

Our Journey



Hi Friends,

Nov 2019

Summer is over (maybe yours ended a long time ago!) and now we are in the season of vibrant colour and beauty and a time to be grateful for all that God has given and done...

...And we're certainly grateful as we reflect on what He has done here in Croatia over the last few months. During the summer we helped run two kids camps including our first teen overnight camp. We hosted four outreach teams, including one from our church in Bromley, Jarod furthered his experience and training in the sailing aspect of our ministry and we've seen our local teen group and church flourish and grow. And not to forget our beautiful daughter Amariah who is growing up so fast and seems to bring joy to every person she encounters. Read on to hear how each thing went and what we're up to next.

Camps

At the end of June and beginning of July we ran two camps. One day camp for younger kids and a teen one. Both were a success and so much fun. As we have done in previous years, we had a parents evening during the first camp and all the parents came for fun, games, ice-cream and to see what the kids were up to. Our theme for the camp was Safari, 'life is wild, God is good' and it was a great time of showing God's love to the 60 kids who came.

We camped in tents with the teens for the second camp and braved two big storms through the first night. The boys tent was completely destroyed and there was definitely a lot of praying coming from all the staff as the wind howled and the lightening and thunder roared but we survived the night and it actually brought us closer together as a group. The theme verse "The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him. Nahum 1:7" was a great devotion the morning after and continued being displayed and explained throughout the week. God was definitely touching the hearts of teenagers and just a couple of weeks ago, one of the teens who has been with us for a few years gave his life to Jesus.

Outreach Teams

We had a team come to reach out to those coming for the famous nightlife on the island of Hvar. Through our connections with the priest and good friends on the island, the team were able to stay in the Catholic Church and go out each night until two or three in the morning and chat and pray with people. They had some really significant conversations. Jarod went over to help orientate the team and our team mates, Ana and Danny were with them all week going out each night. They are wanting to come back next year.

We have just said goodbye to a team of 13 from 8 different countries including Venezuela, India, and Korea, who were

Prayer Points

- Please be praying for our teen group. Particularly the guy who gave his Life to Jesus, that it wouldn't just stop with his decision but he would welcome us to walk alongside him as he gets to know God more and more.
- Please pray for the teen Bible study we are starting that there would be interest and we would see growth.
- Pray for wisdom as we look at our next year. We don't think we will run the discipleship training school again next year but instead continue to invest in the local and possibly the masters programme. We would love some clear direction around these things.
- We are so grateful for all the money that has come in this year for the boat but as the costs are high, we are still needing to raise 3000 Euros for the mooring for the year. We want to start raising money for the sailing ministry separately to our own personal support so please pray that we have wisdom on how start doing this.



here for a month on a DTS outreach. They immersed themselves into our local community, encouraging our neighbours, teen group and church and also partnering with different charities we connected them to. They made such a great impact here in Kastela and we were sad to see them go.

We were so blessed to have a team of four come from Bromley Baptist Church in the UK. They got stuck in to helping us get the boat cleaned and painted while it was out of the water. They also helped with our teen group and painting the new room we just moved into as a church.



Photos

First page: Our new room we meet in as a church on Sundays.

Collage: (top going clockwise) Kids camp, teen camp, Jarod with a team building mens retreat, Bromley Baptist team painting the boat and then again on the mountain above our town, and middle is our church at the members meeting. Below: Amariah growing up way too fast!

Church

We had our first church members meeting last week and the church board was created, which Jarod is a part of. The new room is painted and the chairs should arrive soon. The existing room is for the growing Sunday school and there is even a nursery room in the back. It's crazy thinking back to six years ago when five of us met together to pray and then to see where God has brought us today. We really want to honour the pastor and his wife for listening to God and bringing the church to where it is now. They have been close friends and ministry partners since we arrived and a great support for us.

Jarod and Sailing

It's been a great few months for St Brendan, our boat. Jarod was able to take a group of men from another Christian organisation out for their leadership training week. He took another group of men out for a team building day and he took the DTS outreach team to three different islands over three nights for evangelism. One of the islands only had 150 inhabitants, and the team led worship in the main square and then chatted to people and prayed with some of them. We also took the boat to Hvar island as a team to encourage some christian friends there. It's great seeing the boat fulfil the vision God gave us for her.

Jarod also came back to the UK for some sail training as he is continuing to further his qualifications.

What's next?

Along with Teenspire and crafts at our local cafe, we will continue partnering with a group working with people with disability that we began when the outreach team was with us. We will get involved with activities around advent including carol singing. We are starting smaller Bible study groups for those teens who have shown interest in studying the Bible together.

Jarod is praying about doing a Masters course in Christian formation and discipleship with YWAM's university. It would start next February and would be for three years. There are three two week intensives each year and the work and outcomes would all be incorporated into our local work here in Croatia. We think it would bring a lot of fruit into our lives and our work here. We will keep you updated on his decision with this.

Bexi has started the mums and baby group where mums can bring their babies to sing songs together and also drink coffee and hang out with other mums. We have six mums coming so far and she is hoping this will grow as others hear about it.



Thanks again for your love and support, Jarod and Bexi and Amariah