Nestled in the Kopaonik and Sar mountain ranges among what is known to many as the ‘former Yugoslavia’, lies the small sovereign land of Kosovo (or the Republic of Kosova). Kosovo is a country with a rich, long and complicated history. That history also includes a not so distant and tumultuous past which is fresh in the minds of all Kosovars except the very young. But despite that past, which most recently includes the Kosovo War of 1999, opportunities exist to partner with the church in this country. Because the American government supported ethnic Albanians during the 1999 War, Kosovars view Americans (and North Americans) quite favorably which presents an open door for North American churches to serve alongside a relatively small evangelical association of churches here (approx. 30 churches in the entire country).

One of these small congregations is led by Banush Elezi in the city of Vushtrri. Banush is a young pastor with a heart for church planting who regularly meets with a number of Christ-followers in Vushtrri, especially young men in the community. He is also well connected with the leaders of a number of other small Christian groups throughout the country including KPEK, an alliance of the 30-some evangelical churches of Kosovo.

When asked about partnering with churches in North America, Banush says, “the window is open now for this, but we don’t know for how long”, a comment reflecting

PRAISES

- Kameron made the School Musical for the 2nd year in a row!
- Elliott Loane (7 mos.) is doing great and his mom (Sarah) is doing great as well as she balances ministry and family
- Randy (and Volunteer Gateway Trainer Mike Delong) had a great experience hosting the First Baptist (Elk Grove, CA) Gateway Team in Simleu, Romania

PRAYERS

- Multiple Vision Team Opportunities (please inquire): Hungary, Brazil, Kosovo, Mexico - pray for Pastors and Church Leaders that would catch the vision for Sister-Church Partnership
- The Schmors and Loanes as they present/speak at many mission conferences this fall
- Randy as he participates on the NAB Mission Advisory Team in November (meeting in Portland, OR)

Please see the Gateway Teams website to learn more or contact us directly. We encourage church leaders and pastors especially, to join us as we help your church enter into strategic global relationships by partnering with sister-churches around the world!

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the reality of a 90+ % Muslim majority among Kosovo’s Albanian population. When one considers the open door to partner in Kosovo with a relatively small alliance of churches, coupled with a current view of North Americans that is favorable, its easy to see that the time is definitely now to respond to this opportunity.

Because of this, Gateway is looking to assemble a Vision Team of Pastors AND Church Leaders in early April 2014 to meet with Banush and to prayerfully begin to launch long-term relationships between their churches and Banush’s Vushtrri congregation as well as other churches in Kosovo. Please see www.gatewayteams.org for more information on this Vision Team and contact any of us here at Gateway through our email addresses below.

We believe this is an incredible opportunity for North American churches to partner in a part of the world that has been difficult to reach; a door that is open now to come alongside the Kosovar church. Gateway doesn’t typically have the chance to bring together churches from North America with churches in places like Kosovo, but we’re trusting that the Spirit is at work here and that some Pastors and Church Leaders in the U.S. and Canada will respond to Banush’s and other church leaders’ invitation to get involved in this small but receptive country. Please consider responding to this challenge!

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(Pastor Banush (center) with some young men he disciples)

(I to r; Pastor Banush, Assist. Pastor Fidan and Church Leader Isak)