

The Croatian Messenger

News about the Lord's work in Varaždin - Croatia - from Mladen and Renata Dominić

September 2021
No. 92

Super Summer!

The reports from the mission field are usually very positive because a lot of things happen in the Lord's kingdom. But we do not always have good news. In the last few months, we are saddened by the loss of some of our congregation. A dear couple, Igor and Ljubica, left us because they had to move to another city due to a new job. Another family along with two other ladies are currently not attending our Church because of concerns about COVID-19. In a small church like ours, it is a big thing when we lose so many people. On the other hand, our church family is very enthusiastic in sharing the gospel and ready to use every opportunity to connect with new people. Here are some special follow up activities which took place during the Summer.

English for Beginners

The last session of our outreach program, English for Beginners was very special. Our teacher, Željka, gave each student a certificate and after class we enjoyed snacks together. The students were very excited to make their own s'mores. S'mores are a new thing for us and it was very fun.



On weekly prayer meetings we begin every outreach activity with prayer



Students receiving their certificates

Kids' Ministry

At the end of the school year, we held a special class for all three of Željka's kids' classes. Even though some of the kids were out of town, it was a very good day. At the end of the program all the parents came to see the show which Željka had prepared with the kids. After that, we had some snacks and of course — all the kids and parents made their own S'mores.



Kids' program



Trip to Crikvenica



Worship in Crikvenica



S'mores

Fifth Annual Retreat

This year our church in Varaždin organized our 5th annual retreat in Crikvenica on the Adriatic coast. We promote this like the English Camp but this is actually a follow-up for all of our outreach activities. So, we have some LST people, some people from English for Beginners and almost all of Željka's teen class. Because of that, we had to rent a bus. Almost half of the group were non-Christians. Every evening was very special for all of the participants. We started with worship then we had personal testimonies and at the end of the session, we showed the James Nored video — Story of Redemption. Every morning we had discussion groups and Željka worked with the kids. We are thankful to Kyle and Shelly Thomas who led our LST program, and they also lead two discussion groups. The retreat was very fruitful, especially for our dear friend Darinka, who has grown in her faith.



Celebrating 4th of July in Crikvenica

Youth Retreat

For the first time, we organized a special retreat for the youth. This time we had a very nice group from Belgrade, Serbia. Draško Đenović brought the group. They were supposed to come in their van but in the middle of trip their van broke down. By the Lord's providence, the breakdown happened only one hour from our church in Varaždin. I asked our dear brother Mišo (who was baptized on Easter retreat this year) for help. He immediately left everything at home, picked up our church van and met the group from Belgrade. After almost five hours of travel, they came to the retreat at midnight. What a blessing! For this retreat, we had the same program. Some of the testimonies were so strong that we decided to publish it in our church magazine. The highlight of the retreat was the baptism of Sara from the church in Belgrade. She was with us on the Easter retreat and she was really touched by Mišo's baptism. That encouraged her to be baptized on this retreat. I had the honor to baptize Sara and it was my first 'international' baptism.



Sara's Baptism



Youth Retreat



Sara's Baptism

Family Retreat

This year we had our 52nd Family Camp on the Adriatic coast. The speaker was brother Tony Coffey from Ireland. The camp was organized by the church in Zagreb, Croatia for Christ Ministry and our church. The culmination of the retreat was the baptism of our dear friend Darinka who decided to be baptized on our retreat in Činta. Her decision encouraged a young man named David to be baptized too. He is from another church. Everything went very well and fellowship with church in Zagreb was so good that we decided to have a joint worship service in our church sometime in October. We are looking forward to even more blessings.



Family Camp Činta



Bible Study for Adults



Bible Study for Teens



Darinka's Last Conversation Before Baptism - see cross on the table



The Baptisms of Darinka and David

Fall Harvest

We are getting ready for the fall harvest. Jura, Željka and I have noted all the outreach activities from now until Christmas. We put some ads in our local newspaper and Facebook for Željka's Kids' Camps, English for Beginners and English with the Bible program. We are also very excited about some guests from America who are going to visit us and connect with some of their old friends over here. Our new brother Mario, who was baptized in June, is very excited about the fellowship in our church. Because of that he and his wife Ivanka decided to treat the entire church with a roasted lamb. This is a traditional food in our culture (and Biblical too) and we eat that kind of meal for big events or holiday. We used that opportunity to offer a special prayer to our Lord — for our big event — for the fall harvest in His kingdom.

On Personal Side

Renata and I are dealing with the question '*should we adopt our foster child, Dominik or not*'. Our social system is very slow and now, after 21 months, Dominik is still with us. He loves us very much and we all love him very much too.

On one hand, I am 56 years old and it would be difficult to care for him, but on the other hand, it would be a big shock to Dominik if he was adopted by another family.

Please pray for us . . .

Please pray for us! Please contact us if the Lord has put the desire on your heart to work with us or support us. Please make your contributions payable to the Holland Park Church of Christ and clearly mark them for "Croatia - Varzdin Church".

Send to:

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Roasting Lamb Like in Jesus' Time



Dominik