

CROATIA Update

CHRIS & WENDY ENGLAND

Zdenko and Sandra Jovišić are in the US for three months to raise awareness for our church project!



The Big Send Off

Last week we had a fellowship dinner at the church to “Send Off” our pastor and his family, Zdenko and Sandra Jovišić, Lara and Filip, as they embark on a three month journey to CA, IN and MI to raise support and awareness of our church building project. As a mission team, we have helped connect them to many of our existing partnering churches and we are excited about the opportunity for many of you to connect with our national pastor and family.

As you can imagine, this will be a very stretching experience for them as a family, but also for our church family here in their absence. The church is in a strong place right now. Most people in the church are involved in ministry in some way, we have a solid church board, a committed evangelism committee, an active Sunday School program for children, involved women’s and men’s ministries and a list of capable speakers to carry on the preaching schedule. However, we are all

aware that it is times like these that the enemy is most ready to destroy what God is doing.

We are asking our prayer partners to engage in an even greater prayer focus over the next three months. Please pray for the Jovišić family during their journey from now til May 8th. Pray for endurance and protection and encouragement for them. Please also pray for guidance for the leadership of the church, as well as protection over the church members.

God is Good All the Time!

We are so grateful to God for the way He has provided for ministry funds during the last two months! He has given through many of you and our ministry funds are now in a much better place than they were two months ago. Thank you for your faithful giving and for allowing God to use you to provide for our ministry!

Of the 731 million people of the continent of Europe, less than 2% would be engaged Christ followers leaving 716 million yet to be reached.- Excerpt from Dennis Jackson newsletter.



PUPPETS: Puppeteers shared the Gospel.

Christmas Outreach Update

We previously asked you to pray for our Christmas outreach to children and their families. The gospel message was shared with over 90 adults and children in the community. Puppeteers from Bosnia, using the story of the Wizard of Oz, shared with 48 children the message that God is love and wants to be their friend and make their hearts whole. Following the presentation, the children enjoyed pizza, bowling and games. During the children's games and activities, the adults enjoyed a time of coffee and fellowship and one of our church member shared his memories of special Christmas gifts, specifically inviting them to accept the best Christmas gift of all, the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. This was a good opportunity to build greater trust with those we are all in relationship with here. We are thankful for the seeds that were planted.

As a family, we reached out to the families in our own neighborhood by preparing small candy containers, which included scriptures about the birth of Jesus Christ. On Christmas eve, we visited the families to deliver our gifts. One of the strengths of Croatians is their generous hospitality and this experience was no different. We received a warm welcome and were invited to sit and have coffee and cakes. Making little cakes is part of their Christmas tradition for Christmas Eve. Another part of their Christmas tradition includes a time of fasting. This tradition gave us an opportunity to share about our own traditions for Christmas, and what our motivations are for fasting; to seek God's face for some special reason, which can be done at any time we feel God's leading to do so, not as some required and scheduled obligation. We enjoyed this time to be transparent with our neighbors and share more about our faith.



Praises

- Praise God that 1% of the church project funds have been donated!
- We are thankful for fresh opportunities to care for church member's needs
- We've recently experienced an abundant provision for our funding bringing us close to being fully funded.

Prayer Needs

- Please intercede on behalf of Pastor Zdenko & his family as they travel in the States.
- Pray for provision of funds for our church building project .
- We need to find a bigger location now to rent for church services until we can purchase something. We continue to overfill our meeting space every week.
- Please pray for the leadership in place during our pastor's absence.
- Pray for a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit in Europe.

RECENT PHOTOS

Men's Bible Study



Juniors Sunday School Class



Kindergarten Sunday School Class



Fellowship Dinner



Women's Bible Study



Christmas Outreach



Zdenko & Sandra's Current US Travel Schedule

Feb. 14: Living Hope, Lakeside, CA
Feb. 16-18: Forest Hill Conf., CA
Feb. 21: Sweetwater, Bonita, CA
Feb. 28: New Heights, Santee, CA
Mar. 6: Amazing Faith, Poway, CA
Mar. 7: Skyline, San Diego, CA
Mar. 14-16: Faith, Terre Haute, IN
Mar. 21: Hartford City, IN

Mar. 24: Fall Creek, Fishers, IN
Mar. 28: Trinity, Indianapolis, IN
Apr. 2-5: Louisville, KY
Apr. 7: Eastlawn, Indianapolis, IN
Apr. 11: Chapel Pike, Marion, IN
Apr. 15: IWU, Marion, IN
Apr. 18: Lowell, MI
Apr. 21: First Church, Muskegon, MI

New European Director and Prayer Focus

We would like to welcome our new European Directors Dennis and Gwen Jackson, who are currently stationed in Hungary. For the past several years the European fields have received their direction from a team of missionaries who did a phenomenal job. However, this was always considered to be a temporary solution. We are looking forward to Dennis' leadership here. Dennis and Gwen arrived in Europe just around a month ago and they are already having valuable input here - a focus on prayer. It began with this vision: In five years.....**A movement of prayer has been ignited that**

empowers evangelism and church planting in each of our Global Partner European Countries.

This past weekend our First Friday 24 Hour Prayer Experience was launched. To mobilize this movement of prayer the European area has set aside the first Friday of each month for a 24-Hour Prayer Experience. Each European field will be taking part in this prayer time, and we'd like you to join us. The 24 hours have been broken down into countries/ fields and Croatia's time is Saturday 9 am-Noon Europe Central Zone [3-6 am US EST Zone].

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