

HOUSE FOR SHAIIP 2008-9

During the war of 1999 Shaip's house was destroyed, and he and his family took refuge in a disused derelict Serbian block of flats where they lived for the last 9 years. Shaip was born blind and is an elder at the local Baptist Church in Gjakove. He is 44 years of age and is married to Afridita who is 37 and they have four children aged from 4 to 18 years. When the flats were demolished, the family spent several weeks living in the basement of the church.

In 2006 Shaip's father left him a legacy that enabled him to purchase the shell of a house which needed complete renovation. Smile International has been able to finish the building of the house, with new bedrooms and a roof. The total cost of the project is £18,000 and so far our generous supporters have contributed £11,000 towards the renovation work.

We are pleased to say that the family moved into their new house in autumn 2008.

We would like to thank all those who are helping Shaip for their generosity towards our Christian brother in need. Thank you to friends at Raunds Community Church for raising £2,000 so that we could install the upstairs windows and doors in Shaip's house on 3 October, prior to the really cold weather coming.

Rev Clive Doubleday, Chief Executive of Smile International said "We have known Shaip for many years and he is a true man of the Word and a faithful leader in the Baptist Church. Even though he was born blind this does not diminish his vision for serving the Lord."

We are certain that this provision will be a continuing witness to the goodness of the Lord and the willingness of His people to care for their brothers and sisters in Christ. We are continuing to take donations for this project in order to completely cover the cost of the building and refurbishment work. If you are able to send a gift, please mark it "Shaip's house" and if you pay tax and are able to Gift Aid the gift that will help tremendously (details on www.smileinternational.org Donations page or www.justgiving.com/smileint/donate)

Do please pray for Shaip and his family, and together we go forward in faith that the Lord will provide funds for the house to be furnished as soon as possible. We give all the praise and glory to the Lord for His faithfulness to do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 2:30).





DONATED VEHICLE

We are delighted at the donation of a 4x4 vehicle for our work in Kosova, which will be driven out to the Smile Centre in Gjakove in June 2009 by Smile volunteers. The vehicle will help us greatly with our work in transporting teams and aid around the region, and we thank the Lord for this wonderful provision.

GOSPEL RECORDINGS IN GORAN LANGUAGE

In the south west corner of Kosova is an area around the towns of Dragash and Brod with 27 villages which are home to approximately 30,000 Goran people. These people are a mixture of Kosovan, Albanian and Macedonian, and because they are not from one people group, they have over the years been shunned to the mountain hills, where they are sheep and cattle farmers. They have no written language and there is no church in this area.

We have been able to distribute some Gospel tapes in Macedonian, which they understand, along with wind-up cassette players donated by our good friends at Language Recordings, but our desire was to provide tapes in their own language, which we have now been able to do.

Our Goran volunteer is a Christian musician and hunter from Northern Albania. He walked over the Albanian mountains, fording rivers in order to get to the Smile Centre in Kosova. He made his epic journey so that for the first time ever a recording of the Gospel message could be made in his own language, which is 'Ours' a form of the Torlak dialect.

The recording sessions were overseen by dedicated professionals Kenny and Joan McKee from Language Recordings, with help from our excellent Albanian interpreter (who had travelled for 14 hours on 10 buses to reach us!). Our Christian volunteer returned home with multiple copies of a Gospel presentation in his own language. We hope that through his ministry many of the Goran people will be inspired to discover more about Jesus.

If you would like to support this work, please visit www.justgiving.com/smileint/donate or the Smile website Donations page and mark your donation 'Goran'.

Language Recordings UK www.languagerecordingsuk.co.uk is one of the European branches of Global Recordings Network, and aims to communicate the Gospel and Bible stories to people in their own language across the world, by producing cassettes, CDs, DVDs and picture book in native languages.



Kenny from Language Recordings



Recording the tapes in the Smile Centre library



Joan and Kenny with one of their Bible picture books

REPORT ON THE WATER SUPPLY AT KRALAN SCHOOL 2007, by Valerie Carr

Motivated by the digging of the new well at Kralan in the summer of 2006, I went home with thoughts buzzing around in my head of how I could make a difference by trying to raise funds to help refurbish the toilets and washing facilities at the school which were in a very sorry state of disrepair and also to get the water supply from the new well into the school enabling the children to have fresh drinking water.

Well, 10 months have gone by and after much prayer, I was thrilled to be able to go back this summer and to take up the plumber's quotation and say 'Yes, let's go ahead'. The task seemed daunting as the villagers last summer had bravely said that they would dig the 80-metre trench needed from the well to the school building and with little or no rain during the last year the ground really was 'Rock Hard'. But they managed it despite the temperatures of 43°. When I arrived at 10 am with pick axes to assist them imagine my amazement to find the trench almost completed – so the connections could begin in earnest.

Everyone was really keen to get this project completed as soon as possible and the dead line was the 1st of September when the children were due to return to school after the summer holidays. God really was behind us smoothing the way and everything was in place and ready to go by the 1st... the only thing that was stopping us firing up the system was the all-too-often cry 'No Power'. At present Kosova is suffering daily with 5 and 6 hour random electricity cuts but we have all done our part and now all we can do is place it in God's hands and to pray for 'more power Lord.'

It was a humbling experience to see the Director of the School shed tears in gratitude for all the help and support that Smile have given to his little school over the last 2 years and to watch the children enjoy and, I know, benefit from the Summer School activities, the fun and love that the teams have provided and given them.

These memories will always stay in my heart and mind, and give me hope and encouragement for the future. With prayer, God's help and determination we all can make a difference. Thank you Smile ... for giving me the opportunity and courage to get out of my comfort zone and think of and put others before self.

Valerie Carr, New Mill Baptist Church, Tring, Hertfordshire – August 2007

We thank the Lord for bringing this project to completion through the faithfulness of his people and the generosity of supporters.



Val and plumber with bill



Plumber, Val and School Director



Digging in 42° heat



The well, trench and school



School Director showing position of outside wash area

PALLIATIVE CARE CONFERENCE, 10-11 APRIL 2008

After working with many widows in the Gjakove area over the past 7 years we have discovered that there is a high degree of breast and cervical cancer. This is partly due to the trauma and stress caused through the war and bad diet, smoking, and pollution by depleted uranium (from exploded ordnance during the war). We also discovered, after discussions with many doctors in the area, that there was no palliative care available in the Gjakove area. As a result, we organised and hosted the first ever 2-day Palliative Care Conference which was attended by over 40 doctors, nurses and NGO's. The key speakers were Dr Anthony Smith, Dr Eva Harizaj and Professor Dr Xhavit I Bicaj, executive Director of Ryder Kosova.

The delegates were welcomed by the Rev Clive Doubleday and the conference was facilitated by Smile Trustee Mrs Geraldine Alliston. The conference concluded that there was a great deal of need for funding and training of doctors and nurses in palliative care, and a need for a permanent centre to provide dignified care for those facing death. The conference helped to raise awareness throughout the country as it was featured on Gjakove TV "Syri Vision" on three separate days that week, as well as on local Radio Pandora.

Smile plans to establish a "hospice at home" care facility based from their Smile centre clinic as well as look at building a hospice care unit in the future.



**Dr Anthony Smith and
Pastor Astrit Morina**



Geraldine Alliston and Pastor Astrit



On Siri Vision TV