

Dear praying friends,

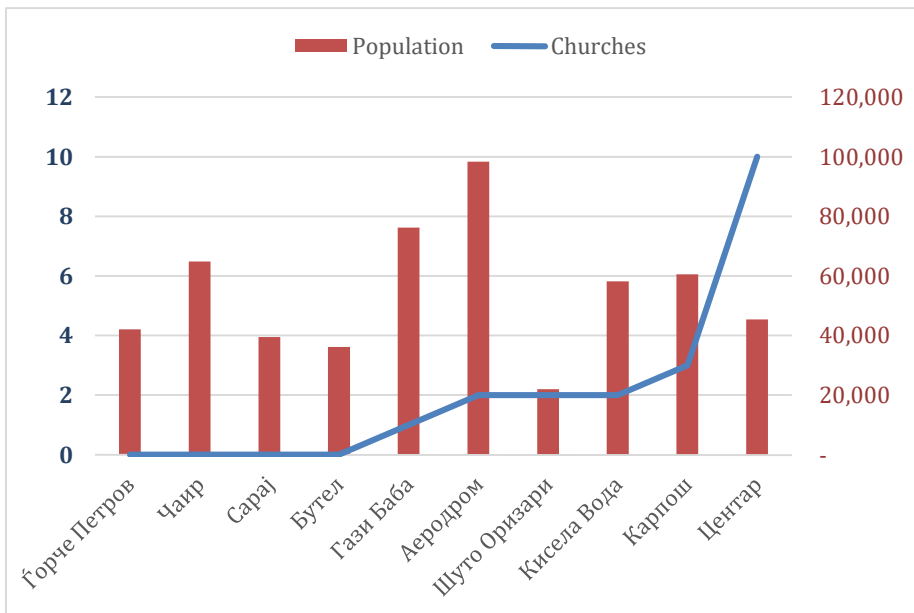
We hope that your celebration of Christmas was blessed by the Lord, and that the new year has started well for you. The Macedonian Christmas is actually celebrated on January 7<sup>th</sup>, in keeping with Eastern Orthodox tradition. Here New Years is a larger event than Christmas, with presents exchanged and a tree ('elka') decorated on January 1. On Christmas day, one tradition is the baking of a large loaf of bread called a *Порача (Pogacha)* which contains a single coin. The bread is divided between family members, and the one who receives the coin is said to expect good luck in the coming year.

As we look back on 2015, we are moved with thankfulness for God's provision in our return to ministry in Macedonia. Thank you for your prayers for Cindy's visa. We are happy to share that her visa has been approved, just in time before her 90 day 'tourist' visa expires!



*Christmas "Порача" bread*

We would appreciate prayers for some of the new friends we have recently made. Cindy's friend A demonstrates spiritual hunger as she came with us to church in December and has expressed interest in attending a home Bible study. Please also pray for Mike's friend B and our neighbor C, that we would be of spiritual and emotional encouragement and build on conversations that have been had.



*Initial research results, showing the number of churches (blue line) compared with the population (red bar) in the 10 regions of Skopje*

In addition to the research project mentioned in our last update, we have the occasional privilege of seeking to minister to refugees from war-torn Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Our team seeks to provide food and hot tea in Jesus' name and words of encouragement as they pass through the Macedonian-Serbian border. Please pray for God to use the literature with those who were open to receive it. Our daughter Elizabeth happily participated in this ministry during her visit over Christmas break.

When Mike picked up fruit for refugees this week, the Macedonian man from whom we regularly buy it expressed his respect for what the

team is doing, and inquired with interest about our evangelical faith that motivates our actions. It is encouraging that this ministry is opening up doors for the gospel also with locals.

Your partners in ministry,

Mike Cindy  
Mike & Cindy



*Elizabeth & Macedonian volunteer handing out food to refugees*

### Points for Prayer:

- Praise for the provision of Cindy's visa
- Pray for guidance regarding the location of our ministry focus following the completion of research
- Pray for God to touch refugees in this time of upheaval in their lives
- Pray for open doors to minister to the friends God is bringing to our path
- Pray that an internship in animation would be identified for our son Luke this summer before his senior year