. We played table tennis with them and built up our friendship with them. We had such fun and were sad to leave them. We left some t-shirts etc for the kids and a few table tennis bats. We promised to return next time.



On our way back we stopped over at a church in Prezryn and enjoyed the evening meeting. They are a small group of enthusiastic believers and it was in their church where we planned to record some Gospel messages on the following Thursday. At this time of year it was getting a bit chilly, around 5°, but in deep winter the temperatures can reach -20° and it is a difficult to travel at these times with bad conditions, snow and the bad or nonexistent roads.

Next morning, along with Faton and Lena we visited a centre for the blind and supplied them some aid and shirts for their "basketball" teams. The guy in charge was so delighted we had come and welcomed us anytime. We gave him our CDs for the people and arranged to send more specific help when we come again.



We then visited a local Romany camp. Conditions here were very bad. We had visited before in better weather but this time the rain, wind and ankle-deep mud and water made it seem



more distressing. The families there had no coats and many only flip-flops for shoes. The children were in t-shirts and shorts...only some had shoes. One little boy who held my hand had a pair of plastic clogs on. Both shoes were left footed and one was blue and the other red. We had bought groceries for some of the poorer families from a local supermarket and they gladly welcomed us. Our friends from

our cell group back in the UK had funded these. Faton and Lena visit every week and know many/most of the needs. One job they do in particular is to get and pay for their medical prescriptions as they simply can't afford them. Many live in containers and wooden shacks.

Later we watched our team do an outdoor kids club in the dark for loads of kids and they loved the stories and games.

The children love to see the team coming twice a week...what a challenge and commitment.



We woke up next day with no electric. It usually stays off every day for 2 or 3 hours. This is Kosovo! We headed off with Berti to do the recordings work with our friend who had done

the translation work for us over several months. He was a brilliant guy and a lovely speaker. He hardly made a mistake and made my job very easy. He had been saved through The God Channel and had given his life to Jesus in front of the TV. His family saw the change in him immediately but they rejected him, as in most Muslim countries. But he is a wonderful evangelist and loved to have as many CDs in their language that we could give him. We did 5 recordings and



finished the work all in one day. Praise The Lord! These new recordings once edited will be given out on CD, cassette and DVD on our next visit. We also met two new contacts who are pastors of local churches and they want to take and use as much of our materials and recordings as we can give them. This is an exciting opening for us in getting the Gospel message out in their language by the local churches. One of the churches also has a Christian bookshop in the capital city and wants to stock our materials... We Praise The Lord for this great opportunity.



On our last few days there we visited many families to encourage, support and pray with them. One family has 2 blind adult children and we demonstrated our Saber player. The daughter is a Christian and uses a Brail Bible of Luke. She was excited to hear that we could give her some recordings in her language and hope to obtain the whole audio Albanian Bible and load it onto the Saber. Then she and her whole family can hear the Word of God in a language they understand.

On Sunday we shared briefly at Faton's church and told the story of Job using our "Look, Listen and Live" Flip chart. The story became real for them with seeing the beautiful pictures and how Job continued to Praise God in very difficult and impossible circumstances. Later we went with the team to help with a kids club at a Romany camp. The rain was pouring down and it was quite cold. When we arrived the kids came running out to greet us with so much excitement. They had no coats or warm clothes and many had





only summer shoes on. They were completely drenched within minutes but it didn't stop them enjoying the singing and stories that the youth leaders gave. I was thinking that if this had happened at home we would have called the whole thing off due to bad weather. What blessed me most was that the young girl leading the story used our flip chart and told the same story of Job I had told in the morning... wow!

That is a brief report of our trip to Kosova. The warmth, hospitality and love of the people is overwhelming, despite having very little. This drives us on to do more for these people and children in their hopeless situation. Please pray for Kosova and that the Love of Jesus will grow in that place.



A few verses I always think of when thinking of our work there and in other places is from 1 John 3 v 16-19. It says this: "We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion, how can God's love be in that person? Dear children let's not merely say that we love each other: let's show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God". Amen.

Thanks to everyone who supported, prayed and helped pay for this trip and for all the gifts and things we gave away free. God Bless YOU and see you soon.

Kenny & Joan