

INTRODUCTION

MACEDONIA

The newest of our European national works. We are currently engaged in partnership with local Macedonian churches to plant more churches in the months ahead. The focus of evangelism is one-on-one through home groups and neighbor contacts.

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Republic of Macedonia



Small mountainous country north of Greece. It has two famous lakes, Ohrid and Prespa in the southwest

There are many mosaics found in Macedonia, in Roman ruins and orthodox churches.

Religions

Macedonian
Orthodox
Muslim

Languages

Macedonian
Albanian

Flag of Macedonia—Sun represents liberty



Population of 2 million. 600,000 live in capital of Skopje

National

Fish—Ohrid Trout



Flower—Poppy

Animal—



Can you identify these musical instruments from Macedonia: Violin, Tapan (drum), mandolin, gaida (bagpipe), accordion



Traditional Dress



Popular Fruit—Medlar—
tastes like an apricot

Македонски Јадење (Macedonian Food)

Сарма (sar-ma) - ground beef, rice and seasonings cooked in cabbage leaves

Ракија (ra-ki-ja) - drink made from plums, grapes, or other fruits

Ајвар (ay-var) - a spread made from red bell peppers and eaten on bread.

People drink lots of coffee with friends and conduct business over a cup of coffee.

Holiday and special game—Easter is the biggest holiday in Macedonia. The people dye eggs red to symbolize the blood of Jesus (or the happiness of the resurrection). One egg is kept all year long as the protector of the house. After a midnight Easter eve service, they take one of their dyed eggs and play a game. They hit one another's eggs to try to crack it and continue doing this until there is a winning egg. The families enjoy a big meal of lamb, savory dishes and rich sweets like cakes with layers of cream. And, people give each other red eggs for Easter.

Sports



Historical Fact—Modern day Macedonia was part of the Roman Empire, Byzantine Empire, Ottoman Empire, along with other lesser known empires until becoming part of Yugoslavia. It gained its independence in 1991.

Macedonia was the birthplace of Alexander the Great and Mother Teresa

Children's Story

Macedonia—MK's

As soon as we moved to Macedonia, we knew it was important for our children to make friends, learn the culture, and learn the language. We began looking for soccer teams they could join and for our nine-year-old daughter, Faith, a gymnastics club she could be involved in. We found teams and they got "plugged-in".

At first it was difficult for them because they did not understand their coaches at all, because of the language barrier, and the way of teaching the sports was different than what they were used to. But, in time, they began to adjust and to make friends.

We decided that during our morning devotions, we would begin to pray for at least one friend that they had met here in Skopje and we encouraged our children to seek out times to talk with them or to invite them to our house.

For Faith, it has been easier because I, her mom, usually go with her to the gym and three of the mothers have become some of my best friends. We go to each other's houses, to parks, to cafes, go biking, and hiking together. God has given both Faith and me opportunities to show and share Jesus in these fun times together. While none of them has personally asked Jesus to be their Savior, He is revealing His heart to them.

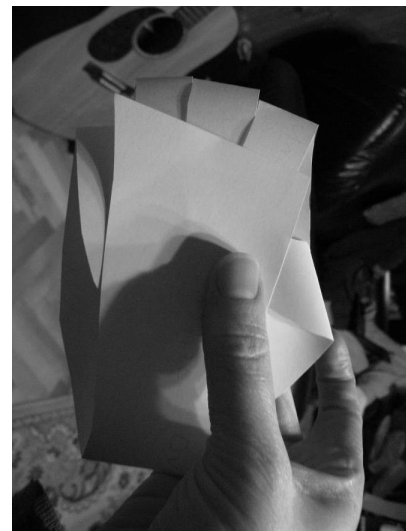
Step-by-step and prayer-by-prayer, God is using our time in Macedonia to teach our children how to trust Him and how to live for Him and is making Himself known to our friends here.

Memory Verse

Acts 16:9

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

For memorizing the verse, the kids will draw their hand on a piece of paper and write the verse on it (parts of the arm and each finger with the reference in the palm of the hand). Then, they will fold the fingers closed (starting with the pinkie finger first to the thumb and finally the arm). To memorize the verse, open each part of the hand and say the verse.



Bible Lesson

Read Acts 16:6-10

Show the children the map of Paul's second missionary journey (see resource section p. 120). Reread the Scripture, asking the children to point out on the map the various locations mentioned in the reading. The locations could be marked with a red 'x' or highlighted in some way.

Ask the children the following questions:

How did God guide Paul?

What was Paul's response?

What did Paul see in his vision?

How quickly did Paul and his companions respond to the vision?

What other ways does God guide those who trust in Him?

Discussion: God desires to guide us in our lives. We are called to listen and obey. What are some ways that God speaks to children and young people? Allow the children to share their thoughts.

Read Daniel 3:13-18, 26-27

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were three young men who decided that they would listen to God and obey His law rather than worship the statue of the king. They were thrown into a furnace of fire, yet were not burned. God protected them because of their faithfulness.

Application

This week, pray for God to show you one way that you can listen and be obedient to His leading in your life. Then, obey and do it quickly, just like Paul did when he was called to go to Macedonia!

Name: Народна Топка (Na-rod-na Top-ka) "
National Ball"

Players: Boys and girls both play
Two even teams (size of teams doesn't really matter)

Needed: large playing area / medium sized kick ball (not hard)

Setup: A center line is drawn in the dirt or a boundary line decided upon. The team members line up in rows behind the lines (with plenty of space between people). One person is chosen to be the defender behind the rows.

Game play: -From behind his/her team, the defender throws the ball at the other team. The other team tries not to get hit.

- If the ball hits someone on the other team, that person is out.
- If the ball bounces and then hits someone, the person continues to play the game.
- The ball is picked up and quickly rushed/ thrown to the defender who then throws it back at the other team.
- If someone catches the ball (not on a bounce), that person can throw the ball right back at the other team. The original thrower remains in the game.

To Win: The team with the last person standing wins.

(See diagram of playing area in resources section p. 121)

Game
Time

Time for Prayer

A. Pray for missionaries and MKs (missionary kids) to be able to learn the Macedonian language in order to share God's salvation with their Macedonian friends.

B. Pray for missionaries and MKs to have opportunities to share Jesus with their friends.

C. Pray for MKs to be able to make deep friendships.

Activity

C t i v i t y

Display a map of your country or state on the wall; or draw a shape of it for all the children to see. Have them copy that shape below. Then ask them (or help them) to do the following:

- **Place an X on the map where they live**
- **Place a STAR on the map where the capital city is**
- **Place a SQUARE on the map where their school is**
- **Place a STEEPLE on the map where their church is**
- **Draw a LINE for any major rivers in the country**
- **Color BLUE any major lakes or oceans**
- **Color and decorate their map**

