

# Our Journey



Hi Friends,

June 2019

## **We've had a full and eventful few months and want to share some highlights!**

It's hard to believe but Jarod and I just celebrated our ten year wedding anniversary. It's definitely been an adventure and we look forward to all God has in store for the next ten!

Life with Amariah is really fun. We are loving watching her grow and adapting to being a family with lots of joys and laughter. Amariah Hope is certainly a delight and we can't believe she's already ten months old.

We decided not to run the Discipleship Training School (DTS) this year and although it felt like a step back with the momentum we had built over the last three years, it has allowed us to focus more on the local, the relationships we have built over the past six years, our church and the youth work. It also enabled us to host a sailing DTS from a different location for three weeks, be a part of leading a YWAM Seamanship and Navigation school and host outreach teams. We are also busy planning our two kids camps starting in a week.

Read on to hear about how these things went and what we have to look forward to.

### **The School of Navigation**

YWAM run a school of Navigation and Seamanship (SoNS) where we train and qualify people to work on boats, as YWAM now has 25 ships working around the world. We were asked to host part of the school here in Croatia and Jarod was leading and teaching the two students while they were here. It was a great opportunity for Jarod to grow in teaching lots of what he has learnt over the years around sailing and navigation. He is hoping to continue getting qualified and in the future become an instructor, so this was great experience towards this. It was also a huge blessing to have our boat, St Brendan, help with this.

### **Hosting a DTS**

Not running our own DTS, we were able to partner with YWAM Next Wave (the ship that Jarod and I worked on together for two years). Nine students from around the world joined us for three weeks and it was a privilege to help invest in them. Bexi did some teaching on hearing God's voice and Jarod did some sail training with them. The staff were with us for an extra two weeks before the school began and we led their staff training for them.

### **Church**

We are getting ready to officially register our Church with the Croatian Government and we have a mix of around 25 Croatians and internationals. There is a real sense of family and we even had our first baptism last Sunday.

### **Prayer Points**

- Please be praying for our camps. This is such a great opportunity to share Jesus with these kids and for the teens to see God as a relational father and not a scary religious old man.
- Please pray that we are able to continue to use St Brendan to reach others and share God's love with people. Pray that all the finances come in to pay for another years berth which comes up in October and also for the maintenance of her.
- Our language has suffered a bit over the last year and we really want to begin working on it again. Please pray that we find the best way to do this, especially with looking after Amariah.
- It's already really hot here (35 degrees!!) and it looks to be staying. Pray that we can still continue to meet people, open up our home and see opportunities to share and pray for people in the midst of the hot weather.



We are both part of men and women's Bible studies and it is a place where we can encourage, pray for and learn from one another.

### St. Brendan

It has been great to use the boat for the DTS and the School of Navigation but we have also been using her for taking locals sailing and teaching some Croatians how to sail. Jarod will be taking a group for a week in July from another missions organisation who are having a team building and team development week. We will also be making trips to nearby islands to bless and encourage those that are there.

#### Photos

First page: Our team with a Brazilian couple visiting with plans to move here long term..

Collage: (top going clockwise) Bexi teaching on the DTS, The DTS on the mountain overlooking our town, our teens group having fun, the ladies Bible study and centre is Jarod and a student on the school of navigation. Below:

Amariah growing up way too fast!



Thanks again for your love and support, Jarod and Bexi and Amariah



#### What's next?

Next week we have our first summer kids camp with 72 kids aged 5 to 11 signed up. We will have games, crafts and english classes each day and we'll also have the opportunity to share with them about God's love. The theme for the camp is safari "God is good, Life is Wild" and we are excited to spend the week investing into the lives of so many croatian kids. We will have a parents/family fun night during the week where we'll present to the parents what we've been doing and have some family games too.

Two weeks later is our teen camp. We have had a great year with our teen group every saturday evening and now we get to camp with them. There are 25 teens signed up and we will be camping for 4 nights. We have lots of activities planned but mainly we want to spend quality time with them, listen to them and support them through some of the stresses and struggles they are dealing with as teenagers. We are still praying for some extra help for this camp as right now we only have a few of us volunteering.

We have an outreach team joining us in July and they will be on the nearby Island of Hvar. Over the last few years Hvar has become a hotspot for young people to come and party into the early hours. This team will be connecting to these young people, praying with them and sharing with them. We're praying that on this beautiful Island, people will also see the beauty of Jesus and how awesome He is.

Jarod has a sailing exam booked for September in England and it is his next qualification he needs as he works towards becoming an instructor. Before he takes the exam, he needs quite a few more nautical miles on the sea and his head in some books as he refreshes on the theory stuff. We're praying that he manages to get everything done that he needs in order to take this exam and that the finances come in to pay for it.

Bexi will be starting a mums and baby group in September where mums can bring their babies to sing songs together and also drink coffee and hang out with other mums. (The mums will drink the coffee)