

INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC. REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS by RevC December 2015 TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!! CTC Macedonia



Before I begin this month's report, Vicky, Sarah and I want to take a moment to thank each of you who have prayed for us, sacrificially given to the many projects, and stood with us personally. To say that your help is important to us and the work of this ministry is a huge understatement. Your prayers and support are absolutely vital to the continuation of the ministry and our personal well-being. That is one reason we are constantly asking God to bless each of you who partner with us. We realize that you cannot give what you do not receive. The Word of God says that we should give "honor to whom honor is due." Thus, let us once more say, "Thank you for your faithfulness this past year. We are truly grateful!" We also realize that God is ultimately our source and provision. He must touch the hearts of people to pray, intercede, and give.

It seems only fitting, especially at this time of the year, to stop and give praise to our Lord Jesus Christ for His manifest love in leaving His home with the Father to come and be with us! He walked among us to reveal the Father to mankind and ultimately accomplish the redemption of all who would believe in His sacrifice! He truly is worthy of all praise!

Merry Christmas from RevC's family! MACEDONIA

In September I made a trip to Skopje, Macedonia. It is a fast changing, beautiful city where government leaders are hard at work turning this city into a major tourist attraction. Officials are constructing new buildings and remodeling and giving a face–lift to old ones. They have erected several statues and fountains, with the goal of completing the town center by the end of 2016. They will then continue the renovations in surrounding areas.



In Macedonia, **less than 1%** of the population is evangelical Christian, 24% is Muslim, and the remaining 75% consider themselves Orthodox. Those who are Orthodox see themselves as having some association with the established church, with perhaps a parent or a relative attending the church. They do not, however, have a relationship with a living Savior. Thus, there is a tremendous need for trained Christian leaders to do the work of evangelism and church planting.

I was in Macedonia to meet with Christian leaders from two areas where we hope to start new CTC programs. I arrived on a Sunday morning, worn out from two days of travel with very little rest. I got a hot shower and a meal before attending the church service where Aleksandar Vuletic pastors. About 30 people attended the service in the downstairs meeting room of a local restaurant. A pastor from England as well as a couple from his church also attended the meeting. After a time of praise and worship, the pastor from England and the wife of the couple spoke for about 20 minutes each. Pastor Vuletic, who heads our CTC program in Skopje, then led us in a beautiful communion service before receiving the offering and dismissing the congregation for a time of fellowship with sweets and beverages. No one wanted to leave because they felt like family and enjoyed their fellowship together in Christ. I imagine the founders of our faith experienced that kind of fellowship and envisioned the church would continue doing so.

As I mentioned, there are not many true Christians in Macedonia as the country is steeped in orthodoxy. **Icons**, **idols, and rituals fill the beautiful Orthodox churches**, but the people have no awareness as to what true Christianity is. To make things more difficult, **the Muslim presence continues to grow** with new mosques scattered around the countryside. Yet in the midst of all this, the presence of Christ is like a flickering flame that refuses to be put out, but needs help in fanning it into a roaring fire. The Christians there are zealous; however, many have not walked with Christ for long and they lack experience as His followers. They want to move forward but **need more trained leaders** to show the way.

On Monday I journeyed to Veles where my friend from Africa, Pastor Jimmy Simon Polycarp, oversees a group

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of house churches that he has helped plant. He invited me to meet with several of his leaders to discuss the possibility of a new CTC program. I had personally met with Pastor Jimmy, as he likes to be called, on my previous trip in 2012. We have kept in touch as he also realizes the tremendous need for leadership training. We discussed one obstacle to the program, that being the harsh Macedonian winters, which make travel difficult and at times impossible. I left the meeting feeling



that our CTC program was something they wanted to do. They only need to figure out the best way to get the program started with their limited resources. Pastor Jimmy told me he would work with the leaders to see what they could do and let me know as soon as possible.

On Wednesday Pastor Vuletic (standing in the photo below) took me to **Shutka** which is located a short distance outside of Skopje, the capital and home to the **largest gypsy settlement in the world**. I had the op-



portunity to meet with Christian leaders representing the Roma, or gypsy, people. Kay, a Korean missionary (standing next to Pastor Vuletic) who has been working among the Roma people for several years, joined us as she is also very interested in a training program. The four men seated are themselves Roma people. They explained the difficulty they have working there because the gypsy people have ingrained, self-seeking attitudes.

They know the drop out rate in a training program is likely to be high because, as they expressed it, "Our people don't want to work at anything unless there is a guaranteed result of financial gain." Yet despite the difficulties, they agreed to meet again and look at how they would go about opening a CTC program. Because of the current involvement of three of them in the program, they are enthusiastic and know the difference God can make through the training in the lives of their people. I should hear from them very soon.

Before I left Macedonia, I had the opportunity to teach some of the students in Skopje. Though not all of the students could attend, I was blessed to see a mix of ages and several younger students. They all have a zeal to



reach their country for the Lord and know that they have much work ahead of them. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. Next month I hope to have a progress report on the possibilities in Shutka & Veles.

Thank you again for all of your prayers and giving. We continue to move ahead as God supplies, and we believe God will bestow on all of us more of His love, power, grace, and favor as we do. Know you are in our prayers and we are trusting for God's blessings on all that you set your hearts and hands to do for His Glory. Please continue to stand with us as we look forward to 2016. **TOGETHER WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

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