Dear Christian Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus!

18th ANNUAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH SEMINAR

War was still raging throughout Croatia in the 1990’s when churches of Christ organized their first Spiritual Growth Seminar. We knew, back then that the future of all our evangelistic outreaches depended on our strength in Jesus Christ. These one-week seminars have always been a source of blessing, refreshment and encouragement. This year over a hundred attended coming from all over Croatia, with visitors from Austria and Serbia. We enjoyed the riches of Christian teaching and fellowship. Brother Vlado Hoblaj from the church in M.Sredisce presented a series of lessons on the theme — “New Life in Christ” from 1 Corinthians 15:22. Youth had their lessons with Steve Taliaferro and Mislav Ilic. Thank you for praying for and supporting this wonderful event among Croatian churches.

INCREASING AWARENESS OF GOD’S WORD IN CROATIA

The Bible Institute in Zagreb and the Croatian Bible Society initiated events with the goal to make the Bible better known to the general public. The majority of Croatians are traditional Catholics, but not many read their Bibles. The Word of God is not a part of their life. Two events took place in April and the first one was a "Bible on Postal Stamps" exhibition. One of the speakers explained that the Bible is the "love letter" from God and letters have to be sent before they can be read. Thus, many countries in the world use Bible themes as decorative elements for their postal stamps. At the second event, Mladen spoke about the new edition of the New Testament in the modern Croatian language. "God wants His Word to be read and understood. The new translation makes that possible." At least one thousand copies of the New Testament will be distributed free of charge by the end of “Bible Week.” The Word will be read aloud in public places. Speeches will be presented on history of Bible translations in the Croatian language. The first translation goes back to 1620 and since that time, more than a dozen of other translations were done by various authors, but all are in a language that is hard to understand by today’s readers — almost like the difference between the King James translation to the New International version. The new translation of modern Croatian New Testament has been offered to listeners of Croatian Christian radio programs throughout the country.

Stamp Exhibition in a Public Library in Zagreb
TEACHING HOW TO TEACH

Mladen is continuing to teach a group of students at the Bible Institute. They learn how to present Bible messages, work with small Bible study groups and teach one-on-one. It is a joy to work with people who want to engage in spreading the Good News.

VISITORS FROM OKLAHOMA

Memorial Road church of Christ in Oklahoma City became a partner in the Croatian work for the Lord, supporting Mislav and Snjezana Ilic. It was nice to welcome Gerd and Lucky Fecht for a short visit. It was their first visit to Croatia, although Gerd and Mladen worked together with the church in Warsaw, Poland.

VISITING THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN COLOGNE, GERMANY

This congregation in Germany has a long and deep relationship with creation churches. During the war, Brother Bill Wilson made numerous visits to Croatia bringing relief goods for thousands of refugees. Also, he has been a keynote speaker at several Bible Camps and Spiritual Growth Retreats. In the beginning of May, Mladen visited Cologne teaching a seminar on “Why Jesus Loves Us.” It was a joy to be with the most hospitable German Christians who attentively listened to messages about God’s love.

A BUSY SUMMER IS AHEAD

Please keep our summer activities in your prayers:

CHAMP CAMPS—June — Seventy unchurched school children are expected for a week of outside activities and teaching. This event is very popular among children and parents in Zagreb.

Croatia enters the European Union on July 1st — Croatia officially becomes the 28th country to join the union of European countries. This opens many new opportunities for Croatian Christians to share the Good News throughout Europe.

44th BIBLE CAMP — August — About 100 from all over Croatia will come to the Adriatic island of Ugljan to hear the former missionary to Croatia, Mark Parker.

Your prayers and gifts toward these events and your continuous interest and love for the Lord’s work in Croatia and the countries of Eastern Europe are greatly appreciated.

(Note: If you would like to help financially support the camps in Croatia, please donate to “Croatia for Christ.”)

ON THE PERSONAL SIDE...

Hard to believe, but our first grandson, 15-year old Filip, went to his first prom. Are we getting old, or do kids grow faster nowadays?

Yours in Him,

Mladen and Dragica