

# Ilir & Helen Dervishi

## KOSOVA PRAYER LETTER



Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” *Isaiah 6:8*

Greetings from Gjakovë! We decided to share with you Isaiah 6:8 in our first prayer letter as we are truly encouraged and amazed by God and how He has blessed our step of faith. We decided to commit our time and skills to serving God with our church, Kisha Rilindja e Kosovës (Rebirth of Kosova Church or RoK), full-time from the beginning of March this year and since then it has been continually confirmed to us that this is what we should be doing. We have a lot of plans, ideas and hopes about the future but we want to be patient and wait on God and His perfect timing. We have used this first letter to share with you the things we have been involved in during these first few weeks.

### King's Café

Rebirth of Kosova Church (RoK) is blessed to have been able to rent additional rooms adjacent to the church which have been renovated by church members into a café. We are responsible for managing the café and volunteers from the church who come to serve customers during the week.

These rooms were originally used for the youth ministry of the church and the café will now serve this purpose. We have Christian books in Albanian and English and other resources to encourage the youth to spend more time at the church and grow in their

faith. Many of them experience a lot of peer-pressure from their Muslim friends and family and do not draw attention to their own faith or association with the evangelical church.

In order to cover costs of rent and to subsidise some church activities the café must make money so, in addition to coffee, teas and other drinks, Helen has been making cakes to sell which so far have been very popular and Ilir has learned very quickly how to make the perfect macchiato. We were extremely grateful to receive a gift to help towards the set up costs and we

had a good launch party on 1<sup>st</sup> April when we welcomed local Christians to come and see the space we have available and our menu.

We are praying that our location opposite the main bus station and the support of local Christians will make this café really flourish and stand out from others in the town. If you'd like to keep up to date on the café then please find us on Facebook.

 /kingscafegjakove



Logo designed by Helen



Café layout



Cake bought for the launch party



From left: Adhurim (café worker), Pastor Jeton, Ilir, Helen, Drita and Liridon (helpers)

## Pass the Bread and RoK Food Bank

RoK was asked to be part of a food project fundraised for by a church in New York. Each month we buy 25€ of food (flour, sugar, salt, pasta, rice etc.) for each of up to 18 families living in very poor conditions in villages surrounding Gjakovë. The distribution is carried out by the church leadership who use their own funds to pay for the fuel needed to go to the families' homes. The food parcels make a huge difference as some families survive on very little each month, perhaps no more than 200€ (approximately £150).

RoK started the first Food Bank in Gjakovë towards the end of 2014 which encourages people to help each other and not to rely on support from foreigners or NGOs. This is a difficult project to get off the ground as many people in Kosova have got used to receiving hand outs since the war in 1999. We are responsible for encouraging people to buy a little extra in their weekly shop to give to someone less fortunate. We are involved primarily in the distribution of the food but we will be starting to help with pastoral visits soon.

### Our First Guest

We had a good two weeks with Carole Farley, who visited us as part of her sabbatical from CRiBS and Albany Park Baptist Church. It was a pleasure to be able to show her our city, Gjakovë, as well as the beautiful surroundings. Carole was a real encouragement to the fellowship at RoK and to our friends Nora and Metush Kaja who work for Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) ministering the Good News of Jesus to children here. We started the café renovation during Carole's visit so she could see first-hand the potential of this space and she helped us distribute the food parcels for the Pass the Bread project.



Carole with Pastors Jeton and Flora



Carole helping with food distribution

### Prayer requests

- For God to continue to bless us in our new ministry.
- For God to open doors for us to serve more people.
- For success for the café, growth of the youth ministry and opportunities for evangelism through this.
- For the ministry of RoK and Pastor Jeton and his family.
- For preparations for the summer, and youth camps that will take place.
- For hope to return to Kosova through the church.
- For Helen's Albanian to continue to improve.

## Hope for Kosova

Over recent months Kosova has experienced what is being termed in the media a 'mass exodus'. Many people from all over the country are leaving Kosova to travel to EU countries such as Germany, Switzerland and France, often going through other countries illegally with no visa. The reason for this is that many people throughout Kosova are desperate for a better life, one where their chances of employment are greater and the standard of education and healthcare is better.

The NEWBORN monument in Prishtina is repainted each year on 17th February (Independence Day) and this year the E has been left black to symbolise the hopelessness that is felt here through; the Exodus, the lack of growth in the Economy, and the unwillingness of Europe to allow Kosova to join the EU.

We believe that the church is the gateway through which God will restore hope to Kosova and its people. *Matthew 12:12*



### Contact Details

We would love to hear from you, please email us using the details at the bottom of the page or contact us on Viber using the phone numbers below.

If you would like to write to us, please use the following address:  
**Kisha Rilindja e Kosovës, Ilir & Helen Dervishi, PO Box 061 ptk, Gjakovë 50000, Republic of Kosova**

If you would like to know how you can support either us or RoK then please contact us for details.