

## FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND EVANGELISM

**WHEN IS WINTER** ever going to end? I'm so tired of heavy coats and snow boots! I'm so tired of gray skies, gray snow banks, gray trees... Everything is just so depressing!

January and February can be months of high depression and this year especially was hard, not just in Croatia, but all over the world. For this reason, we believers should be rays of sunlight in the gray expanse. This doesn't mean that we don't feel depressed or down, but we know who our God is, and that he is the same yesterday, today and forever. Who has the answer to these depressing times if it is not we- those who carry around inside of us the Living God?! For this reason we try in various ways to encourage ourselves, our key leaders and those around us during these difficult months. One thing we were able to do this year in January was book a small mountain resort for a weekend of fellowship, rest and team building for our departmental leaders. We also continued with our annual week of fasting and prayer. This time is so important for us as a Body. It is a time when we lay our year before God and seek his face for our loved ones, our church and revival in our land. We are desperate for his Spirit, for without it we are simply a group of religious people who meet together; instead of a living body that brings life and light to those around us.

**WE ARE CONSTANTLY SEEKING** creative ways to be able to witness and share the light and faith that God has given to us. Croats are very relational and most of the people who are now members of our church, accepted Christ because a friend invited them or witnessed to them before they came to church. It is easier to get a neighbor to come to your house for dinner and fellowship, than it is to get them to come to a church service. When the Luis Palau Association contacted our church in February about hosting a free dinner for families accompanied by the message of the Gospel it seemed like a wonderful fit for our culture. The results were above and beyond what

we'd expected. Many of our people brought their unsaved friends along with extended family. One woman even brought her great-grandmother! One of our members prayed and fasted ahead of time for family members and friends to come (some who had consistently rejected any and all talk of God or the Bible). In the end everyone she invited attended the dinner and heard the Gospel message. We had over 100 people in attendance. We have followed up with them, have prayed over their names and are believing that the Gospel message they heard that evening will bring forth fruit in their lives.

This Sunday we have a movie night planned to which we have invited our neighbors, friends, co-workers and advertised it to the community surrounding our church. We are showing God's Not Dead 2, and pray that it's message will reach the hearts of those in attendance.

At the beginning of May we will be cohosting a Marketplace Conference with Global Advance Organization. This is a conference for business people, entrepreneurs and other leaders who wish to learn more about using their business and workplace as a ministry field, but also provides practical help in developing business plans and strategies for new businesses.

We also have several activities planned for Summer. In addition to our largest (and favorite) event of the year Jarunfest (annually organized for the first weekend in June), we are planning to host our first ever VBS for kids aged 6 to 12. This year's theme is Galactic Explorers and the kids will have the opportunity (along with a team of Korean Americans visiting from Washington DC to lead the program) to explore God and the world he created.

**NO MATTER** whether we are talking about our friends, neighbors, children, co-workers, business partners or complete strangers on the street; we believe it is our place to be a light. Especially during those gray months before spring arrives. Focusing on the world around us, on those with no hope for eternity, keeps us from falling into those times of depression and help us keep our own faith alive.

Blessings,

IN HIM,



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