



Hi Friends,

January 2021

“I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word, I put my hope.” Psalm 130:5

Sometimes it feels like all we do right now is wait. Waiting for change to come. Waiting for restrictions to ease so we can start up our teen group, baby club, Bible study group and more. But what I've come to realise as I read His story, God's great story that we're all a part of, is that so much of the change and the transformation happened in the waiting. Maybe, if we allow it, the waiting causes us to press into God, to move our hope towards Him, to His words that we are taking time to listen to, read or meditate on.

As we have prayed with hopeful expectancy and listened to God as the New Year began, we have sensed that God is going to do a new thing with our family. As we obey Him and restrictions start to ease, we will be making some adventurous steps in seeing that happen. We're not leaving Croatia right now in case that was your question and we are continuing with the ministries we have helped start, and also Jarod will continue with his masters but we believe God has more for us regarding the sailing. We are excited to update you as we discover more of what God is saying and a vision can be easily communicated.

But for now, we do still have the happenings of the last few months to share with you, despite how coVid has restricted us.



Church

Our church has been able to continue meeting in person and we know this is a huge privilege for us as so many friends and family have not been able to meet together. Our friend at church whose husband sadly passed away in October has been having a difficult time. She's a mum of two teenagers and she works as a nurse in the covid ward.



She recently contracted covid and had terrible symptoms for two weeks but is thankfully doing better now. We were also friends with her husband and we were able to celebrate his life at his funeral and a memorial with his kite

surfing community, which he and our pastor Kent ministered to. It was a sad but special day. Please be praying for the wife and their two kids.

Masters in Christian Formation and Discipleship

I (Jarod) finished my first module with the masters I am studying. It definitely pushed me academically with lots of reading and a final essay but I have learnt so much just in this first module, I am excited for what's to come.

Each module has a 2-week intensive and I was able to attend that in Sweden in October. We have been studying the early church and what we can learn from those who have led the way in Christian formation and the streams of the church available to us today.

Teenspire and Babyspire

Three of us mums have continued to meet together at the park and for coffee so we are always thankful for a sunny day. It was fun to have a Christmas scavenger hunt with the teens just before Christmas and they went on a search for things around town in twos and threes. We also ran our first youth service and we got them involved in some worship. I think it was a bit unusual for them but they seemed to enjoy it. We're looking forward to meeting together again soon.

What can we do?

Before Christmas, we went carol singing with our team and although we couldn't go into homes, we delivered cakes and goodies to the door and sang a Christmas carol.

We organised a 24 hour prayer day with our church and we each took an hour to pray. People posted songs, scriptures and prayers and encouraged the person who was praying after them. It was a special and powerful time and people have asked if we can make it a regular thing.

We have been able to use the boat, St Brendan as a blessing and take Croatians out to experience God's love on the water. Jarod took a group of women out from our church including the one who has recently lost her husband and her daughter came too. She describes it as such a healing experience for them and a huge blessing.

What's next?

- There is talk of our restrictions easing so we are looking forward to starting our various groups again in February.
- We will be making plans and creating a vision with God for the sailing side of our work here.
- We have a couple from Australia arriving next month who have bought a sailboat in Croatia and want to also use it to share Jesus with others. They have been working with YWAM Australia and we are excited to have them join our team.

Prayer Points and Praise

- We needed 3000 Euros in October for another year's berth in the Marina. We saw all the money come in for that. A huge thank you for all of you who have given to that.
- We've had two baptisms at church since the summer!
- We are all praying for this pandemic to go away, but also, please pray that we will continue to see what God wants us to do in the midst of it.
- For a friend of ours here who needs God's miraculous healing in her life as she fights cancer.
- Pray for Jarod and his studies, that he would keep up with the workload along with his other responsibilities.
- Leaving the EU has given us a bit more work to do regarding our health insurance, driving licences and residence permits.
- Please pray that we can get through the various paperwork without any problems.
 - And pray that we would clearly hear God's words for our next steps, that He would give us clear vision and open doors for our work with sailing.



***Thanks again for your love and support. Please let us know how we can be praying for you, especially in this difficult season.
With love, Jarod and Bexi and Amariah***

(Photos above: delivering Christmas cookies, sailing with Croatians, Teen scavenger hunt and Baptism on the beach)