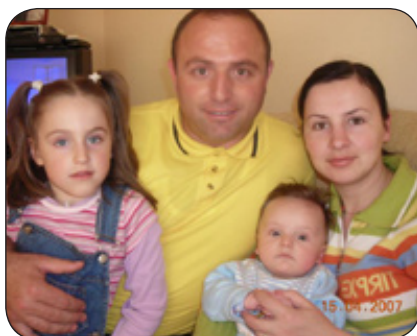


Prayer Letter February 2009

A year of firsts...

- **All Albanian church leadership at Udha e Shpresas** – our new pastor is seeking to do more schooling and looking into various courses in Tirana from different theological schools. Their were three church weddings this summer. The leadership team is



now bigger with eight serving, Beni (Pastor), Nani (Elder), Turi, Mondi, Landi, Ornela, Blediana and Blerta (five men, three women).

- **First education conference hosted by GDQ** – last February Dr Kathy Koch (Cook), a Christian educator in today's world, for today's kids, schools and parents, came for a three-day visit with Wes Willis from SHARE. They held seminars for staff, parents, home-schoolers and kids on a variety of subjects. Dr Kathy is well worth a listen: www.celebratekids.com The event was a huge success, with many comments of when can she visit again and how can we hear more. Praise for the staff and supporters from school who helped me pull this event off; without them things like this wouldn't happen.
- First steps and decision to extend GDQ into high school offering IGCSE, beginning with year ten.
- First year of subject specialism timetable for year six and key stage three students.
- First online course taken...



Kathy Koch at GDQ



in cross-cultural education consultancy – I passed!

- First partnership of GDQ staff with World Vision – GDQ partnered with World Vision to run training seminars for Albanian teachers focusing on classroom management, co-operation and activity ideas to enhance teaching. Other teachers visited from another school for classroom management, teaching and learning styles observations. The teachers were excited to visit and we plan and pray for the support and encouragement to continue.
- First taste of being an interviewer.
- First year of regular driving in Tirana and first 'scrape'. Only a little one though!

A few seconds

- Second visit to see Justine Horsfall in Kosova
- Second step on the management ladder, with a new position as head of lower school: headship responsibility for KG4 this year, adding five next year. In UK-speak, ages five to 11. This role both excites and scares at the same time.

A third

Third time my Dad has visited. Dad visited for three weeks. We enjoyed many meals out, fun with friends and he managed to help grades two and three create 63 pieces of art work! Picasso, Jackson Pollack, Matisse and



Van Gough now adorn the walls of GDQ! Thanks Dad, it was great... everyone is asking... 'When are you coming back?'

And a fourth

Visit to Link churches. Thank you to the Link churches I saw last summer, all the way from Aberdeen to Rochdale, with stops in Leeds and Cleveland on the way! I had a great time with you all. The relaxed nature, families to stay with, PowerPoint photo talks and question times worked a treat.

Unfortunately my granddad was taken seriously ill at the end of my UK time. I was with family for the last three weeks and visiting granddad, who was in hospital. After my return to Albania I was blessed by many here and I was able to attend my granddad's funeral in September.

Currently

The start of the year was hectic with many staff and parents rallying round to cover an unexpected absence due to illness. Please give thanks for the Lord's provision of two parents who covered the gaps for the remainder of our school year, upper school English and Grade 5 science. Please pray for our K class (reception) who having started late due to no available teacher, have since had two changes of teacher, due to further unforeseen circumstances.

Anyone in primary or secondary sectors, who's retired/no longer working and would be willing to be added to our overseas supply list for periods of three weeks or more, please get in touch: director@gdqschool.org. Support with airfare and housing will be available if we call you in!

As we turn our attention to next year (September) I realise we have a director, a head of lower school and one long-term staff member as certainties. All other staff are making that decision 'do I stay or do I go now?' Please pray for the staff as they pray through their decisions. Pray for God to work in the hearts of those he has planned to join us, pray that we at school will be diligent and proactive in seeking to advertise and promote the school and our needs.

Please pray for Roger and myself as we adapt to our new roles. I ask for wisdom in position, attitude and leadership, for listening ears, a hearing heart and heaps of grace. Also for the ability to prioritise and good time management, especially this year as I'm teaching part-time.

Thank you so much for the continuous support you give. Over the last few years many of you have expressed that you would like to support me in a more formal financial way. With the new 24:7 Partners you can! If you would like to contribute more directly, please complete the enclosed leaflet or the form can also be downloaded from the BMS website.

With love to you all

Jane

BMS World Mission supports 350 personnel working in 34 countries of the world. Together they are involved mainly in church planting, development, disaster relief, education, health and media and advocacy. If you would like to support work like Jane's you can make a one-off donation, or you can become a 24:7 Partner for as little as £2 per month. Visit www.bmsworldmission.org or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet, or 01235 517641 for our donation hotline.