



## „WE AS A CHURCH ARE MOVING FORWARD!“

About twenty years ago there was a period of time when Mario used to tell our congregation almost every week, „We as a church are moving forward!“ During these past twenty years, there are times it has felt as if we were stagnating, moving backward, were in the wrong place entirely; in those times especially we needed „to call those things that be not as though they are“... „We as a church are moving forward!“

These past few months, however, truly do feel as if we are moving forward, on to a new season, a new level.



### JUNE

It all seemed to start just before Mairo's trip. He was leaving for three months in the States at a time that was probably one of the worst for international travel in order to raise funds for our church building at a time when probably the whole world is in financial recession! Some may have thought we were crazy. We thought we were a bit crazy, but God's ways are not our ways.

During this time of preparation, two of our church members were very ill. One from an infection that looked like it could be potential cancer, the other from stomach cancer. We anointed both with oil and prayed for healing. Both were healed, each miraculously in her own way. The one with potential cancer came back with a completely clean bill of health for the first time in over a year. The one with stomach

cancer went in for surgery to remove her stomach completely and came out of surgery with most of her stomach intact and was eating absolutely everything an average person eats within a mere month and a half. God is moving us forward and is powerful in our midst!





## JULY

During the month of July while Mario was in the States, our church was in full-on preparation for youth camp. Our youth group is fairly small and at that time we had 10 teenagers if everyone came at once. We had taken a huge step of faith and reserved 35 beds at the campground: 30 for the youth and 5 for the counselors. Once again, we seemed crazy, but this was the direction we felt God was leading us. In the end we had 29 teens at camp! God poured out his Spirit so strongly that all but one of the youth present accepted Christ as their Savior and several of those commitments were first-time. In the months to follow we would hear from more than one parent how their teen is a changed person since camp and what an impact it has had on their life. Our youth group has almost doubled since then with 18 attending regularly! Our youth group is moving forward and God is mighty in our midst!

## AUGUST

Mario arrived home in August and a meeting was scheduled with the bank to purchase our facility because while he was in the States, God had amazingly provided ABOVE the minimum amount required to purchase our church building. What a miracle, and although we'd prayed for it, it seemed surreal!

We have since then, paid for the facility, signed the papers and even begun some small improvements. We have a Dedication and Spiritual Renewal Weekend planned for the end of October. Some of our donors from the States will be attending and this is something we are impatiently anticipating.

We cannot express to you our gratitude enough. Your prayers and support of our ministry are what enable us to do our work among the Croatian people. Hand in hand we have created history together. After 31 years our church finally has its own facility and we as a church are moving FORWARD!



**Blessings,**

Mario and Bonnie Dučić

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