



Hi Friends,

Aug 2020

This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16

Is it just us or does it feel tremendously difficult to make plans right now? Things change at a moments notice, it feels impossible to organise something for this month, next month, next year. Fear seems to be around every corner and we, like everyone else, are continually adapting to every new guidance or measure thrown at us. If we're completely honest, it's been hard to have hope or excitement or anticipation about plans for the rest of this year and next. But thankfully we love and follow a God who gives direction and we can trust that He will direct our steps, even if that is day by day and not having the big picture. We get to do life with Jesus and although we're not always good at it, being aware of His presence, hearing His perspective, being thankful and trusting Him with our future, definitely helps change our attitude and perspective. The people of Jerusalem in the verse above hear the Lord say those words but it goes on to say that they did not listen. Jarod and I are choosing today not to do the same as the Israelites. Lord, in the midst of this global pandemic and all the unknowns, where is the good way? What are the paths you are asking us to take? We want to walk in them with you. Amen

We were blessed early on in the summer with very few corona cases here in Croatia (it's a bit of a different story now but more of that in the prayer requests) and as things opened up again in July, we were able to start church up again, our teen club and the toddler singing clubs met in person and we were able to run two camps for kids and teenagers. Continue reading for more on that and also our tentative hopes and plans for what's next.

Church

As we are a small congregation of around 20 people, it's been quite easy to social distance at church and it's been a real joy to be able to meet together in person again. As the cases here are on the rise, please pray for wisdom as a church that we know what steps to take to protect one another.

Babyspire - Toddlers singing group

Our toddler group has also continued throughout the summer as it's a small group of us and we meet outside in a park, bring coffee and snacks and play and listen to songs through a bluetooth speaker. It's been a blessing for us mums to get together and i've been able to have some really encouraging conversations. Amariah has been to two birthday parties and was able to invite them to her own 2nd birthday party last week where we had a mix of church friends and babyspire friends. we have a real community growing.



Photos from kid and teen camps

Masters in Christian Formation and Discipleship

The masters programme with YWAM's university which I (Jarod) was supposed to start in March has been postponed until October and we've been told to stay flexible with that date too. Although the first module

has not begun, we have been doing a personal formation track, which involved reading a couple of books, participating in some spiritual discipline practises and a 24 hour retreat. It's been a great time of growth and has helped me prepare for the work load which will start with module one.

Camps

We ran two camps this summer. The first was a day camp for kids aged 6 to 11 from 9am to 2pm each day. There were 40 kids and we had english class, games and swimming during the morning. Our camp theme for both camps was 'The Amazing Race - We're in this together' and our theme verse was Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves." We wanted to share the message that God calls us to be unified, loving each other, especially with what is going on around the world. With a weeks break, we then had a teenager camp for five days with all of us camping in tents. The schedule was more relaxed with a devotion each morning and small group discussions. We had games and swimming and a talent show on the last night. The teens had a great week and were really open and vulnerable with each other and us. Jarod led the devotion on the last day on the power of encouragement and we ended by writing encouragements to each other. It was a special time.

We are so thankful we were able to run these camps especially as the kids and teens have had very little to do this summer.

What's next?

It's hard to say what's next but our hopes are that;

- Jarod will be able to attend the first masters intensive in the UK in October.
- The virus cases will begin to decrease so we can start hosting outreach teams and retreats and that all our regular church groups and ministries can continue to function.
- We are praying as a team about new and creative ways we can serve our community with the changes that corona has brought.
- We believe God is leading us to focus more on the sailing side of our ministry, training people with sailing skills who want to work as missionaries on ships, and reaching more of the local Croatian community through sailing.



Above:
Amariah's 2nd
birthday. right:
Babyspire in the
park



Prayer Points

Please be praying for our Autumn. We want to restart our teen club, teen Bible study and continue with Babyspire. Pray that the virus does not stop this happening but also that he would protect all of us involved.

We are having some debriefing at the end of September so that we can process the last few years here in Croatia. Please be praying that we can learn from all our experiences, both good and bad. Debriefing is a great tool and we're excited for what comes out of it.

Thanks again for your love and support. Please let us know how we can be praying for you, especially in this difficult season. With love, Jarod and Bexi

Please pray that as we dream, plan and pray for the growth of the sailing part of our ministry, God would give us clear direction. We are also needing finances to pay for the 20/21 year birthing the boat in the marina.