

# Introduction Kosovo

The first team of GP missionaries entered the city of Mitrovica in early 2001 in cooperation with World Hope International to begin classes in English language. These classes, along with several years of various other humanitarian efforts to the medical community, farmers in a small village and teachers of three elementary schools, focused on developing relationships of trust. The mission directed its missionaries to commit two years to immerse himself/herself in the culture and language. The goal that team members be living letters on display for the people to read about the Christian lifestyle gave rise to interest and questions which opened opportunities for verbal witness.

Church planting has grown out of sowing the Word of God through Bible study. An investigative Bible study is used with those who have an interest but are not yet committed believers. For believers, a worship-focused study presents them with principles of discipleship of the Christian life. Prayer and sharing are important aspects of worship each week to the three House Churches.

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Mix of six different cultures:

Albanian  
Serb  
Roma/Ashkalia  
Gorani  
Bosniak  
Turkish

Religion: Judaism,  
Islam, Protestantism,  
Orthodox Christianity  
Roman Catholicism

Language—Two official :  
Albanian and Serbian

Currency  
Euro

Land of the Blackbirds

Kosovo cuisine:

Sheqerpare—coins made  
of pastry

Tursija—pickled vegeta-  
bles

Sudzuk—sausage made  
from cured beef

Burek—pastry filled with  
spinach

Flija—pie made from lay-  
ers of pastry and cream  
cheese

Pogaca—rolls made from  
corn flour

Gracanica



Decani



Pec Patriar-



There are many orthodox  
monasteries in Kosovo.  
Three of the best known  
are Decani, Pec Patriar-  
chate, and Gracanica.

Balkan Lynx native to  
Kosovo



Kosovo



# Children's Story

## A Winter Journey for Baby Kiki

Zet trudged ahead of his wife with his ailing father upon his shoulders. The mountains they had to climb were high and steep. Finding a way across the border would not be easy. But they had to escape the enemy. Zet was strong and he was a young man. His young wife, Gonja, stumbled along behind him, cradling their new baby, Kiki, in her arms. Zet's father was old with lung problems which made it impossible for him to make the climb by himself. Zet's mother walked along beside Gonja taking turns with the baby.

They had to make it through the mountains with many valleys, canyons and streams that were filled with heavy wet snow. It would take several miserable nights, sleeping wherever possible, and eating whatever precious little food they had. When the depth of the heavy snow became three feet and more Zet had to speak encouraging words often to keep them all going. They often had to stop to rest. There was danger of being discovered, so they made every effort to keep Kiki from crying.

After several tiring days and cold, sleepless nights, they arrived among friendly peoples. These people were also Albanians like Zet and his family, however, they lived in Montenegro. Here Zet and his family were not in danger of the enemy army and police.

From here they made the one-day trip into Albania. Like so many, many other refugees, they spent the next several weeks living in a tent provided by the people of Albania. Missionaries from several nations living and working in Albania brought food to the refugees. A missionary named Jim, and his wife, became acquainted with Zet and his family. As days went by Jim often visited them. On one of these days Jim gave Zet a Bible in his own language. Zet was very curious about the Bible and began reading it. Jim's wife gave Gonja many items for her baby Kiki.

After several months, the war in Kosovo came to an end and the refugees could return to their homes. Kiki was almost one year old and there was news that a baby brother or sister would soon be born. Zet's father grew worse, but his wife and Gonja and baby Kiki were doing well. To this dear family, Jim and his wife offered a ride back to their farm in Kosovo. They knew it would be very difficult to begin again; they did not know what conditions they would find on the farm. But they were going home. They were going home.

Kiki enjoyed the ride back home in a van over the very rough roads; it was much faster than walking. And Kiki was going to have something else in a few months that would be very new. He was going to have a father who would know and walk with Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. For in the month of December, a little more than one year after the winter journey, Zet asked yet another missionary, "It says here in the Bible that I can be a Christian. When can I do that?" With the answer, "Right now," Zet believed and his life was changed.

Oh, yes, Dini was born and joined Kiki as sons of a born-again father, a son of God. They too, several years later, made that same decision to be sons of God. Gonja, too, after a few years, made the same decision.

# Memory Activity

## Matthew 7:7

**Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.**

The way the Kosovans think and live their lives is very similar to the way people did in the country of Israel when Jesus was on the earth. He spoke this promise in Matthew to His disciples and the people who were listening to Him .

This asking, seeking and knocking is not a form of begging, whining or manipulating God, like we might think about in the USA. Rather, Jesus is referring to a relationship like that of a father with his son or his daughter. They are close to each other and their spirits and emotions are in tune to each other. Read verses 9-11 to see this illustration as Jesus explained it.

Follow these instructions to learn the words of Jesus

As you read, "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for;" hold out your hand as towards your father with your palm up.

Then form a monocular with your hand (one half of a binocular) and hold it to your eye as you read, "Keep on seeking, and you will find."

Next with your fist closed knock on a door or table top as you read, "Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you."

Repeat once more reading the portions of the verse while you do the hand motions. Now see if you can say the portions from memory while you do the hand motions.

Now whenever you wish to quote Matthew 7:7 simply start the hand motions and you will be able to do it every time.



# Bible Lesson

## Bible Drill

The object is to see who can be first to find the scripture and give the right answer to the question. This is a method the teachers in Kosovo use to introduce children to the Bible.

(It is modeled after the Sword Drill concept. If this is used with children who are not able to read well, the director can read the portion for all and then ask the question.)

Where did Joseph go after his brothers sold him? (Gen 37:26-28)

Traders took him into Egypt.

Why did Noah build an ark? (Gen 6:11-14)

God spoke to him and told him to build it.

What did David use to kill Goliath? (1Sam 17:38-51)

David used Goliath's own sword to kill him, after he had felled him with a stone from his slingshot.

Who was put in the lion's den? (Dan 6:16)

Daniel.

Which disciple doubted Jesus was alive? (John 20:24-28)

Thomas.

What did Noah build the ark of? (Gen 6:14)

Cypress wood.

Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem? (Luke 2:1-7)

Mary and Joseph had to be in Bethlehem for the census, and it came time for Jesus to be born.

What did Jesus say about judging people? (Matt 7:1,2)

You will be judged by the same standard you use to judge others.

Which gospel writer was a doctor? (Col 4:14)

Luke.

Who were the first two disciples of Jesus? (Matt 4:18-22)

Simon (Peter) and Andrew.

What was the name of Abraham and Sarah's son? (Gen 17:19)

Isaac.

Once the search and answer process has been completed the director can ask for any ideas that the children found most interesting or new to them from the scriptures.

## Elastics

Equipment: ½-1 in wide piece of elastic, 3 yards in length. You can find elastic in the sewing section of a department store. Three or more people to play, but you can also play alone by stretching the elastic around two chairs.

How to play:

Tie the two ends of the elastic together to make a loop. Two children (chairs can also be used) stand inside the loop as they stretch the elastics until it is taut, starting around their ankles first.

The third person makes up a routine and jumps in and out of the elastics and from side to side. For several players: All the other players have a chance to follow the same routine before the level of the **elastics is raised. Anyone who can't duplicate the routine is out of the game.**

**After you've finished your routine at the lowest height, raise the elastics up and keep going until you can't jump any higher. Try these different levels: ankles, knees, thighs, and waist.**

Elastics is more fun if you have a rhyming song or chant to jump to. You can make up your own, changing the moves with every syllable of the song.

The moves: You can switch the order of these moves and add more as you like.

On ONE jump with your left foot on the outside of the elastic and your right foot on the inside.

On TWO jump with your right foot outside and your left foot inside the elastic loop.

On THREE jump up and land with both feet inside the loop.

On FOUR jump up and land with both feet outside the loop.

On FIVE jump up and land with both feet on the elastic.

On SIX jump by picking up the right side of the loop over your shoe and jumping over the left side of the loop to land with one foot outside the loop.

Songs: You can make up your own songs and rhymes, but here are a few in English to try.

"Chocolate cake, when you bake,  
How many minutes will you take?  
**One, Two, Three, Four"**

"England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales,  
Inside, Outside, Monkey's tails!  
Jingle, Jangle, Center, Spangle,  
Jingle, Jangle, Out!"

### Special Note

**You may remember this game from the lesson on Bosnia and Herzegovina. What you may not know is that Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina were once part of Yugoslavia and share some things in common. That is why this game is being repeated.**

Game  
Time

# Time for Prayer

- The truth that Jesus saves is so new to the boys and girls, moms and dads of Kosovo. PRAY that many will believe and be born in God's family.
- PRAY for children of believeing parents that they will also believe.
- PRAY for the schools in Kosova to become quality experiences in educating the boys and girls.

# Activity

## Activity

Match numbers you find in the story with the picture you think it matches. Draw a line from the number to the picture.

Ender and Ada were having guests for lunch .

When Ender invites guests he often asks Ada to make fli ( 1 ). It is a special food to honor guests. It takes 4 hours outside with a hot fire. The word means, sacrifice.

As Ada starts the fire ( 2 ) and stirs the batter for the fli Ender goes to the garden to gather domata ( 3 ) and dredhza ( 4 ).

Once the fli is ready Ada feeds baby Rimi in the djep ( 5 ). He will then lay there and watch his mother at work in the kitchen.

They all sit on the floor around the table and share stories while eating fli, peppers, domata and cheese. ( 6 )

After the meal they all move to the couch while Ada pours concentrated tea from the top of the gjëguma ( 7 ) and hot water from the bottom to the preference of each guest.

The fruit of the dredhza is so good on the torte she made for this purpose.

Ender plays the chifteli ( 8 ) and Ada adds rhythm with her dep ( 9 ).



For the answers go to p 122 in the resource section