



Youth Camp Something More

In the middle of July we came back from our youth camp. We are so grateful that this was one of the best youth camps we have done so far. Much thanks to the five adults and 19 teens from the Southside Church of Christ, in Lexington, Kentucky, who came to participate in the camp with us and our teens. We also had several Ukrainian teenagers with us. Our theme for this year was, Something More. Our focus was in the book of

Ephesians, especially Ephesians 3, where we are told that our God can do more than we can ask or imagine. We were talking about how we should not settle for less, when God has more for us. Every night we had a different speaker. Steve, Jeremy, and Mateja in their lessons were focusing on different elements of our theme for the week: *More with Jesus; More with Self; and More with Others*. Each morning we had an experiential

activity that tied in with that evening's lesson. On the *More with Others* day, the morning experience was for each person to "color by numbers" once piece of a large puzzle. Then that evening the completed puzzle was revealed. All the teens were really impacted by this. Igor and a few of the teens had a nice band and they blessed us with worship music every morning and every evening. Our last day of camp we went to the island of Krk to spend a few hours on the beach together.





Training in Samobor

After our teens finished the school year, we went to Samobor and spent 2 days together in one hotel. Our purpose was to prepare our teens to better serve kids at Champs Camp, and to get to know the American group that came to work with Champs Camp. We had a blessed time in learning, fellowship, walking, and playing. We had 21 Croatian teens involved and some came to be volunteers for the first time.

Champs Camp

Another successful Champs Camp is behind us. Champs Camp is a four-day summer day camp for children between the ages of 6 and 12. This year we had teen volunteers from Zagreb and several volunteers from the USA. The teen volunteers were given the important task of leading groups of the children. Most of these Croatian teens were once campers themselves. In total, there were about 60 children, 21 Croatian teen volunteers, and 16 Americans from the Round Rock Church of Christ, in Round Rock, Texas. It was this church that brought Champs Camp to us 11 years ago. Everyone together enjoyed a fun, joyful, and encouraging summer experience. Children had the opportunity to practice English, hear lessons from the Bible, enjoy sports activities, play games, and engage in creative and music workshops. At the end, everyone who participated in the camp received certificates.

Special Trip to Istria

After we finished Champs Camp, we went with our Croatian teens and American volunteers to the coast. We spent a great two days there, near the city of Pula. We had a chance to spend more time with our teens and further develop relationships with them.

Personal Meetings

Igor and Mateja are spending the rest of the summer in meetings with teens, because they want to know them better. Igor really enjoyed Kristian and they immediately clicked after they met this summer. Mateja has invited Bruna and Franka to meet with her. They are two girls from Igor's music program, who also joined us at our youth camp for the first time. Magdalena joined our youth group last year. She was coming every week to our youth meetings and after the Youth Canp Mateja went to talk with her. They will have every week some time in the Bible. Praise the Lord for all these new opportunities. In addition to meeting with his boys, Steve has three groups of personal guests coming in August: An elder and others from his sponsoring church in Texas; some long-time family friends; and his brother's family. All of these guests are also Steve's supporters. Steve is also pivoting back to working with the Ukrainian refugees.

Youth Magazine Summer Edition

At the beginning of the summer the new edition of our magazine was finished. Our theme this time was, *A Better Life*. With this, we wanted our teens and their friends to know that with God we can have a better life, and how that actually looks. We are proud that some of our teens who are followers of Jesus are always part of the magazine. For this edition, Marija gave us an interview.

Prayers

Igor with

- Our health, wisdom, and clear vision for our ministry.
- Open hearts after the summer camps.
- Spiritual fruit to be born in the lives of teens who we are individually discipling.
- Music program, magazine, and our youth meetings as we head back into fall activities.