

## Kosova Trip June 2010



On 7<sup>th</sup> June we flew again to Pristina with our team of 10 which included Kenny, Joan, Ray, Gav, Lorna, Jacqui, Melanie, Mike, Donnie & Carole. The team were from all parts of the UK including Scotland, England and N. Ireland. Our plan was to distribute humanitarian aid along with our most recent recordings in Albanian on DVD. We also hoped to record another of the LLL programs in both Albanian and the Goran languages. We arrived in the lovely sunshine and the sun shone all week for us. Our friends there welcomed us with great smiles and we travelled to the church centre in Gajkova. After introducing ourselves to the church leadership team and telling some stories we enjoyed the fellowship together. As always we let the Lord make the agenda and let us enjoy carrying it through.

Some of the things we did during the week included the following: A ladies day was planned for our first day. This meant collecting ladies, widows and some small children from the local villages. As the church has only 2 cars, this meant shuttling the people in. This usually meant waiting on the ladies for about 40 minutes after we arrived to collect



them.. haha. We played games, sang songs and did some drama which they all enjoyed. All our team were involved in giving them a good day out and this also included serving lunch. Before we taxied them home we gave them shoes, clothing and toys and some of our latest recordings on DVD in their language. We loved meeting them all and seeing them enjoy a very rare day out as this culture doesn't allow many of the village women to leave their houses or village.



In the evening we attended the weekly prayer and Bible study meeting. This was followed by a birthday party for a missionary girl who was going on a short break back home to the UK. The party was great and we learnt how to do some Albanian dancing. We taught them some games which they really enjoyed.

On Wednesday we gave out food parcels to some of the poorer neighbours near the church. So many of the locals and church members have problems due to lack of employment and terrible living conditions. We then visited a local Romany camp and



gave out clothing, toys, sweets and small gifts of money. The kids met us with huge smiles as we arrived. They knew we would bring some lollies for them. One of our team Melanie is a midwife and used her skills on many of our visits to families and examined some of the small babies. As she spoke and reassured the mums, we could see how her words gave these ladies peace that their kids were ok. Later we travelled to Prizren to arrange for the recordings to be done later on in the week. Prizren is a beautiful town and second in size



to the capital. They have many mosques and it is amazing to think that we are bringing the Gospel here with our recordings.

Next day we had a mini conference/meeting with church members and other church leaders and groups. We had a speaker from a discipleship training program and Jacqui plans to teach these groups how to study and then train others. Everyone was excited about this training program in their own language. This is a very real need in these young evangelical churches. We are delighted that God has met this urgent need for discipleship materials. Other members of the team gave testimony and told stories. We sang and taught new songs and Gavin and Lorna led some games.



Friday arrived quickly, and after such a busy week we took food parcels sponsored by our friends from the UK. Also we had taken 23 suitcases with us full of clothing, which included shoes, toys, 8 guitars and 4 keyboards and loads of other really useful stuff. In the evening there was a huge youth party with traditional dancing and songs with actions. It was all well received. Bible stories were told as many had never heard these before. This was a wonderful and unique opportunity to build up relations with the local believers &

others. Most of the people here are from Muslim families and have never heard of the God who loves them completely. We played games and after the party we visited a family who had invited us for dinner...we arrived late and started eating about 10 pm after playing some ball games outside their house.





Saturday was a very exciting day in many ways when we went across the border into Albania. Pastor Faton and his team had planted a kid's church here several years ago. Now it is growing and they are so hungry to learn about God. The town itself is very run down and the roads and houses are terrible. This former communist country has had no improvement since communism ended and Joan and I considered this to be one of the poorest places we have ever visited. The good news is that the people are very open to the Gospel and everyone we offered our recordings on DVD took them happily. The church are moving into a larger building and hope to use it as a community centre, offering all kinds of help in the town. Also we see it a great way to place and distribute our recordings and aid. We were very saddened to see the conditions most of the poor people live...can this be part of modern Europe? However we believe the young church is growing in this country whose president once said, "There will never be the worship of God in this country".



We visited one particular poor family who farm on about one acre of land...more like a large garden and don't have enough to support themselves. When we arrived I thought I recognised the young son. He kept smiling at me and I asked how he knew me. He said he was a school friend of a boy we knew. About 18 months earlier I had visited one of his school friends whose family I knew and had bought him a new football. We had taken him and his 2 friends out for a hamburger and coke. On the way out I had 20 Euros for my friend's boy and thought I can't give him money and not these 2 boys so I gave him and his friend 10 euros each. Now 18 months later he told his mum this was the man who gave me 10 euros. Apparently he had not eaten all day and had no money for the next day. As we chatted with him I asked was he still at school or at college. He said he wasn't and worked on the "farm" with his brother and father. They couldn't afford to send him to college. He wanted to be a dentist and was top of his class at school. He brought out samples of moulded teeth he had made while at school. Jacqui asked him how much the dentistry training at university would be. He said 600 euros per term. This is a figure they would never be able to afford. I called Ray over and asked him if we could help. Immediately Ray said a Christian lady he knew who was a retired dentist and had mentioned to him that they would sponsor a student with their fees for Dentist College if he ever came upon someone. All he needs is his accommodation and food in Tirana. We told him in faith we would do it, so next week he travels by bus to Tirana to find costs etc. To say he and his family were "over the moon" when we told them is definitely an understatement. We were so thrilled how the Lord led us to this family in this remotest of places. This literally means the difference of changing the lives and circumstances of his whole family. Previously the family had to sell all their farm animals to pay to educate their kids. We left them some bags of flour and food parcels, and other gifts we had with us. It had been a wonderful day.



Earlier we had taken the team to visit some war graves...400 men and young boys were killed in one day in this field. This really showed the team what these people had gone through when their families were killed and their houses burnt in the war in 1999. All the ladies and girls and young children were marched off to Albania as refugees. Their lives completely destroyed as they had lost everything. A few years ago one lady who had lost her sons and husband that day, on her way home from a remembrance service at the grave site poured petrol over herself and killed herself, such was her grief.



Sunday... The church was buzzing and we led the meeting. All our team played their part with Donnie giving a wonderful testimony and Carole praying. It was our delight and privilege to be part of the service. After church we said good-bye to our friends. I then did our recording in the Albanian language with our good friend who has worked with us before. After lunch we again visited the Romany camps and played games and sang songs with the kids club. We all felt sad to leave them.



Our week in Kosova went so quickly but we enjoyed every minute although we were kept busy. We are grateful to all who contributed aid and money to spend while we were there. We were delighted to pass your gifts on to these lovely and hospitable people.

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We are so thankful to all our team who were a great blessing to spend time with and especially Mike who every morning organised our breakfast, cleaned our spectacles and kept us amazed with his fitness and humour. We are also grateful to Faton and his wonderful team for looking after us all so well. Please pray for the church and the work they do. We look forward to going again in the future.

If you'd like to know more about supporting this work or perhaps consider going with us please let me know. We give thanks to The Lord for allowing us the delight and privilege of going there. We give Him all the Glory for this work and know that He has good plans for His people in Kosova.



God Bless and bye for now,

*Kenny & Joan.*

[www.languagerecordingsuk.co.uk](http://www.languagerecordingsuk.co.uk)

For more photos of our trip look at the mission page of the above web site address.