# Something More Croatia Youth Ministry — September 2023





# Back to School, And Back Together

School started again in Croatia on September 4. With the start of school also comes the start of our regular youth meetings for the school year, after the summer break when everyone flees to the coast. We kicked things off with a great gathering at Steve's house the Saturday after school started. The photo above shows us praying over the 18 teens who came that evening. We are so excited that after summer activities and camps, we have more teens in these meetings than ever. Last Friday evening we had close to 20 teens. Praise the Lord! We had a great lesson about how we know what love is (Jesus showed us this); how we know that somebody really loves us; and how others know we really love them. We had great discussion groups, worship together, food (of course), and in the end a time of fellowship. Pray for this group to be consistent in coming throughout the year, to bring their friends, and ultimately to be drawn to Jesus through these times together.



## Igor and the Christian Band, Something More

Igor is meeting and rehearsing regularly with the band. They are growing in number and improving in their playing, and they are thinking about the possibility of doing some concerts in the area.

Tesa

Mateja and Tesa are meeting every few days. Tesa's parents

are in the process of divorcing, so she is very sad. For now, she just wants to talk with Mateja and be encouraged by her faith.

### Lara

She is more open to God and a regular at our Friday youth meetings, and at everything we do. Mateja is meeting with Lara regularly. Please pray for her, and her spiritual growth.

### Petar

He is part of our Christian band. He is meeting often with Igor. He joined the band a few months ago and he is excited to be part of it. As a result, he has also been coming with his brother, Ivan, to our camps and regular youth meetings. Pray for Igor's friendship and example with him, and for a desire on his part to follow Jesus.

Adam and his friend, Marko, have been coming to our activities and meetings for the last year or so. Adam is from a Christian family and was baptized earlier this year. Steve meets with Adam often. They are right now reading through the Gospel of John together, and Adam is discovering the person, personality, and incredible beauty and generosity of Jesus in new ways. They will be reading about a particular way that Jesus interacts with a certain person and how transformational the encounter is for that person's life. Steve will say something like, "Isn't that cool?" And Adam, with a big smile on his face, will say, "That is so cool."





#### Roby

Roby came to us first through Champs Camp, then to our Youth Camp, and he has been part of our regular Friday youth meetings for the past year or more. Steve this month began meeting regularly with Roby, for discipling and Bible study. Roby seems a bit lonely. He is a great young man, but doesn't seem to have many friends. He has been finding among us and the other teens with whom we work, both fellowship and a sense of belonging. He says he is encouraged by the love he finds among us, and how we talk about God. Please pray that he will now begin to seek more of a relationship with Jesus.

Tristan and his sister, Irena, also came to us through our camps. Their father was never married to their mother, and he has not been a part of their lives. They also

have a younger half-sister, and their mother was also not married to her father. So that is the family situation and dynamic out of which they come. This summer at the Youth Camp, Tristan sat with Igor, Steve, and our friend, Zach, asking them all kinds of questions about God and spiritual things, late into the night. Tristan came this month for the first time to one of our Friday meetings. This young man needs "fathering" from us. He is almost crying out for it. He especially needs to know and experience God as his Father, and as the One who loves him with an enduring love that will not abandon him. Please pray that Tristan finds all of this among us. Pray also for the boys' group Igor and Steve are starting, that Tristan and a few other boys will want to be a part of this, and that they will encounter Jesus there.





#### 📲 Ivana

Mateja really loves to be with Ivana. She is open for God and she has a lot of questions about developing a godly life and friendships. She is very lonely in her school, so please pray for more spiritual friends for Ivana.

# Lana

Mateja and Lana are meeting every week. Lana wants to meet, read the Bible, and pray with Mateja. We are so glad that she is now our sister in Christ. Please pray for her brother David, as he is the only one in the family who is not following Jesus.



#### Lucija

Mateja has been discipling Lucija, and she was baptized a few months ago. Mateja has developed a nice friendship with Lucija and she is growing spiritually.

Ela Mateja and Ela are meeting often, and they talk on the phone a lot. Ela was also

baptized a few months ago. Her mother died from cancer, and now Ela and her partner are not together anymore. He was not ready to follow Christ and support Ela in that, so Ela left. She has gone back to live with her father. She has a precious little boy, named Jan. She often brings Jan to her meetings with Mateja, and Mateja always pray for them. Please join us in prayer for Ela and Jan and their situation, and that Ela will find a job very soon, and continue to walk with the Lord.

