



**Assemblies of God World Missionaries**



**The Whitman Family:** A family of four: Andy, Stacey, Madison (9), Spencer (6).

**Fully Appointed Assemblies of God World Missionaries:** Appointed to Missions in 1996, ordained in 2005

**Where we have served:** Starting in 1998, we served as missionaries in the Balkans to the country of Macedonia. Macedonia, formerly part of Yugoslavia in Eastern Europe, broke away and became a nation in 1991. Macedonia was the least evangelized country in Europe with a blend of Orthodox Macedonians, Muslim Albanians and Gypsies. Skopje, the capital, has the largest settled Gypsy population in the world. The Evangelical Christian population is less than 1 tenth of 1%. During our terms in Macedonia, we were involved in refugee work, started Royal Rangers, ministered to young Christian converts from the Muslim faith and witnessed to our neighbors. We were also able to work in the neighboring countries of Albania, Bulgaria, and Kosovo.

Currently, as AGWM missionaries for Royal Rangers International (RRI), our region of influence has expanded from the Balkans to the world. Simply put, we help coordinate Royal Rangers in 73 countries. Andy serves on several councils, oversees the publications of 3 RRI newsletters, assists in the on-going development of an international curriculum and makes trips around the world to promote the Royal Ranger program and train national leaders. We have been with RRI for 2 years and are currently itinerating.

**What we have done, with God's help:** Refugee work: Shortly after arriving on the field, the war in Kosovo began which set in motion more than 300,000 refugees flooding across the border into Macedonia. So our ministry began with a refugee project called "Feeding the 5,000". A Christian radio station in Clearwater, Florida, collected food and toiletries for the refugees. The drive provided over 40 tons of emergency supplies, which were shipped and distributed along with other items bought in Macedonia to the refugees in 1999. The project lasted 3 months and opened a door for ministry to the Muslim Albanians of Macedonia and Kosovo.

Macedonia did not have a single year-round Children's Ministry Program when we arrived and Royal Rangers became the first of its kind. While many missionaries were being thrown out of the country for proclaiming the gospel and evangelizing, God opened the door for Rangers. The government of Macedonia, a country known for being hostile to Protestants, adopted Rangers as a National Scouting Program, allowing us to freely witness to children. We trained a Macedonian to be the national commander and we held camps

to train several other leaders in the country. Today, there are 10 outposts, with a combined number of 200 children participating in the program. With only 2,000 known believers in the country, Rangers holds approx. 10% of the Christian population in the ministry. The Ranger program is mixed ethnically - with Albanian, Gypsy, and Macedonian children - and many come to Christ every year.

We also introduced Royal Rangers in Bulgaria and have laid the foundation for Rangers in Kosovo, despite opposition to missionaries. After decades of intercession for the "Iron Curtain," God granted all believers a window of opportunity in Eastern Europe.

### Our next term after this itineration: (What are we raising funds for?)

In our past two terms, God allowed us to found Royal Rangers in a small area of the world. He gave us experience on a national level by establishing the program in Macedonia and Bulgaria and laid a foundation for reaching a nation. Now God has opened the door to impact an entire region of boys and girls. Instead of focusing on one country at a time, we will support and establish Royal Rangers on the continent of Africa.

Did you know that 2/3 of the nations around the world with Royal Rangers use a co-ed program? For many of them, because they do not have Sunday School or Children's Church, Royal Rangers **IS** their children's ministry. In fact, Royal Rangers is the only worldwide children's program the Assemblies of God has at this time. The A/G has other ministries that reach specific regions of the world, such as Latin America Child Care, but Royal Rangers is the only one that is on every inhabited continent.

With 55 nations, Africa is the biggest region on our missions map, yet has the least amount of nations involved in Royal Rangers. Currently only 4 have an active program. After returning from the Africa Summit in May 2007, Royal Rangers International now has requests from the Assemblies of God leadership in 5 more countries asking us to help them launch the ministry. Countries like; Madagascar, Malawi, Uganda, Swaziland, and Botswana are all ready and expecting great things.

We have a chance to impact hundreds of thousands of boys and girls in Africa. The face of missions for us is changing and we want to have a part in children all over Africa coming to know Christ.

#### **The Top 2 Needs for Rangers in Africa:**

1. Someone to go to each nation and establish a close bond with the leaders and lay out a clear plan for Royal Rangers in their nation
2. Someone to coordinate teams to train the laypeople in each nation so they can reach their own boys and girls of the community

We believe God has called us to precisely this task. In short, as we prepare to start a 4-year term based in Kenya, we have an unprecedented chance to train leaders who will in turn go back and call their children into a relationship with Christ, ultimately impacting a whole continent.

#### **Your Part:**

We are currently itinerating and need *your* prayers and financial support to fulfill the call as we continue our pioneering work and grow Royal Rangers around the world to reach children and their parents for Christ.

Learn more by visiting: [www.WhitmansinAfrica.com](http://www.WhitmansinAfrica.com)

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