

Bethany Christian Services in Albania

Since 1992 the population of Albania's capital city has tripled. Sixty percent (60%) of the 750,000 people living in Tirana migrated from underdeveloped areas. Without help, 20% of the children will drop out of school and be susceptible to a life of illiteracy and crime.

Women and children often suffer disproportionately in Albanian society. Between 1991 and 2001, approximately 100,000 Albanian women and girls were trafficked to Western Europe and other Balkan countries.* Many of them were sold or kidnapped by people they trusted. Bethany Albania provides emergency shelter, education, and holistic services to women and girls in need.

*National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Council of Ministers, Tirana, November 2001

Bethany Christian Services in Kosovo

During the 1998-1999 war in Kosovo, more than 10,000 Albanian Kosovars were killed ¹, 863,000 Albanian Kosovars fled the country ², 590,000 were displaced within Kosovo ³, and 40% of the homes were destroyed ⁴. The impact of such loss has been monumental. Families have been torn apart, children are being raised in fatherless homes, primary bread winners are gone, and youth are forced to step in leadership roles they are not yet ready to assume.

¹ US State Department Report, December 1999; ² OSCE "Kosovo/Kosovo: As seen, As Told" Part III, Chapter 14; ³ UNHCR rough test. As of 13 May 1999, quoted in OSCE "Kosovo/Kosovo: As Seen/As Told" Part III, Chapter 14; ⁴ International Red Cross. War Report

The loss of men within the Kosovar family has had a monumental impact on the protection of women and children, who are victims of physical, emotional, and societal abuse every day. An estimated 50% of women have been abused by loved ones. In addition, the margin of extreme poverty has increased to 12% of the population. The Roma Gypsy community makes up nearly 60% of the people living in extreme poverty.



Mission Trips
Bethany Christian Services

Albania & Kosovo



Vision Trip October 2009

Albania/Kosovo Vision Trip October 2009



*Travel with Bethany Christian Services and experience
First hand the impact you can make in the lives of children.*

- Spend time with the children in Bethany-supported orphanages in Tirana
- Visit families who have been touched because of Bethany's ministry
- Meet with our overseas partners
- Enjoy the culture and magnificent history of Albania & Kosovo
- Bethany will share ongoing projects and needs with the group



This 7 day trip is designed for 10 people. Travel costs cover all in-country expenses except for personal spending. Prices are based on double occupancy and may vary based on inflation and the fluctuation of the dollar. Most trip expenses are tax deductible.

Trip Cost: \$1350 + air fare
Registration Deadline: July 6, 2009

(Airfare from Grand Rapids, MI is approximately \$1,600.
Airfare may vary based on inflation and departure city.)



For more information
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