

# Burns

## Serving the Gospel in Macedonia

# BULLETIN

March 2010

On February 20 we passed a small milestone—we've been in Macedonia for 6 months! We continue to progress in learning the language, and are able to get a lot of basic things done using only Macedonian.

However, being able to "get around" Macedonia has not just meant that we've needed to learn how to talk here, but we've also needed to learn how to drive! Unlike in the U.S., the vast majority of cars here, including the vehicles the C&MA has purchased for use here in Macedonia and Kosovo, have manual transmissions. We came not knowing how to drive a "stick," therefore I (Rob) went back to school—Auto School!

Auto School was an enormous challenge and an enormous blessing. A national pastor contacted the man who had taught him, Z.T., who was a huge blessing as he had both an easy temperament (he never yelled at me) and a severely limited knowledge of English (Z.T. knows just a handful of words). I will never forget my first few times in the car—brain racing as I tried desperately to process the Macedonian coming at me quickly so that I could shift, slow down, watch out for the horse cart, etc. in a city with aggressive drivers (and pedestrians) and a whole new understanding of how close is too close (it's only too close if you actually touch the other car). I got out of the car and could feel that my whole back was wet with perspiration! I now know how to drive a stick, and how to drive it here in Skopje, but that's not the best part. The best part was that not only did my Macedonian get

a great workout, but Z.T. and I had great conversations about some of the truly important things in life and once talked the whole time about those things, with Z.T. simply gesturing if he wanted me to turn or stop. After my last class, Z.T. gave me a high compliment for this culture: "Call me. Let's go for coffee or juice sometime." Needless to say, I'm already looking forward to it.

Auto School brings up an issue for us, though: we need a car! In a year and a half we'll finish language study, and we'll need a vehicle to use for our life and ministry here, particularly as our ministry may take us to other towns and the countryside. *Your gracious donations to the Great Commission Fund are the primary way to financially invest in what God is doing through our ministry here in the Balkans* (see inset). As God may lead you to additionally give, however, a gift to our special Vehicle Fund (see: <http://tinyurl.com/yjh4dsb>) will allow us to purchase for the CMA a vehicle we can use. Most importantly, we continue to crave your continued prayers for us; they are truly effective, as we have seen. God is good!

*"He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12, NKJV)*

### praises

God has brought about a male language helper for Rob, a man a few years younger, who is a believer from a Pentecostal church here in Skopje. Besides helping with conversation, and "male slang", he is excited about sharing Christ in Macedonia. Pray we may bless each other.

Praise God that He is helping us to continue to build connections and friendships for all of us!

### please pray

Please pray that God would give each member of our family at least one good friendship here, and that we'd be "salt and light" among the other internationals we've met here.

Pray for continued grace from God in the ongoing trial (postponed AGAIN in February) from the building collapse in late 2007. We want God to be glorified by a fair trial and justice for Pastor Sasho and the Kumanovo church.

Pray for God's Spirit to move here!

Make a secure financial contribution online at [www.cmalliance.org/give/](http://www.cmalliance.org/give/)

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If you put "For Rob & Lisa Burns" in the memo, it will go to our sub-account; if not, it will go into the Great Commission Fund.

**Thank you!!**



Z.T. and Rob