



# CROATIA FOR CHRIST

- thank you for coming and thank you for giving me opportunity to present what we are doing in God's kingdom in Croatia and neighbouring countries
- it is my honour to have a privilege to stand in front of you who are generously supporting our ministry ... it means a lot to us christians in Croatia ... and I'm sure it will mean a lot to the people who are searching for God in this troublesome world we all living in ...



- at the beginning let me just briefly remind all of us about how this ministry started 40+ years ago
- M. Jovanović was a founder of CfC ministry - great preacher, humble and diligent worker for the Lord's Kingdom
- CfC ministry has started as a Radio ministry by M. Jovanović in early '80



- we have more than 500 Radio messages ... a lot of his sermons and other written materials in our archive
- we are using those radio messages as a TV scripts for our current TV ministry ...
- we believe that M. Jovanović inheritance... is CfC heritage ... something that we want to use to continue to bless people ... as our brother Mladen was a blessing to all of us before he went home to the Lord ...



## TV/VIDEO MINISTRY

- 3 and a half years ago ... we have transformed Radio ministry into a TV and Video ministry
- a fact is that Radio was different media 40 years ago ... and today if you want to reach out to people ... transition to the video format is absolute necessity ...
- so we were working on creating TV/VIDEO ministry for the first 2 years since I took over the responsibility for CfC ministry ...



- first we made a decision to film our ministers across Croatia ... where we have local congregations to raise their visibility ...
- at the same time we went through Mladen's messages and we made video scripts out of it ...
- and then we start to edit our production in order to put the whole content into a format which will be suitable for TV, Internet or Social media platforms



- our TV broadcast production is created with indoor and outdoor filming of our ministers ... illustrated with Bible verses and video illustrations ...
- also in every TV broadcast we are offering a toll free number to our audience for them to call us ...
- average number of monthly calls is important for us so we can tell if the number of TV audience is going up or down ...

# LUMO PROJECT



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- 2 months ago CfC has signed a contract with Bible Media Group ...
- BMG is a Christian ministry from Florida ... they filmed all 4 Gospels using Bible only as a script ...
- CfC ministry is now partner with BMG in Croatia ... with exclusive right to use their video material for the purpose of our TV/VIDEO ministry ... in Croatia and neighbouring countries



- the quality of their production is just outstanding ...
- they were filming for 9 months in Morocco ... Africa ...
- this was one very expensive project ...



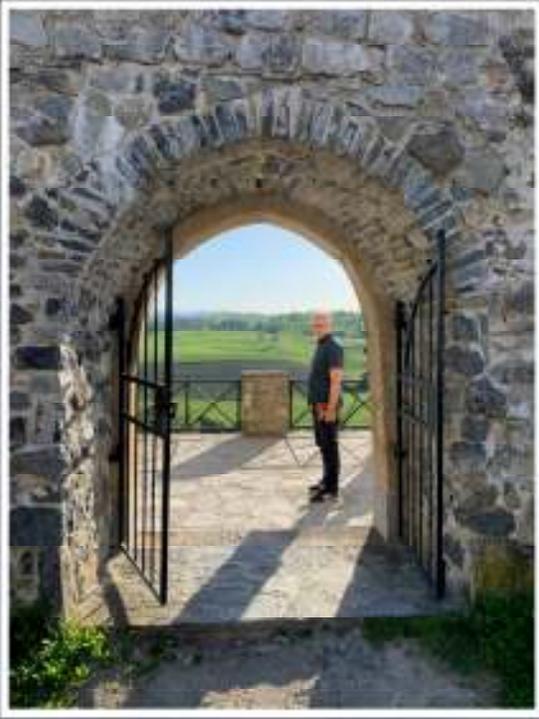
- the main idea is to put audio Bible in different languages in this video ... as a voice over ...
- this has been done in more than a 100 languages ...
- at least that's what they say on their web site ...



- our TV broadcast shows are full of NT verses ... and now ... we have unique opportunity to illustrate it with amazing video footage ...
- we believe this will improve our future production to the level where it will be very hard to match ...



- up to this date - 80 episodes ... our goal is to have 170 episodes ... 3 seasons ... 3 years of broadcasting capability ... broadcasting in a loop ... because our production is made so it will be always actual ...
- just like the Bible
- we are broadcasting "nation wide" in Croatia ... and our total monthly broadcast is over 22 TV hrs ...
- 100% of our broadcasting is CfC production



- in every TV message we are offering a toll free phone number ... free gift ... NT provided by EEM ... Family Magazine ... invitation letter to a local Church ...
- average number of calls fluctuates every month ... during the summer it goes down but then in late Fall it comes back up ... right now average number is between 80 - 100 calls pro month ...



- as far as we know ... none other christian - evangelical group is producing TV/VIDEO materials similar to ours ...
- with our presence in the media ... Churches of Christ in Croatia has never been more visible ... and we will continue to improve that ...
- we believe that if you compare "old Radio ministry" with what we are doing right now ... we have change our media presence dramatically ...



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**“FAMILY MAGAZINE”**

- another thing that we are doing is a publishing of a magazine
- we believe that printed magazine is a great toll to give it for free ... personally to our Churches visitors
- also we are mailing printed magazine to our TV audience



- 6 years ago ... when I took over responsibility for CfC ministry ... CoC in Croatia published only 4 issues of a Family Magazine ...
- the idea to continually publish a magazine was nothing new but it never happened before ...
- 3 weeks ago we published #25 ... so ... 6 years ago when we took it over ... our first issue was #5



- FM is a important part of our ministry ... as I already said we are mailing printed version of it to our TV audience ...
- in every issue they can read about what's going on in our Churches ... they can find addresses, cell phone numbers and emails of our Churches and ministers in Croatia & Serbia
- we are providing media room for our ministers to write about what they believe it is important for their congregation so they can have media presence which can inform not only members and friends of their congregation but TV audience from the area where they live ...

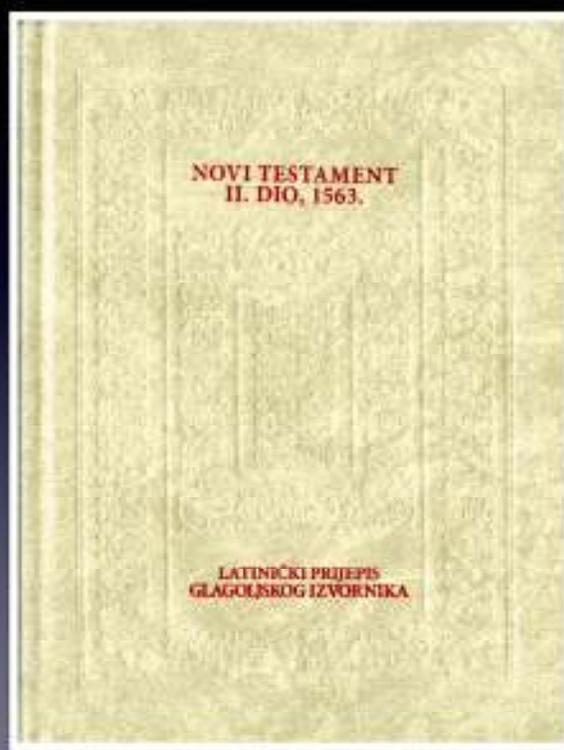


- in our magazine you can find theological articles, inspirational short stories, personal testimonies and other christian and bible-based articles
- we like to call our “Family Magazine” ... “Croatian Christian Chronicle” ...

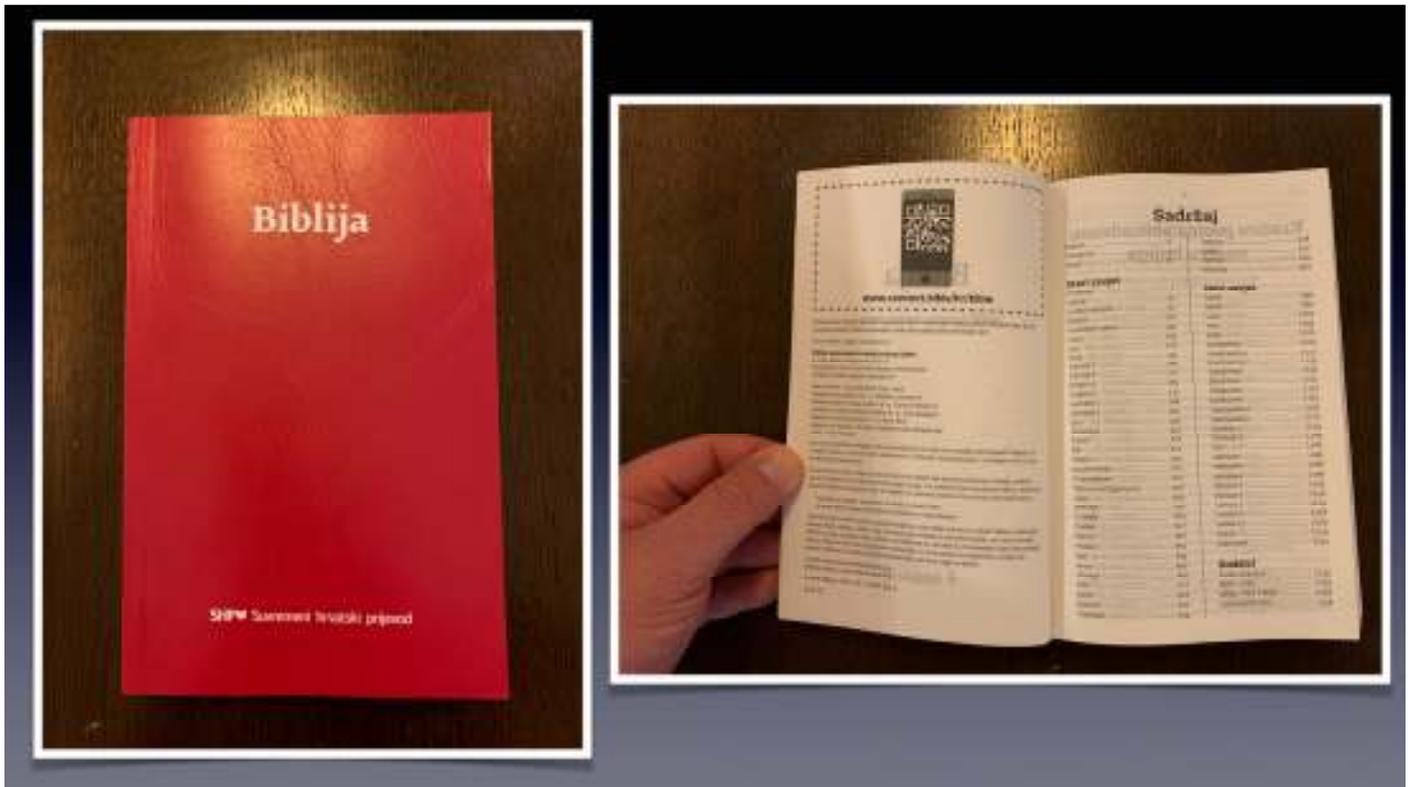


## SMART PHONE BIBLE APPS

- today we are living in a digital world ...
- throughout the history humble christian people were constantly searching and finding a way how to distribute God's word in the most efficient way ...
- today ... in 21st century ... in Croatia ... we are doing the same thing ...



- Croatian people has a long history in Bible translation
- the first translation in Croatian language of a NT was done in 1563. during the early time of Protestant Reformation
- when you read that translation today ... it fulfils us ... with a christian pride, because Croatians where one of the first European nations with the Bible translated into our language



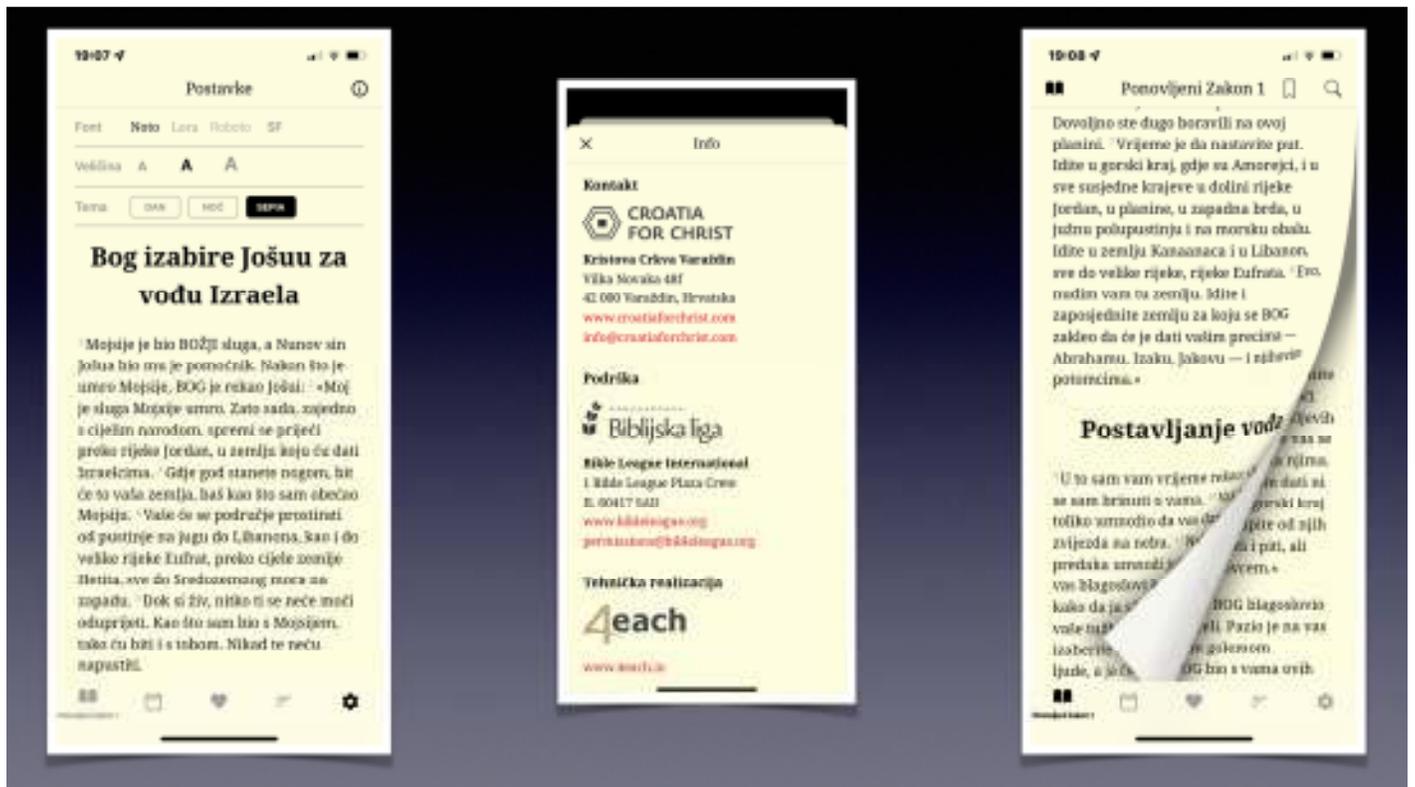
- a year ago we have received Easy to read Croatian translation of the Bible ... 20 yrs project ... M. Jovanović was a main editor of NT
- copyright owner is a Bible League from Forth Worth, TX
- CfC build a Smart phone apps ... Apple and Android ... 2 years ago
- we have a copyright for electronic/digital publishing ...



- last year in May we have started to do Audio recording of the whole Bible
- our co worker is Mr Dubravko Sidor ... he is legendary speaker from Croatian National Radio and professional theatre and film actor ...
- he has a unique gift from God ... the colour of His bass voice is beautiful and calm and his pronunciation is crystal clear ... he was simply the best person for this job



- although he's retired he is still active and very diligent worker
- from May 2021 up to date ... he has recorded complete NT and first 6 books of the OT ...



- next month we will do a huge update to our Apps ... and the biggest new feature will be Audio files of NT and the first 5 books of OT ...
- we believe that complete recordings of the rest of OT will be finished in second half of this year ...
- at the end of this year our Bible Apps will be very close to the final version ...



## ANNUAL CHRISTIAN CAMPS

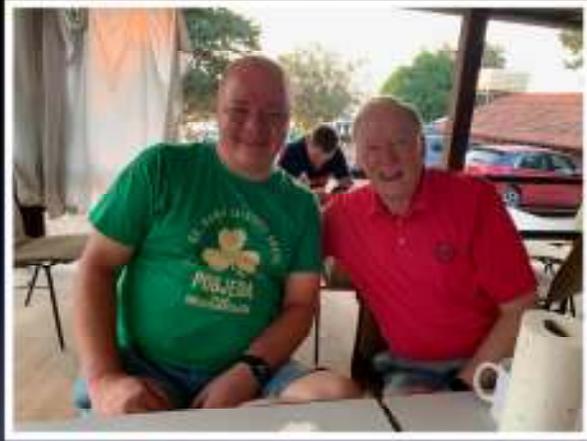
- in Croatia we have one important tradition that everyone likes ...
- Croatia has one of the most beautiful coastline with more that 1.000 islands ...
- in Croatia ... people has to go to the coast for a vacation at least once a year ... that's the tradition everyone tries to follow no matter what ...



- Churches of Christ in Croatia are organising two major annual gatherings ... Spring and Summer Camps
- as you can imagine ... we were facing many difficulties lately in making something like that possible ...
- the good news is ... we canceled our 2020 Spring Camp only ... at the early beginning of COVID 19 crisis ...
- all other gatherings had been in person and to our knowledge ... nobody got infected during our Camps ...



- Spring Camp is taking place in a nice christian-owned Hotel at our coast in a small town of Crikvenica
- and our Summer Camp is taking place on one beautiful Croatian island called Ugljan in the middle of the Croatian Adriatic Sea coastline ...
- in Croatia evangelical-bible based Churches are very small congregations ... there are not many of us ... so every time when we meet a christian brother or sister ... we are very happy
- it is very important for us to be able to spend some time together ... to encourage each other ... and to be together in prayer ...
- we don't have other opportunity to get together other then those two camps
- even other denominations like Baptists and Pentecostals ... love to be part of our CoC annual gatherings



- CfC ministry is making those gatherings possible in providing a guest preacher for each Camp ... we are covering expenses for our guest preachers ... and their wives ...
- when some of our brothers & sisters can't afford to be part of those Camps ... we are encouraging local churches to help them ... and if the Church is short with money ... CfC is covering the rest ...
- our next Spring Camp will be a week after Easter ... and our guest preacher for this years Spring Camp is Mr. Jeff Walling ... professor from Pepperdine University ... you are all welcome to join us ...



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## **EEM - Cfc BIBLE DISTRIBUTIONS**

- the idea to provide a Bible for everyone ... for free is nothing new ...
- EEM has a 60 yrs long history of doing exactly that ... The Bible - We want everyone to get it ...
- brother Mladen Jovanovic was active in Bible distribution for more then 30 yrs ...
- what else could we do then try to continue and try to expand this idea further more ...



- 4 years ago I decided to ask for a meeting with a Catholic Bishop in my home town where I live ...
- much to my surprise he agreed to have a meeting ... we were talking for an hour .... alone in his office ...
- I told him that with his approval ... we can make a big donation of Children's Bibles for all children from first to forth grade in public schools in his diocese ... NW Croatia ...



- in Croatia over 95% of schools are public schools ... Catholic Church is the largest denomination and they are in charge of Religious Class curriculum in public schools ...
- again ... much to my surprise ... the bishop said that he thinks this is a wonderful idea ... and that he will support this project ... 100% ...
- this is how we put first 17.000 Bibles into public schools ...



- up to this day ... through EEM and CfC partnership we have put 635.000 Bibles ... in almost every part of Croatia and in Croatian parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina ...
- we are using Catholic Church as a channel to reach school children ... we believe that this is a powerful example of God's hand opening doors for His word ...



- I asked Catholic Cardinal from Sarajevo Mr Puljić ... if he would be willing to write a short introduction and recommendation for our Children's and Teen Bibles ... he said yes ... and he did that for us ...
- not everyone from the Catholic Church likes the idea of reading the Bible ... but when you have printed recommendation from the highest possible catholic authority in the area ... it is extremely difficult to go against that ... because they have to obey the hierarchy ...



- this year ... our plan is to put 100.000 Teen Bibles in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina ...
- again ... into public schools for children from 5th to 8th grade ...
- most of the Bibles we put so far were Children's Bibles ... now we want to focus more on Teen Bibles ...



- in the mean time .... God opened door in North Macedonia ... a small country in the Balkans ...
- Macedonian orthodox priest in Croatia ... gladly accepted Croatian Children's Bibles for the Macedonian children living in Croatia ...
- He was very much surprised when I told him that we can do a big donation of Children's Bibles in Macedonian language for the children in his homeland ... just like we did in Croatia ...
- so we went together to Macedonia to talk with high officials of Macedonian Orthodox Church ...



- we had two meetings with them and they accepted our proposal with great joy and thankfulness ...
- so this year we will put 250.000 Children's and Teen Bibles in Macedonian language for the children in country of North Macedonia ... again we used the same model ... with the help of Macedonian Orthodox Church ...
- to illustrate how this project is important to them ... a professor of the Bible from Orthodox theological school in Macedonia ... who was the main translator of our Children's Bible ... told us that 15 yrs ago ... someone donated 8.000 copies of the Bible to them ... that was the biggest and the only project of giving Bibles to the people ... and they taught this was a huge blessing ... at the time ...



- in Macedonia ... 45% of the population are muslims ... I took this picture on the left side of the screen in Skopje, Macedonian capitol city ... a mosque tower and the cross on the top of the hill ...
- I see a lot of symbolism in this picture ... and this is the environment where we will put a lot of Bibles
- this project will continue in the next few years according to the financial abilities of EEM and until we put Bible into every child's hand ...
- by the end of this year ... EEM and CfC partnership we will come very close of distributing one million Bibles ... all together ...



- at the end of this part of my presentation ... I have a big prayer need ... I would like to ask you to pray about it ...
- please pray for the country of Montenegro ... I will be visiting them after I come back from this trip in February .... if God wills ...
- we just might have another door open for distribution ...



## 2021 EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

- on Dec, 29, 2020 ... one part of Croatia was hit by 6,8 magnitude earthquake
- this area is very poor and undeveloped ... and during the war 30 yrs ago it was occupied by Serbian army ...
- during that ugly war Mladen Jovanovic was very active in bringing a lot of humanitarian aid to Croatia ...
- what else could we do then to continue with what CfC ministry was already doing before ...



- many people lost the roof over their heads in just 15 seconds ... a many of them are very poor ...
- we decide to ask for help ... this was the first humanitarian effort since I took the responsibility for CfC ministry ...
- and I believe that we did great job ... with God's help and direction ...



- our total collection was \$72,325.17 ...
- when you exchange that amount into Croatian kunas you will get 458,663.91 kunas
- to put this money into a right perspective ... the city of Varazdin where I live and Varazdin county together collected 350,000 kunas
- so ... CfC ministry was more successful then the city of Varazdin and a County together
- we didn't give money to the people and especially ... we didn't want to give money to government or their humanitarian institutions ... like the red cross or to the account open by the government for help ...



- with the money we collected we have purchased one decent house with a backyard and a crop field for one poor family with 3 children whose house needs to be torn down
- on the picture you can see family Kačar we helped ... the oldest son is not in the picture because he was working ...
- he is the only one who is employed in this family ...



- we are visiting them from time to time with some of our donors who are visiting in Croatia ...
- we told them that Jesus is the one they should be thankful for ...
- one of our national TV station visited with them last week because they are perfect example how should helping people should look like ... at least that's what TV journalist said ...



- just couple of months after they moved in ... their oldest son ... the only one who is employed in the family ... started slowly to improve their new home ...
- we were thrilled with what we saw when we visited them with some of our donors ...



- we helped another family with buying a complete construction materials for the new house they are building... their old house needs to be torn down as well ...
- 3 generations were living in this house ... in a small countryside where the epicentre of the earthquake was ...
- this house was very well build ... but earthquake was just to strong ...



- they started to build a new house with the material we payed for ...
- this house will cost more because of anti earthquake standard they are building with ...



- again ... we were visiting them with some of our donors from the states ... “overseeing the construction works” ...
- as you may already noticed ... US dollar ... goes a long way in poor areas of Croatia ...



- we helped two more families with some construction materials and some indoor furniture so they will be able to finish rebuilding their houses and move back in ...
- we have invoices for every purchase ... we didn't give one dollar to anyone ...
- and people were very grateful for what we did ...



- the help we provided was coordinated with the deputy major of town Glina ... Mrs Branka Basic Mitic who works as an independent Humanitarian worker ... long before she start to do politics ...
- her independent humanitarian organisation is called "People for People" up to this day ... has purchased or rebuild more then 40 houses in the earthquake affected area ... by individual donations only ...
- and we are proud to be part of that ...



- the bad news is ... until this day ... Croatian government and their institutions ... hasn't rebuild a single house
- the only thing they did was to fix chimneys on the houses which are not damaged badly so they will be able to have a heating during the winter ... which is a good thing ... but ... everything else that needs to be done ... they didn't even started ... and people are living in tin containers ... and one year has already passed ...
- it is always amazing and humble at the same time ... when you realise that decisions we made ... were under God's leadership and protection ... and for His glory alone ...

# MY FAMILY



- at the end ... I would like to introduce to you my family ...



# CROATIA FOR CHRIST

- thank you so much for your patience ...
- thank you so much for your support ...
- if you have any questions ... now is the time to ask ...