

Family Aid Project Kosovo Refugee Relief

Dearest Family, Friends & Fellow-Laborers,
Hello & Christmas Greetings from all of us here at the F.A.P.! We hope and pray that this newsletter finds you happy, healthy and wise--or at least heading in that direction!

Before going any further, we want to send a hearty "THANK YOU" to all of you that participated in any way, large or small, with our recent shipment of Humanitarian Aid to Kosovo. We couldn't have done it without you! Like the threads in a giant tapestry, each of you was so vital and important.

Although the F.A.P. has been active for the last 5 years in the Houston area through our SW Houston Outreach Center and assisted in other humanitarian efforts to Haiti, Rwanda, and Guatemala, this relief effort to Kosovo was our first big international project. It was **much** too big for **us**, without a **lot** of "help from our friends".

Since we 'threw our hat into the ring' for the Kosovar refugees just over 6 months ago, so much has happened that we felt it would be easiest to tell the story in pictures rather than words. So, in this newsletter, there are lots of pictures but only a small part of the story. Our staff is very small (most of us are pictured top right) so it was really all the Valories, Ricks, Angels, etc. that helped to make it happen. God Bless you all! You know who you are, and so does He!

The way **we** got involved in Kosovo and the need there reminds me of a story that I heard about a gentleman that lived in the city of Rochester, NY. Now, through Rochester runs the Genessee River, between steep & crooked banks. On one occasion, this gentleman, had just arrived by train from a journey. Anxious to go home & meet his wife & children he was hurrying along the streets, with a bright vision of home in his mind when he saw on the bank of the river a lot of excited men. "What's the matter?" he shouted. They replied, "A boy's in the water!" "Why don't you save him?" he asked.

Isn't that most of our 'initial reaction' to disaster, need and misfortune? "That's just terrible! Why doesn't 'someone' do something to help them? Isn't there some 'governmental agency for that?'" Often, there is genuine concern, but we are so busy and overwhelmed by our own 'situation' (job, family, friends, etc.) and its pressing

needs that we can't bear the thought of having to take on what we 'perceive' as someone else's burden, especially when it is 'on the other side of the world'.



The FAP Team- at the 'send off' Press Conference



A picture of the Kosovo disaster as seen through the eyes of an Elementary school student here in Houston

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A gift of **Love**, for the lonely; **hope**, for those in despair; a ray of **light** for those that sit in darkness; by simply reaching out to show you care... Nina at a Puppet show for Kosovar Refugees... in Bosnia

MISSIONARIES AND VOLUNTEERS IN ALBANIAN CAMPS.WITH KOSOVAR REFUGEES



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(Pic1,2) ALBANIA..the "land of tents" (Pic.3-6) FAP

'Networking' Missionaries visiting and aiding the destitute and 'homeless' Kosovar Refugees in Albania. ..'little things' and smiles become very 'important'!!-like a toy (Pic.6 & 8) or pair of shoes. (Pic.7) "A merry heart doeth good, like a medicine "



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(Pic.4) Loading Aid for the Kosovar onto Norman's trailer



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An orphanage in Tirana, Albania

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Although my family and I served as Volunteer Missionaries in foreign countries for over 20 years, The Family Aid Project was and is principally an outreach to help the 'needy' in our own backyard. When news of the mass exodus of refugees from Kosovo began to appear in the media, our hearts were touched but, as many others, we felt, "What can we do? Our resources are so small, how can we help?" Just as with the young man in this story, initially, we wanted to ask someone else to do it, but the urgency of the situation drove us into action.

In our story, the man, without hesitation, cast his suitcase aside &

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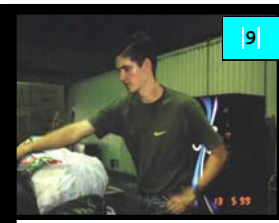


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(Pic.8) and 'after the show' a toy for each one



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(Pic 9 & 10) Sorting, packing and shipping at McLean Cargo, Houston, TX.-are Titus, Perla,-(15), and Sammy,-(11). (Pic.11)the owner of McLean Cargo 'himself', showing the route to Albania God Bless Angi!! (Pic.12&13) Jeff Wells and Kathy Fearn (with her two kids) and one of the 7 area schools that helped to raise food and materials for the Kosovar Refugees -



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FAP STAFF, HELPERS AND DONORS...A 'TEAM EFFORT' - HOUSTON, TEXAS... 1999

MISSIONARIES AND VOLUNTEERS IN KOSOVO WITH THE KOSOVAR SURVIVORS



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(Pics.14 & 16)-Comforting the broken-hearted. (Pic.15) Refugees return Home to Kosovo, many have 'no where' else to go (17 & 20) Our men in Kosovo, Norman Cochran- 'at the Albania/Kosovo border' and Nehemiah Berg - surveying the destruction (Pic.18) Fresh graves (Pic 19) Kids-the 'real victims' waiting for someone that cares



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pulled off his coat. He jumped into the stream, grasped the boy in his arms, and struggled with him to the shore. As he wiped the water from the child's dripping face & brushed back his hair, the man exclaimed, "Heaven, it is my boy!" He had plunged into the water to save the boy of somebody else & saved his own son instead. Isn't that the way life really is? In saving others, we oftentimes save ourselves and those we love. Whereas, when we try to put ourselves, personal desires and needs first, we lose ourselves, those closest to us and miss the chance to do something meaningful in the world for someone else. What a shame!

Well, from April through August of this year, our FAP volunteers, friends and staff collected, sorted, packed and



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(Pic.23)Jeff Wells, Albert (Kosovar), and 'Jack'-our Albanian translator & friend..(Pic.24) Claire Wells, and Henry Graham, (Billy Graham's cousin) (Pic.25) The Family Singers, Kathy Fearn, and Mike Fischer, (former Dir. of Project Aid Siberia) sing for the Local news media at our 'send off' press conference.. (Pic.26)Valorie Davenport (Our lawyer, and friend.. talks on 'commitment' !!



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FAP FRIENDS.. WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!! THANKS SOOO MUCH!!

