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| <p><i>Bosnia Dispelling the Darkness</i> May 2002 and May 2004</p> <p>Part 03, Ch. 03 CRF Media Chronicles</p> | <p>Final: 01/31/13 Time: 22:07</p> <p>© 2013 Carl and Arline Ryan</p> |
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Carl: Our first trip to Bosnia and the capital city of Sarajevo was in May 2002. This was a place of stark contrast to West African countries. There are brightly painted new apartment buildings, hotels and retail outlets ready for customers, people everywhere, on foot, on buses and in cars, all appearing as symbols of prosperity and stability. Pigeon Square, a popular meeting place for tourists and residents alike, is located in the central part of the city. It gives a quick view of the diverse people living side by side; – some just looking, others buying or selling goods and a few beggars. But, is this just a dream?

Reminders of turmoil of the past are all around. Near Pigeon Square and crossing the Miljacka River is the bridge where World War I began with the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand. Looking beyond the glitter, serious open wounds and scars remain of the conflict only ten years earlier. It lasted for an excruciating three years. The war of ethnic cleansing between Catholic Croats, the Orthodox Serbs and the Muslim Bosnians left over 100,000 people dead and the countries in shambles.

The United Nations peace keeping effort was a disaster, often making matters worse. Finally, NATO, led by the United States, ended the slaughter. Security and administrative authority remains in the hands of NATO.

Today, it is hard to believe that this was the show place of the world with the 1984 Winter Olympics. The ski run operates again but the Olympic Village remains in ruins. Throughout this land the people are struggling to rebuild their lives. Danger from these dark times remains with countless unexploded landmines scattered in the forests and the fields.

Arline: While in Bosnia, we stayed in a small hotel located in Ilidza, a suburb of Sarajevo. This was a nice quiet place with an excellent restaurant. Nearby was an internet cafe for our use. We were within easy walking distance to the home of missionaries, Todd and Kim Golden.

The hotel was also where four volunteers from Northwest Arkansas were staying. Part of our filming effort was to document the Operation Saturation Project. This was a major evangelistic outreach in which New Testaments, ... in the Bosnian language, ... were distributed to all who would accept this gift. It was a difficult campaign since Bosnia is over 90% Muslim. Often the Bible was rejected or just thrown in the trash. Yet some accepted and read the material.

The rural areas and mountain villages were more receptive to the project. In these places, we experienced extremely friendly people who often invited us into their home for coffee. It was a special time of visiting.

Christian churches are few and congregations small, frequently meeting in homes. It was a real joy to worship among these

believers as they shared God's Word and sang His praises.

We finished our time in this beautiful country with many fond memories.

Overlay: Golden Family

While there, we completed a draft script of the main chapter so that Todd could narrate the critical closing paragraphs.

Overlay: Ancient Roman Bridge

We produced three video chapters which were initially distributed on VHS tapes and CD-ROMS's.

Insert Map: Dubrovnik, Mostar, Sarajevo

Carl: In May 2004, we drove from Montenegro on our second trip to Bosnia. Our route passed through Dubrovnik, Croatia and on up along the Aegean Sea, then North through the countryside. Vegetable gardens were prominent in the lowlands. Continuing on, we enjoyed the trip as we observed an occasional ancient city clinging to the hillside.

The terrain was similar to that around Sarajevo with green fields flanked by hills, mountains and an occasional river crossing. There were some Catholic churches as well as Orthodox temples and Islamic mosques. Near the large city of Mostar signs of the 1992-1995 war were evident on some of the buildings.

Arline: It took us only about five hours driving time to reach our destination in Ilidza and the home of Todd and Kim ... the same place as our previous visit.

Todd showed us around and explained that much had changed in the intervening two years. It seems that the dream of living and working side by side may be coming true. Most of the destroyed buildings had been replaced and others repaired or rebuilt. To us, this was a welcome change but there were scars on the buildings and on the people. Animosity remained between the ethnic groups. Strict control and oversight was still required by the NATO troops and the designated administrator.

Progress toward improved ethnic accommodations allowed us to visit places off limits on our previous trip. A highlight was the public schools. It was here that a working relationship between the diverse people groups is developing and, hopefully, building a lasting respect and cooperation that will extend into adulthood.

The tour of an Orthodox temple was interesting with respect to the worship practices. The emphasis was on praying to a favorite icon or saint. This was odd to us and contrary to God's Word.

Another stop was for tourists and we purchased quality handmade copper and brass items. Some made from spent artillery shell casings.

The villages are always delightful places despite the cold mountain air and cramped living conditions. Practices like spinning wool and weaving it into special trousers is a skill that has endured for centuries. Likewise, sheep herding has changed little as time progresses.

Friendliness and courtesy is another trait that is part of the mountain village culture. It includes sharing a cup of coffee made from freshly ground beans, plenty of sugar and enough caffeine in a small cup to keep one awake all night.

During our two visits, we developed a better understanding of the Bosniaks and why it is so difficult to reach them with God's Word. Our prayers continue for those who have endured so much during the past years,

Peace and tranquility for some is close by. We walked there with Kim and Todd's two children, Abbey and Emma Kate. Abbey, the oldest, was our translator. Someday soon more may be able to find and reach this spot.

We produced a total of nine chapters for "*Bosniaks: A People at the Crossroads*". Also included in this DVD were several short prayer walking segments. We distributed over 1,000 copies of this DVD.

Overlay: CRF Media Chronicles

© Filmed: 2002, 2004

Narrators: Carl, Arline

Background Music:

- HOP-15 – *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*
- HOP-18 – *Have Thine Own Way Lord*
- HOP-19 – *Near the Cross*



Dispelling the Darkness

Ch. 04 (11:53) Filmed May 2002

dark city skyline with minarets...words: ...the people living in darkness...

sound: call to prayer

For over a thousand years, the Balkan people have been oppressed by towering political and religious systems...one powerful conqueror after another...each casting a shadow over this land.

Overlay: THE SHADOW OF CONQUEST

When the first major power, the Roman Empire, split apart, the people of the western Balkans were aligned with the Roman Catholic Church, those in the east with the Greek Orthodox Church, and the area known today as Bosnia became both ...and ... neither. In the resulting spiritual vacuum, an indigenous group emerged known as the Bogomils, whose burial stones still remain. With the invasion of the Ottoman Turks, many converted to Islam.

The strangling (hated) domination of the Austro-Hungarian Empire exploded into World War I when Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated on a bridge crossing the Miljacka River in Sarajevo.

Two world wars further split the ethnic groups as the Croats fought with the Nazis, and the Serbs resisted German occupation. Following World War II, the dictatorial leadership of Marshal Tito forced the political unification of the country into what became known as Yugoslavia. With the death of Tito, the hostilities and suspicions held back by the power of his dictatorship erupted once again as Yugoslavia began to disintegrate.

Overlay: THE SHADOW OF DEATH AND ETHNIC CLEANSING

When Bosnia declared its independence in 1992, the coexistence of three ethnic/religious groups there became a breeding ground for internal and external pressures, plunging the area into a war of ethnic cleansing and death ... a three-way battle between the Serbs, Croats, and Muslims. In April 1992, the city of Sarajevo was surrounded by heavy artillery on the mountains and the nightmare of the longest siege in modern history began. It would last 1,395 days. Every day 4,000 shells hit the city, systematically targeting hospitals, schools, mosques, libraries, public buildings, and even ordinary people standing in line for bread and water. The patterns left in the cement by exploding grenades, called "Sarajevo Roses", the bullet-riddled buildings, the grim, silent graveyards and the estimated 3 million hidden land mines, provide constant reminders of the reality of the nightmare. The painful memories will not go away.

Bosnian Muslims call themselves "survivors" ... and rightly so. For over three years, these Bosniaks struggled to survive. Getting food and water often meant risking one's life. Park benches, trees, and pages of treasured books disappeared as the cold winters intensified the suffering. Food and water had to be smuggled into the city and dandelions often meant the difference between a full stomach and an empty one. Parks became cemeteries. Even as citizens sought to bury their dead, the snipers continued to kill, forcing them to dig graves at night. Bosnia had truly entered the shadow of death. The horrors of this war can be seen in the eyes and heard from the lips of Bosniaks...

"Sometimes I just have the feeling the sniper is watching me from the hill and can shoot me whenever he likes. My forehead begins to itch at the place where I expect the bullet...we shut our ears to the gunfire. We spend hours fetching water, looking for food. We live for today and can only hang on to dreams about the future. But I still love Sarajevo."

-----Lejla, age 20

All over Bosnia there are reminders of death and destruction. Whole villages were wiped out, thousands killed; homes, factories and machinery were destroyed. Nearly 100,000 Bosnian Muslims lost their lives. Families have been forever separated by death and emigration. It is not just the physical death that casts its ugly shadow upon this land ... there is spiritual death as well.

Overlay: THE SHADOW OF ISLAM

The Turkish influence is seen in Bosnian language, architecture, food, and dress...but nowhere as strongly as in the religion. Throughout the country mosques are ever present. The faithful are called to prayer 5 times daily from loudspeakers mounted on the minarets of hundreds of mosques. For many Bosnians, being a Muslim dictates the kind of clothing they wear, the types of food they eat, the customs and holidays they observe, and the people they trust. Even though many are nominal in their beliefs, the family values and structure, the culture, and the traditions are so intertwined with the Islamic religion, that to consider anything else is, for most Bosniaks, almost unthinkable. Following the war, Islam has made giant strides through educational thrusts, the growth of Young Muslim groups, and the building of new mosques.

Because the Shadow of Islam covers them in the darkness of deception, the Bosniaks are without the True Light. Of the two million Bosnian Muslims living in the country, very few have been identified as evangelical believers. (overlay numbers) The Bosniaks have no peace, no inner joy, and no hope. They are shackled by a burden larger than they can bear, by a religion that requires more than they can give.

Overlay: THE SHADOW OF HOPELESSNESS

The future does not look promising-- there are few jobs, all too often those with jobs do not get paid regularly, if at all. Half of the people are unemployed. Many Bosnian Muslims see emigration as their only hope and wait in long lines to obtain visas to other countries. University students struggle to complete their degrees knowing that there is a slim chance of actually obtaining a job. Most of them want to leave Bosnia. Within Bosnia, there are still hundreds of thousands of displaced Bosniak who illegally occupy places left vacant by someone who was killed or emigrated. Evictions are common. Corruption at all levels undermines economic growth. The people see little hope for a better future socially or economically and there is only false hope in their ritualistic devotion to Islam. When asked about spiritual hope, the Bosniak simply reply, "Only God knows." They know nothing of the hope God has already provided through Jesus.

Overlay: ONLY LIGHT CAN DISPEL DARKNESS AND SHADOWS

When the war ended in 1995, many government, private, and religious organizations assisted Bosniaks in rebuilding their homes and their lives. Many evangelical churches and groups generously gave to provide food and shelter for this devastated area. But material help is not all the believers brought – they also brought light.

Emina lived in Sarajavo during this devastating war. God answered her prayer by sending someone with the light:

“...he opened the Bible and he stood up and read a verse that left me paralyzed. He said, from John 8:12, “Jesus spoke to them again, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall not live in darkness but will have the light of life.’” And, you know, in that very moment, I think my search was over. I found God and He displayed His mighty power to me and I know He is the God that hears prayers, answers prayers and, most of all, He came down and saved me ... and, as dark as it was that day, I got hope and I got light and I am blessed to be one of His ministers to be able to talk about that light and that joy to others ... so praise God, He saved me.”

Only the light of Jesus shining through His people will dispel the Shadows of Darkness engulfing the Bosnian Muslims. Jesus quoted Isaiah 9:2 saying “...the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” (Matthew 4:16 NIV) There are several small churches in Bosnia and believers are beginning to see their part in reaching out to their families and friends with the Good News that Jesus is the Light. Jesus – “the true light that gives light to every man” – has come into the world.” (John. 4:9 NIV)

We rejoice that God’s Word has come to the Bosnian Muslims, as the very first Bosnian New Testament became available in 2002. Never before have they had the Word of God in their own heart-language. With the distribution of New Testaments using volunteers and Bosnian believers, God’s Word is beginning to penetrate the clouds that have overshadowed the hearts of these people.

The vision is to see indigenous and reproducing churches that will give every Bosnian Muslim the opportunity to worship God and exalt Jesus.

The strategy is:

Overlay: BE LIGHT

to be light in the way Jesus meant when He said: “YOU are the light of the world.”

Overlay: PRAY

to ask God for the Holy Spirit's power to break the chains of darkness that engulf the Bosniaks.

Overlay: SHARE GOD'S WORD

to saturate Bosniak communities with God's Word.

Overlay: PROCLAIM

to boldly and intentionally proclaim the Gospel.

Overlay: GATHER

to gather Bosniaks for Bible studies,

Overlay: REPRODUCE

which will result in rapidly reproducing churches.

YOU can bring the Light to the Bosniak.

Overlay: PRAY

Ask God to give you His heart for the Bosniak who walk in darkness.

Overlay: RESPOND

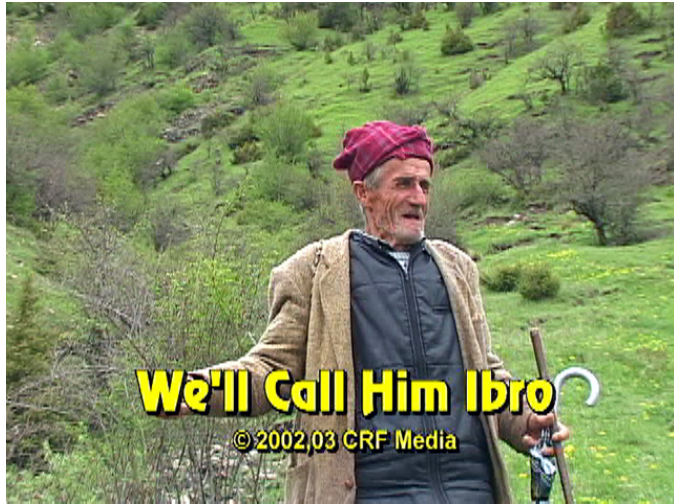
It is desperately important that God's people respond to the need for volunteers, long-term workers, and resources to help bring the Bosniak out of darkness and into the Light.

Overlay: PARTNER

There is a desperate need for churches to form partnerships to help achieve long-term goals.

Millions of Bosniak still sit in darkness. Will YOU bring the Light?

www.bosniaks.com



We'll Call Him Ibro

Ch 05 (4:11) Filmed May 2002

We'll call him Ibro. (EE-bro)... Ibro has no hope.

The Good News that offers true hope should have reached his village centuries ago. ... It didn't.

By the end of the Apostle Paul's life he was able to say that the Gospel had been preached in Illyricum, and that he had sent Titus to Dalmatia. Ibro's village is only a few hours away by modern transportation... but, somehow, the Gospel never traveled those last few miles. The villages of Bosnia are still in darkness...seemingly forgotten.

Perched atop a steep Bosnian mountain, Jezcica (Jezh CHEAT suh) is much the same as thousands of other Bosnian villages. The rocky soil produces only sparse grass and vegetation for their families and their livestock. Winters are harsh. Life is simple...but very hard. Work consumes their time and ages them prematurely. Despite their difficult life, traditions are more important than work. The time-honored tradition of hospitality is strong, and there's always time to visit and drink coffee. Ibro's life is not very different from his father's...or his grandfather's. Generations have lived and died in the tiny village where his forefathers embraced Islam hundreds of years ago, and where Ibro still follows blindly in their traditions.

Ibro is a shepherd. He understands how a shepherd must provide for and protect his sheep. From dawn until dark, his days are spent in leading his sheep to pasture and water, or, if his son from another village can care for the sheep, Ibro leads the cattle out to a nearby hillside to graze. He takes good care of his livestock...but he doesn't really know that there is another Shepherd - the Great Shepherd - who longs to do the same things for him.

Jezcica is only about 40 miles from the capital city of Sarajevo in distance... but until recently, it was isolated, untouched ...a place where time stood still...waiting. Even the 1984 Olympic Games ... held in Sarajevo ... had little impact on Ibro's village— but civilization burst suddenly upon them in 1991, as war engulfed the country. Their home was burned, one son was killed, they were forced to flee. Since the war, Ibro and his wife, Fata, (FAH-tuh) have tried to rebuild their lives as they were before the war...but too many things have changed. Ibro, like thousands of other Bosnians, feels hopeless and forgotten.

A few months ago, Ibro and Fata's family saw the Jesus video. Ibro was deeply moved by the story. At the end, he said, "This film has opened my eyes." He wanted to know more and asked for a Bible. When the New Testament became available in the Bosnian language for the very first time in 2002, Ibro and Fata were among the first to receive it. But he still has not given his life to the Great Shepherd.

Overlay: Forgotten?

Are the people of Jezcica forgotten?

Overlay: Will you remember?

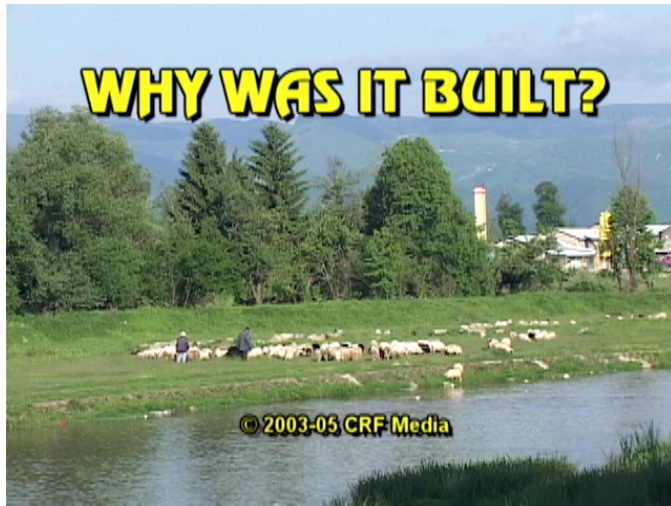
Will you remember Ibro and Fata and the thousands like them?

Overlay: Will you pray?

Will you pray that they would understand that the Good Shepherd is waiting for them to come to Him? Will you intercede so that the Gospel will travel those last few miles to the forgotten villages of Bosnia? Will you pray?

Closing Overlay: How will YOU be involved?

www.bosniaks.com



Why Was IT Built?

Ch. 06 (8:19) Filmed May 2002

In the Balkans, ... in the country of Bosnia-**Herzegovina** (Herz go VEE na) and on the eastern edge of the capital city of **Sarajevo** (sara YAY vo), ... is a bridge made of concrete and steel. This bridge was constructed several years ago and financed by international aid money. On one end is a small faded foot trail. On the other is a sheer granite wall. This bridge will never be used. Why was it built?

Unlike this monument to nowhere and for nobody, there are many well-placed bridges, tunnels, and highways in this country. They go through the mountainsides, over the hills, and across the rivers and ravines. They carry people and produce from one community to another all the while

making it easier to visit those in another city or another country.

2000 years ago the Romans built bridges and roads across their empire; an empire, which included much of the Balkans. The bridges, built of stone and mortar, made it possible to quickly mobilize the Roman army and, thus, control the people of this land. These bridges have often been expanded and repaired. Today, some remain in use, but a different fate ... just a dim outline ... is all that remains of the ancient Roman villas and government buildings. In some places, pieces of the past are unceremoniously scattered in the fields. They appear as broken tombstones that mark the footsteps of a once great empire.

The Romans also brought the Catholic Church and, ... it is this institution that remains. There are Catholic Churches in Bosnia, in Croatia, and in Montenegro as well as the other Balkan countries. However, much of its power and influence has been lost to other religions and ethnic groups. The Catholic Church, once a bridge that led to Rome, was severely damaged by the power of the Orthodox Church in Constantinople. About 1000 years ago these Churches split, and today this schism has grown into walls that define country boundaries setting one group of people against another.

About 600 years ago the Ottoman Turks entered the scene. They repaired many of the Roman bridges and roads enabling them to control the Balkans much as the Romans had done earlier. More importantly, they brought Islam to this land forcing its belief system onto much of the population through coercion and intimidation. This process resulted in a significant growth of Islam as conversions grew and flourished during the 400 years of Turkish control. Mosques sporting their tall minarets replaced the churches, temples and cathedrals. The Ottoman Turks proceeded to build forts and walls to protect themselves and their empire from those they considered infidels. In some places, the walls continue to define the boundaries in residential areas.

Today, the walls are crumbling, the rock and mortar bridges have been replaced by concrete and steel and the tunnels are now wider and taller. Yet, there are few bridges that cross the barriers that exist between the three major religious groups. The groups have become countries. For example, Croatia claims Catholicism as its religion, Montenegro claims to be Orthodox, and Bosnia is dominated by the Muslims.

The people in the Balkan countries have always been strongly influenced by forces outside their borders. Conflicts seem to be endless and, in the past century, these conflicts have taken on world-class significance. World War I was started due to an assassination near the bridge crossing the **Miljacka** River (mill YAH kah) in Sarajevo. Once again, during World War II, the Balkans was the scene of bitter partisan fighting. After the War, most of the Balkans was unified as Yugoslavia. On the other hand, this bridge of unification was a facade held together by the dictatorial powers of Marshall Tito.

The 1984 Winter Olympics was held in and around Sarajevo. The Balkans appeared to be peaceful ... a place of tranquility. Nevertheless, just seven short years later, the Olympic Village, ... located on Mount **Igman**, ... was destroyed by another ethnic conflict. This time it was a three-way war between the Orthodox Serbs, the Catholic Croats, and the Bosnian Muslims. The bridges, city streets, office buildings, and homes turned into killing fields as the Serbs laid siege to Sarajevo. Tens of thousands of people were massacred during the three-years of senseless brutality. The international community observed the carnage but little was done to reign in the extremely powerful and well-equipped Serb army. During this horrific time, a secret tunnel was built under the airport runway by the Bosnian army to provide a lifeline, ... a bridge, ... which circumvented the wall of international indifference to the besieged city.

An uneasy peace was finally established in the mid-1990s and most of the city has been restored but the scars of war, the ethnic and religious hatred remain. The bridges and tunnels built for commerce ... built to make it easier to allow people to go from one place to another ... have little effect on the relationships between these groups.

It seems that these peoples are like the bridge without a road – they remain isolated in a crowd. They wear garments to display this difference. They build expensive edifices that are islands unto themselves. Only those who belong can cross bridges to these islands.

These school children have never been part of a war. They are from various ethnic and religious groups all singing the same song. They are the future of Bosnia but as history is our guide, they too will mature into adults that hang onto religious and ethnic animosity. The bridges made in their youth will fail.

A new kind of bridge is needed ... a bridge that circumvents the walls all around. The bridge must be in the hearts and minds of people.

Pray that someday people will say, “Why were the tall minarets of the mosques built?” ... Pray that like the walls of Jericho, these walls will come tumbling down. ... Pray that the people of Bosnia will discover that Jesus is the only way ... the only bridge to God.



Bosnia Then and Now

Ch. 07 (7:03) Filmed May 2002, 04

In 1984, **Sarajevo** (sara YAY voo) was the host city for the Winter Olympics. The ski runs were about 40 miles from the city and high in the mountains. They are still in use today. However, the Olympic Village built nearby is in total ruin ... destroyed by a devastating civil war less than seven years after the Olympics.

This brutal war lasted for nearly four years. The graves of the tens of thousands of people murdered by the warring factions cover the hillsides. They remain as silent testimony of an event that occurred such a short time ago in comparison to the two millennia of recorded history of this land.

It is this history coupled with the beauty of the mountains, the shiny new buildings, and the villages that makes Bosnia an important tourist destination.

Sarajevo was a city in ruin just a few years ago. The multi-story news building, ... long a symbol of the violence of the war, ... is new again. Apartment buildings, offices, and hotels are currently open for business. The famous Holiday Inn Hotel, ... the place where news reporters documented the carnage of the war, ... is also refurbished. Nearby is the bridge that crosses the **Miljacka** (mil YAH ka) River. It was here that the assassination of Arch Duke Ferdinand occurred sparking the fires of World War I. A leisurely stroll across to the other side of the river is safe now. The violence is held in abeyance through the presence of a large contingent of soldiers from European Union countries.

High on a nearby hill is the mansion where the Austro-Hungarian officials ruled this area in the late 1800's. Even higher up on the hill is the fort built by the Ottoman Turks in the 15th century. It was the Turks who brought Islam to this land. Today, mosques, ... with their tall minarets, ... are the most prominent feature of the **Sarajevo** skyline. Loudspeakers, mounted on these towers, call the faithful to prayer five times each day.

Before Islam there was the Roman Catholic Church. However, there are only a few Catholic Churches remaining. Along about 1000 AD, the Greek Orthodox Church became dominant. Orthodox churches can be found throughout the area but are not nearly as numerous as the mosques. A visit to one of these religious worship centers is an interesting experience. Inside the Orthodox Church, the priest often welcomes visitors as he explains the significance of the icons and paintings. He explains that these icons represent various saints of the church and are considered to be “windows to heaven” ... a place for followers to pray.

In medieval times, another group known mostly by the tombstones of its followers came to be known as the Bosnian Church. The tombstones have been found all over the country and many are now museum pieces.

The Bosnian Church and its followers, ... known as the **Bogomils**, (BO go meels) ... practiced a distinctive form of Christianity but were considered heretics by the Catholic Church. Through persecution and intimidation, most converted to the Catholic faith and, ... by the mid-1400's, ... the Bosnian Church was no more.

Religious history is, ... in many respects, ... the history of Bosnia and religion continues to play a major role in the country. New mosques and churches are commonplace but it is the gleaming new offices and apartments of Sarajevo that show economic progress and, hopefully, point to a bright future. For those wishing to explore the past, there are many old buildings and narrow streets throughout the city. While these are of a time gone by, sidewalk restaurants, ... catering to the younger crowd, ... are always filled.

Pigeon Square is a spot for tourists. . Here one can purchase artifacts of the recent war. Shell casings intricately embossed are a favorite. All sizes are sold and are just a sample of the over one million projectiles that rained down on the city a few years ago. Other handcrafted metal works can be purchased from the craftsmen who hammer out coffee sets, plates, and jewelry. Other handmade items are available as well. The tradition of fabricating items in this way began hundreds of years ago and has been passed down through the generations. Here too you can be like a child and chase the hundreds of pigeons around the fountain or you can sit on the steps and watch as the diversity of the ethnic makeup of this land passes by. For others, a chess game may be interesting. Here many enjoy the game as well as the quiet friendship.

Located high in the mountains of Bosnia are villages that give tourists an illustration of the way life once was in this country. Many of the villages were destroyed during the war. Rebuilding has taken place with the charm remaining as well as some of the salvaged materials. The rusty sheet metal roofs are stark reminders of the original burned out homes.

One of Europe's most diverse locations, ... a cultural crossroads of east and west; ... this is Bosnia and **Herzegovina**. (herz go VEE na) Take time to listen when you visit. People may need to tell you of their experiences. The years have been few since hearts were broken and the effects remain. Come and visit this historic land and its people!



The Tunnel

Ch. 08 (7:08) Filmed May 2004

FIRST VOICE:

On a cold and rainy afternoon near **Sarajevo**, and, ... inside a building still displaying the scars of a recent war, a father and his son have a story to tell. They lived here during that war. The father built this home and his son was born here.

In April 1992, the long running conflict between the Orthodox Serbs, the Catholic **Croats**, and the Bosnian Muslims erupted into a brutal war. The Serbs wanted to rid the country of Muslims and Catholics. **Sarajevo** became a killing field as the Serbs, ... located in the surrounding mountains, ... laid siege on the city. Artillery shells and sniper fire continued to rain down upon the city for three

years. During this time, over 10,000 civilians were murdered and most of the buildings were damaged or destroyed.

SECOND VOICE: (son)

As the siege stretched from weeks to months, survival was becoming desperate. Food was running low and the Bosnian Army had very little equipment or ammunition. There was no way to get supplies to the people since the Serbs controlled all of the high ground surrounding the city. In August of 1992, a 7500 man United Nations force was sent in to provide humanitarian relief for the entrapped residents of **Sarajevo**. This force proved to be impotent and, even an impediment, to the Bosnians as they attempted to bring much needed supplies to our city. The corridor to the south opened up to the rest of Bosnia and supplies. However, this route was blocked since the Serbs controlled the airport and would not allow food supplies into the city unless they received an equal amount. Attempts by the Bosnians to cross the airport runway were stopped by both the Serbs and the UN force.

The most immediate problem was military supplies for the Bosnians trapped in the city. The Serbs had a significant stockpile of tanks, cannons, guns, and ammunition. The Bosnians had very little. The UN enforced an embargo for war material to the Balkans. In effect, this prevented the Bosnians from defending themselves against a ruthless and already well-equipped Serbian Army.

The situation required immediate action. A tunnel would be dug under the airport runway. My father was an officer in the Bosnian army and offered our home as the starting point on the Bosnia side. Another home near the runway on the Sarajevo side was secured and the tunnel was begun. They would dig from both ends and hopefully meet in the middle. ... This clandestine effort must be hidden from both the UN and the Serbs.

150 men dug day and night, ... all by hand; ... picks, shovels, and wheelbarrows were their tools. They worked in very adverse conditions. The lighting was poor and sometimes water was knee deep in the tunnel. Timbers for the tunnel on the Bosnia side were obtained from the forest. Wood was not available on the **Sarajevo** side; instead, steel beams salvaged from bombed out buildings were used. The tunnel was 18 feet under the runway, a little over three feet wide and only five feet high. The total length was about one half mile.

After four months and four days of this hard and dangerous work, the two sides met ... in the middle ... under the airport runway. Operation of the tunnel began immediately!

In the first year of operation, the tunnel was used primarily by the Bosnian Army to bring in much needed military supplies. Initially these supplies were carried on the backs of the soldiers. Soon, however, rails made from angle iron were installed. Small carts capable of hauling about 700 pounds each were used to run on these rails.

My father was responsible for getting the many tons of weapons and ammunition to the tunnel entrance. This material was hauled down the mountainside on a narrow, winding road. To avoid detection and shelling by the Serbian Army, it was necessary that this be done at night and without headlights.

As time progressed, a telephone cable, an oil pipeline, and a 19-megawatt electric power cable were installed to supply the city. By the end of the first year of operation, civilian use began and approximately 3,000 people per day were able to use the tunnel.

The Serbs knew of the tunnel and of its operation. In an effort to eliminate this lifeline, they destroyed the nearby village. Despite major efforts to prevent its use, the tunnel continued to operate for the duration of the siege. To confuse the enemy as to where the entrances were actually located, the Bosnian Army constructed several diversion tunnels and passageways.

The siege was finally broken in 1995, ... not by the UN efforts, ... but by NATO and the ceasefire agreement brokered by the United States. After the ceasefire, NATO became the peacekeeping force with 60,000 troops stationed in the city and elsewhere in Bosnia.

FIRST VOICE:

Today, much of the city has been rebuilt with funds from international donors. The European Union is now responsible for maintaining peace but the conflict remains. Reminders of the war of hate, ... the war of ethnic cleansing, ... are all around. The bombed out buildings, ... the mine fields ... and, yes, the graveyards -- some stretching as far as the eye can see, while others are just a small patch of ground on a hillside in the mountains.

After the cease-fire, the tunnel was no longer needed and has long since caved in. These days, the Orthodox Serbs, the Catholic **Croatians**, and the Bosnian Muslims move freely about the city. Someday soon the rebuilding of the city will be finished. The scars of war and of the tunnel that saved countless lives will be only a memory; ... a memory of a time when ethnic hatred dominated the lives of this land.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Croatians | (crow A tians) |
| Croats | (crow ats) |
| Sarajevo | (sara YAY voe) |



The Cities of Bosnia

Ch. 09 (4:38) Filmed May 2004

Buses and trains speeding along their tracks ... tracks that wind their way from the suburbs to the inner city. -- Cars jockeying for a better place ...hoping to be the first in line. -- Traffic going by old structures in desperate need of renovation as well as shiny new facilities ready for business. -- Trucks with their drivers waiting for their first load of the day. --- And, people ... waiting for the next bus.

Life in urban Bosnia is much like other western cities. Always on the move ... always waiting in line ... always hoping the journey will end soon. People appear to be slaves to the trappings of their own making. All are hurrying through their day and through their life anxious to reach its

end, ... yet, without true knowledge of what is at the end of life's journey. A marker, ... like thousands of others, ... will be set up at their final resting place. It is sad that most of those buried here did not know where they would spend eternity. It is now too late for the unaware and unfortunate souls that must remain in eternal torment. But, what about those who are not at the end of life's journey ... those in the buses, the cars, the restaurants, and the office buildings? ... Do they know where their journey will end? Do they know where they will spend eternity?

These are lives full of mistrust, skepticism, war, hatred, corruption, dilapidated economies, and yes, ... hopelessness. Each one is desperate for a meaning in life -- searching in the mosques, following their traditions, and trusting in the Q'uran. They are told that if they are good enough they will be in paradise when they die. The search continues for something that eludes them ... for satisfaction of inner hunger and assurance of eternity. Even at rest, true rest is not found.

We see blurred and busy crowds. ... Jesus sees individuals. We see the rough, sometimes angry exterior. ... Jesus sees beyond the veneer to the emptiness inside. The Bible tells us that when Jesus looked upon the multitudes, He was moved with compassion because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

In a world running out of time, these multitudes do not know rest or where to find it --- they are a picture of lostness. Jesus is calling them to the life He intended for them all along, but it is difficult to hear Him through all the noise ... the traffic ... the busyness of each day's routine. They need to hear Jesus calling their name, as Mary did at the empty tomb. What a difference it would make if they could meet Jesus ... if they could accept Him as their Lord and Savior.

Those who know Jesus need to hear Him as well. They need to hear Him calling ... **"You ... WILL be My witnesses"; "GO ... and MAKE disciples"; "FEED My sheep";**

We must GO and TELL them! ... We MUST tell them about Jesus!



Operation Saturation

Ch. 10 (5:22) Filmed May 2002, 04

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path ... some fell on rocky places ... some among thorns ... still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a great harvest.

The seed is the word of God. ... Luke 8:11

Title- (words on the screen only): OPERATION SATURATION

Bosnia is like a field tangled with weeds and thorns ...with Islam and its mosques ... with Orthodox and its temples

...with Catholicism and its churches ... with a people who have suffered much at the hands of political and religious dictators, ... and with the ever present potential of ethnic violence. Until recently this was a country without the Word of God in their own language ... almost 2 million Bosnian Muslims without any seed to grow in their hearts and minds. ... Then, in 2002, the first New Testaments were printed in the Bosnian language. ... Soon a vision was born ... a vision to saturate this land with the Word of God ... to prepare for a great harvest that has never been known in this land of weeds, thorns, and rocks.

The country was divided into sections: the cities, the towns, the villages, the farms, and the mountains. Engaging each section, ... in its turn, ... with volunteers, the broad sowing of God's Word began. Like the farmer in the Parable of the Sower, it was necessary to scatter the seed everywhere — but what a task! As with any field, preparing the soil is the first step. Plowing and breaking up the hard ground must precede planting. Individuals, couples, and teams began prayer-walking targeted areas, asking God to prepare the "soil" for the seed that would soon be scattered. Starting in the city of Sarajevo, ... going door to door, ... sometimes greeted with tears of joy, sometimes with angry words of rejection, and other times with indifference, God's laborers persisted -- despite heat or rain or tired feet. They believed that just as in the parable, there would be hard places, rocky places, and thorny places ... but there would also be some good soil where the seed would begin to grow. Each team's goal was to offer God's Word as a free gift to every Bosniak home that would accept it. In apartment buildings and houses along major highways and throughout the cities, ... in the suburbs where most have a satellite TV antenna, ... along dirt roads and down narrow lanes in the countryside, ... and in entire villages on top of steep hills -- God's Word was on the move!

As the goal of saturating the capital city of Sarajevo drew closer, teams began going into the southern region, where there were many villages and small towns. By the summer of 2004, teams had begun distribution in several areas north of Sarajevo and phone calls and letters began to trickle in asking for their copy of the New Testament. Lives were being impacted by God's Word! The seed was beginning to sprout and some plants were growing!

Looking at the people of Bosnia, they can be seen as a farmer might view his fields. Some are still completely untouched ... covered with weeds and grass. There are other fields that have been plowed, as God's people have walked and prayed. Sometimes the soil is so rocky and so hard that prayer is needed again and again. Some have been sown but need to be nurtured. But, in a few, green leaves are beginning to sprout. And, just as a farmer rejoices when he sees the small, tender shoots appear above the ground ... all rejoice knowing that ... in God's time ... a harvest will be reaped.

You have an opportunity to join God in His work beginning with your prayers and compassion and then through the distribution of Bosnian New Testaments, educational programs, business development, friendship and sharing. God is preparing this land for a harvest. Workers are needed who will give one week, one month, one year, or a lifetime. There is a place for you in Bosnia!

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.” Luke 10:2

Overlay: Do you hear Him calling?



The Villages of Bosnia

Ch. 11 (8:08) Filmed May 2002 and 2004

Listen ... listen ... you can hear the tinkling of the bells from across the valley. It is springtime and the weather is bad but the shepherd continues to watch over his flock ... caring for them as he does every day. In some places, there seems to be more rock than grass for his sheep, but soon the grass will grow tall and the sheep's heavy coat will be cut. The village residents will use most of the wool. Time and the elements seem to have little effect on those who continue this honorable profession. It is a lonely, solitary job. His dog is the only companion during the day. As night falls, ... the foraging done, ... they all head to a home high in the hills.

Time seems to have stood still in the mountain villages of Bosnia. Yet, many of the sheet metal roofs are rusty now ... not necessarily due to age but because the metal was salvaged from the time when the village was burned during the 1991 to 1995 war. Throughout the countryside, the Orthodox Serbs destroyed the mostly Muslim villages. Progressing toward Sarajevo, the army laid waste to everything in its path. Those remaining in the villages buried their dead, salvaged what they could of their homes, rebuilt, and continued their now broken lives in the only way they knew. The graveyards remind them of the horrific past but in the forest, ... the warnings of the land mines mark the danger faced daily by both people and livestock. The enemy is subdued but his legacy remains.

Springtime comes late in the high elevations. It is mid-May and snow is still on the surrounding mountain peaks. A few small haystacks that were not used during the winter remain in the fields. Manure that accumulated in the barns has been cleaned out and is ready to be spread on the fields and gardens. Some gardens are already prepared waiting their turn for planting. In others, the seeds for new growth are carefully placed one-by-one in the fertile mountain soil. The small plots of land are cultivated much as they were centuries ago.

Many of the villages are built along steep hillsides or on a saddle between two mountain peaks where the air is clear and crisp. It seems that homes are situated so that the surrounding mountains can be viewed in a breathtaking panorama of God's creation. While the beauty is unsurpassed, the danger for the unaware is all around. Some roads wind around the hillsides and are not safe for automobiles. Foot trails are so close to the edge that a slip could be life-threatening. In these villages, there are no busy streets. Most of the traffic is animals or people as they walk from place to place. Here, there are few cars ... fewer still that actually can be depended upon.

Water is always available and free. Most often it is piped down from springs higher up in the hills. Some must carry water for their use. Others have water faucets in their homes.

Traditional dress is still common in the villages. The handmade wool pants and a knitted sweater worn by most women has been the style for hundreds of years. The traditional Muslim scarf worn by the women also serves to ward off the bitter cold wind. Shoes are left at the door and heavy, beautifully designed wool knit socks are worn inside. Spinning yarn from the sheep's wool is a process that requires little equipment but a large investment in time.

Giving visitors a warm welcome is a long tradition. Villagers are usually friendly and complete strangers are invited in for coffee. Coffee in Bosnia is an important part of life. ... strong, Turkish coffee ... enjoyed with a family member, a friend, a coworker, a stranger. The coffee ritual is followed carefully. The beans are ground and added with boiling water to the small metal container. It is gently stirred until the top layer of coffee turns a cream color before pouring into a round, small cup. Unless you leave a small amount in the bottom, your cup will be refilled numerous times. Usually, it is the wife's responsibility to serve the coffee but, today, she is tending the sheep and her husband graciously performs the task.

Life for the villagers is hard but the warmth of a home is the comfort that makes the hardships bearable. Inside the homes, the rooms are small. The fellowship is close and genuine in a style that honors the guests and family alike.

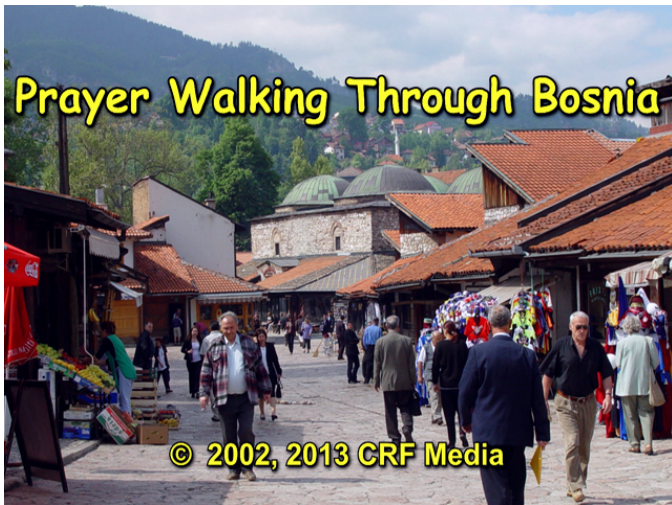
The face of the grandfather still shows the agony of the time past and the uncertainty of the future but the grandchildren ... they have not known war. They are the ones upon whom the future is bestowed. Will they follow the path of their grandparents? ... of their parents? Will these mountain villages fade away and cease to exist? There are few young people remaining here.

In these villages, most are Muslim but there is no mosque or daily call to prayer as in the cities. Nevertheless, they hang on to their beliefs that have been passed down through the generations. Few have heard the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In lower elevations, the grass is already tall and cows leisurely forage for food in the pasture. The work of weeding and tending the garden continues. Daily life is somewhat different in these villages. The shepherd takes his flock down the road to a new pasture with fences that confine the animals. His horse is his companion. Nearby is a sawmill. Lumber is cut much as it was in the United States 50 to 75 years ago. Here, like in the higher elevations, people are friendly and eager to share what they have even if it is only to photograph the sawmill owner with his horse.

The lower elevation villages are more modern than those in the mountains. They have many up-to-date conveniences. Homes are larger and cars and trucks are common. Mosques and churches are located in most of the villages. Some are old and in need of repair but they quickly remind the visitor of the persistent Islamic influence that grips the people.

The villages of Bosnia ... small or large ... in the mountains or in the lowlands ... need to hear about Jesus. It is up to us ... those who know Jesus ... to share a different way ... to share the love of Jesus with those that live in the villages of Bosnia. Won't you come and tell these children, ... these parents, ... and these grandparents about Jesus?



Prayer Walking Through Bosnia

CH. 12 (8:40) Filmed May 2002. 04

Overlay: Shepherds

Day in, Day out, it's the same old thing. Taking the flock to a field of green --- sitting, watching, and waiting. The life of the shepherd is not glamorous, but it is important. The sheep must eat, if the shepherd wants to eat. Their lives revolve around the sheep. I wonder if they've ever heard of the great King David, who was once a shepherd like them? I wonder if they've ever heard of the Good Shepherd? Will they ever heed his voice as he calls?

Overlay: PRAY for the SHEPHERDS

John 10:14 "I am the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and

my sheep know me --."

Good Shepherd, you said your sheep know your voice. We ask that the shepherds of Bosnia would hear your call, in the midst of the sheep they watch. May they, by faith, follow you to your eternal sheep fold.

Overlay: Gardens

The airport is her neighbor. Her grandson is her helper. The scythe and the hoe are the tools. With her gnarled hands, this grandmother, takes up her hoe and slowly and carefully cares for her large garden. Her weathered skin and stooped back tell the story of the days, ... the years, ... of feeding her family from the bountiful harvest of her labor.

Overlay): PRAY for the GARDENERS

Luke 12:22 ... " ... Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes."

Father, many people in Bosnia depend on their gardens as a source of food and income but only you can bring the harvest. When the Bosniaks worry, teach them that all things are in your hands.

Overlay: The Masses

The streets of Bosnia's cities are alive with people. People are moving on foot, in cars, by tram, and on bicycles. Everyone is going somewhere in a hurry. Jesus looked upon the masses and longed to gather them to himself as a hen gathers her chicks, but they were not willing.

Overlay: PRAY for the MASSES

Matthew 9:36 ... "When He saw crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Lord, please draw the people who live in the urban places of Bosnia to yourself. Break their hearts and open their eyes that they may be willing to come to you. Draw them to you in large number.

Overlay: The Coffee Bars

The coffee bar is the meeting place in the cities of Bosnia. You could sit in a coffee bar and witness meetings of all kinds in a day. Perhaps friends might meet one another. They greet with a kiss on each cheek. Across the room, two businessmen make a deal and seal it with coffee. Young lovers meet there, oblivious to the rest of the world around them. Meetings and relationships are crucial to the Bosnian Muslim ... known as Bosniaks.

Overlay: PRAY for those at the COFFEE BARS

John 12:21 ... "They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. 'Sir, they said, we would like to see Jesus.'"

Father, one meeting the Bosniak needs more than any other, is a personal meeting and relationship with Jesus Christ, the Messiah. We ask that they learn to openly meet with you, as well as they meet together daily for coffee.

Overlay: The Open Markets

The Piazza or open market is the place where many Bosnians go to find their daily food. People are busy buying and selling there. Fruits and vegetables, as well as many other things, can be bought at a good price. In order to purchase the daily needs of the family, they make the walk to the Piazza.

Overlay: PRAY for those at the OPEN MARKETS

Matthew 4:4 ... "Jesus answered, 'It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Lord, give us this day our daily bread. Yet, we remember that you said, "Man does not live on bread alone." There is a need that is greater than food or clothing. The Bosniak desperately need the spiritual food of the Word of God. May they go daily to their Bosnian Bibles and feed upon the Word of God.

Overlay: The Workers

An army of workers keeps the city clean and operating smoothly. Visible to all, ... they wash the streets, they maintain the water system and the electrical power lines, ... and they pick up trash. ... They seem to be everywhere in trucks, along the street, and just standing around.

Overlay: PRAY for the WORKERS

Matthew 5:16 ... "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Lord, you tell us that as Christians we are to be salt and light in the world. Let my light shine so that people like these workers can see Jesus.

Overlay: The Hopeless

If one word can sum up the urban dwellers of Bosnia as a whole, it would be the word hopeless. They are a people who are downtrodden. Not a day goes by without remembering the horrors of war. They look to the past and a communist regime, as the "best" years of Bosnia. Their government is corrupt, and they do not trust the elected officials. Once they saw government as their only hope. Now their government is like a three-headed monster, taking their hope away.

Overlay: PRAY for the HOPELESS

John 10:9-10 ... "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it in abundance."

May the Bosniak learn the true source of hope found only in the promises of God and the love of Christ. You are our rock! We can rest in you! Governments of the world will come and go but yours will last forever!

Overlay: The Youth

Look into the eyes of the young people of Bosnia's cities and you see a different Bosnia. They haven't forgotten how to smile or laugh. They don't live every day remembering war. They want to learn new things, grow up, have a career, and get married. They are much like young people everywhere. They look toward the future.

Overlay: PRAY for the YOUTH

Hebrew 12:2 ... "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith"

Dear God, you told us not to look behind us, but to look forward. More importantly, we need to look to you. You are the only hope for a bright future. We ask the Author and Finisher of our faith to bring bright hope and a bright future to the Bosniak youth.

Overlay: The Blind

Often, when walking the streets of these cities, someone will come up and ask directions. Bosniaks almost always give you directions, even if they don't know the way. It's a matter of pride. Nobody wants to admit they don't know. This is similar to their approach about heavenly things. They follow Islam because their parents did. They cannot explain their beliefs to you, but they are proud to be Muslim.

Overlay: PRAY for the BLIND

John 14:6 ... "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

Oh Lord, we know there is only one true direction. There is only one real way to get to heaven. You said that you were that way and that nobody would come to the Father unless they come through you. Please do not allow pride, or heritage, or even lack of understanding keep the Bosniak from knowing you. Show the Muslims of Bosnia who you are in power and truth that they might believe and find the straight and narrow path to you.