

## Kosova Mission Trip... September 2010



As we arrived in sunny Kosova there was a great excitement from our team representing seven different missions. What a joy to work alongside these guys from "SEED", "Blytheswood Care", "Torch Trust for the Blind", "Guide Dogs for the Blind" & "Through the Roof Wheelchairs".

When we visit Kosova & Albania our main focus is always to record & distribute recordings in the language of the people there. This we were able to do during the week & we are so thankful to our translator who translated our scripts from English into Albanian. Also thanks to our language speakers who did this so well & were a real blessing to work with. When we started to make the recording the electricity went off, but we are well used to these things & we got all the work completed in time. Praise The Lord.

Our week's program also included unloading a 40 foot container of aid sent from the UK. This was such a joy to be involved in, as many of friends from our church in the UK had given loads of aid to send out to Kosova. Joan & I had been collecting for many weeks & were amazed to see the amount of clothing,



shoes, bikes, a snooker table, spectacles, games, cuddly toys & lots of other stuff given. We are so thankful to all those who had contributed & enjoyed giving to those in need in Kosova and Albania. The wagon contained 15 pallets of food, & hundreds of boxes of clothing, shoes, chairs, bikes & lots of other things. The local church in Gjakova turned out to unload the lorry & get it into the basement area of the church building. It was great fun, hard work & took us over 5 hours. We were able to give lots of aid & food parcels

during the week as we visited many families.

Some of the recipients will be to the Roma colony where a major building program for the 734 people living there on the municipal rubbish dump is planned.



This colony in Gjakova was designated the worst site in Europe last year. A three year old was killed by dogs earlier the year & a four year old boy was killed by a dumper truck during the previous week of our trip.

One disappointment was that a lovely family who had been attending the church from a local village has been threatened by local Muslim leaders that his house & family would be burnt to the ground if they continue meeting with Christians. They had not been attending the church since & we were so looking forward to seeing these special friends again but realize this is very serious concern. We ask for your prayers for this young family.

We visited the Community Church Centre in Northern Albania & numbers have more than doubled since our last visit in June. They meet every Saturday - this week over 60 children & adults attended. We distributed hundreds of our new recordings on CD & DVD and pray that these will touch hearts and change lives.



We visited a centre for the blind & disabled & gave our Saber MP3 players to



several individuals who were so delighted. We also saw the need for wheelchairs for individuals & hope to get delivery of 200 donated by Wheels for the World. Teams of volunteer engineers & therapists would visit during distribution, probably sometime in 2011.



One family of 8 we visited was living in a derelict house with no glass in the windows, no heating, water or electric. We gave them some food & clothes & decided to go & buy them a new wood stove for winter heating & for baking bread. This we did & I was so surprised & delighted that it only cost 40 Euros...Praise The Lord. The family was grinning from ear to ear when we arrived back with their new stove.



We always work through the local church & they hosted us so well. They help many families regardless of their beliefs whilst sharing that they are motivated by the love of God. With unemployment exceeding 40% in Gjakova & double that in many rural areas the church offering averages 7 Euros a week. Every time the Church meets, especially when overseas visitors are there, more families turn up to ask for help which is sometimes life & death, as all medical provision must be paid for. Many doctors prefer to "treat" patients rather than cure them!! A novel form of income generation.



Our week in Kosova was challenging & rewarding & we saw God working & prayers answered. We were all blessed & encouraged especially by the growth of the local Church. Thank you for your prayers & support for our trip & especially for all the people who donated aid for the container. The people there are so grateful knowing someone cares for them. God Bless you & thanks again.

Kenny & Joan