



A TIME TO SOW AND A TIME TO REAP

Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes that for every activity and purpose there is a season. Some seasons seem to last forever while others pass quickly, but one thing we know: „He makes all things beautiful in his time.”



JANUARY

This year our teens celebrated New Year's together at winter camp. Covid was an issue and we lost over half of our leadership team a week before camp to either illness or self-isolation. We talked seriously about canceling, but we really felt like God was leading us to continue despite these huge setbacks. Our camp director and his wife were both recovering from Covid and asked Bonnie to take over for them, which was a huge stretching point for her. But God is faithful in all things. Some of the leaders who joined our camp leadership team at the last minute fit so well that they are planning to work with us again at our summer camp this July. Several teens experienced powerful moves of God in their lives and two incredible activities have sprouted as a direct result of winter camp.

Bonnie started an online Bible study for teens over Whatsapp. Most of the teens from our youth group, Bezizlike, are apart of the study; and a few who attended camp joined as well. The main purpose of the study group is to encourage them to be consistent in their devotions and to challenge them to think and mediate on the Word of God.





FEBRUARY

The theme of our teen winter camp this year was spiritual gifts and areas of service. We wanted our teens to learn to identify what gifts they have and know how recognize the arena into which God is calling them. Bonnie really wanted to give the teens a practical way to put into practice what they'd learned at camp. What resulted was what we now call "Bezizlike (No Excuse) Night" (a service where teens minister to adults). A few times a year during Friday evening service and prayer, our teens lead and serve in almost every ministry in the church (from the coffee bar and greeting to the worship and preaching).



Our first ever "Bezizlike (No Excuse) Night" was held in February and was truly amazing. The parents of our teens were incredibly proud to see their teens serving so conscientiously. Every single ministry ran like clockwork. Our son, Luka, preached his very first sermon that night and we were so proud of him! This was an important evening in the lives of every single teenager involved- a night in which they saw how God could and desired to use them in his Kingdom work.

MARCH

Toward the end of February, Ukrainian refugees began fleeing Ukraine and our church began looking for ways to help. At first the refugees were mostly staying in Poland, so we sent funds to various individuals that had decided to remain in Ukraine, but needed money to buy food, water, and medicine. When refugees began arriving in Croatia, one of our members offered her vacation home to house them. We also rented a couple of apartments and a former nursing home with 21 beds. When those were at full capacity, we made a deal with a hotel willing to house and feed the refugees that we sent to them. We are currently aiding 65 Ukrainian refugees. Three of them have already found work, and a few of them have decided to open their own business here in Croatia. Please keep them in your prayers. Some of them have nothing to which they can return. Their houses and cars have been completely destroyed in the war. Not only are they having to start over, but they are starting over in a foreign country, in an unknown language, in a different culture. One woman was sharing her heart with Mario the other day about how she and her husband were



finally able to purchase a house, after 20 years of waiting. They'd seen it as a miracle from the Lord. Their home is not destroyed, but will she ever return to Ukraine and her new home? She doesn't know. For the time being, she is starting all over again.

On a brighter note, our church is so full that we purchased 10 new chairs last week which were completely full this Sunday. God has richly blessed our church and our people through our precious Ukrainians. Many of you have given above and beyond what we could have ever expected. We are so grateful for your giving and the refugees could not thank you enough. We pray that the Lord pour out his blessings and favor upon you and fill you with his peace in these coming months.



Blessings,

Mario and Bonnie Dučić



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