



Hi Friends,

Feb 2018

5 Years in Croatia!

March 13th 2013 we made our way to Croatia, full of anticipation, hope and Faith. It's amazing to think that we are approaching our 5 year anniversary of being here. We didn't set a time commitment of how long we would stay, we just heard God tell us to come and see a team established and foundations built and then to stay until He said go. Things are becoming established and we are excited to see our team growing here, local ministry thriving and the start of our third Discipleship Training School (DTS) beginning soon. Although we may take some time this year to evaluate and seek God for next steps, we are pretty sure our time in Croatia is by no means ending and we are excited to see how God will continue to grow us and His kingdom here.

Keep reading for a glimpse of what's going on, what's next and news on a promise fulfilled that we have been believing for, for a very long time.

Planning for our next DTS

The DTS starts March 24th and we currently have five students and 9 staff. We have three families coming to join our team for the DTS plus a new single staff member from Chile who will stay for the long term.

We feel like this is a significant school for the staff as much as for the students and it's great that one of the staff coming is going to help focus on staff development and growth throughout the lecture phase which will hopefully help to strengthen the DTS in our region of central Europe as a whole.

We would love to see a couple more applications come in, which would help significantly with our budget but also create more of a community amongst the students. Please stand with us in prayer for this and spread the word if you know anyone who might be interested in attending. We are not worried though and trust that God knows what He's doing.

Staff training

As part of our preparation for the DTS, we have a couple of weeks staff training. This year we have opened it up to other staff in Central Europe so that we can learn from each other and pray and encourage one another.

Teenspire youth club

Our youth club is still going well and we have a really great group of young people that we invest in each week. We find that they are opening up more and more as trust grows and we are really thankful for the relationships growing there. We are planning a camp for the teens in June where we will go and camp somewhere for a few nights and hopefully see relationships go even deeper during this time.

Crafts and kids work

Our teammate Ana who is amazing at crafts has continued to spend time with kids and mums at our local cafe every Saturday

Prayer requests

With at least five students arriving in five weeks time, we have a lot to prepare and plan. Please pray we find the right housing for staff coming and please also stand in faith with us for at least one more student. It feels impossible but we serve the God of the impossible.

Please pray for wisdom for the boat and the challenges that arise that are new for Jarod. Pray that the right solutions would be given and we find the right advice from the local experts.

Our new team member Michele, from Chile is settling in well. Please pray for her as she adjusts to a new culture and finds her feet. We will be applying for a visa for her soon and we also need to find her a place to live as she needs a contract for the visa. Please pray for all these things to come together.

Please pray for us as we begin a huge transition in our lives and as we prepare to be back in England for the summer and the birth once the DTS leave for outreach.

morning. It has become a huge hit with the locals and she has built some significant relationships and been asked to come and do crafts with kids at special events that the town puts on. It's become a real success.

Church and more

Church is also thriving and it's great to have a real family feel with Croats and internationals.

We continue our language classes and although it's hard to see improvement, it's such a blessing for us to talk with and understand our friends and neighbours as much as we do.

St. Brendan

We were so blessed and thankful last year to receive the thank offering from Bromley Baptist Church, which enabled us to take the boat out of the water, paint the bottom and make some essential repairs. We also want to thank everyone who gives towards this ministry and our personal support. It's definitely a journey of faith owning a boat and it's been amazing to see God continue to provide the finances through you but



Our neighbours



also the wisdom and help from Croats around us to help Jarod keep it maintained.

What's Next

The DTS will start with the twelve weeks of lectures and then they will leave for the practical outreach part. The locations for that haven't yet been decided. During the school, we will spend a week in Bosnia joining a faith and conflict conference and taking part in a reconciliation walk through the city of Mostar and town of Sarajevo. We are planning another seminar on a nearby island where one of our DTS speakers will share. It was a really great weekend last year where we saw Catholics and Protestants coming together, some praying to Jesus for the first time. Please pray that we get an even better response.

A Promise and prayer answered!

The word of the Lord came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?" "I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied. The Lord said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled." Jeremiah 1:11-12

Last year we planted an almond tree in our garden. Partly because I had heard about the beautiful blossom but also because God had given us the verse in Jeremiah as a reminder that He is faithful to fulfil the things He has promised. We have a few promises that we feel God has given us over the years but one which many of you may have known about is our desire for a family. After a long seven year wait, we are excited to let you know that we are expecting a baby who will come along in August this year. It's been a crazy few months with some moments of God clearly speaking and definitely amazing miracles happening. We love telling the long story so please ask if you want to hear it, but all to say, we are extremely grateful for the (at times painful) walk this has been, all that God has been teaching us, and His undeniable presence throughout. We are very excited for all He still has ahead.



With love, Jarod and Bexi