



Building Bridges to Christ in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Spring in Sarajevo

This is one of the most beautiful times of the year in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Not only are plants and flowers coming out, so are the people. We now see cafes setting their tables and chairs outside for customers to enjoy the sunshine while catching up with their friends. If you ever thought about coming to visit, this would be the perfect time to do it! **Bujrum! Come!**



*German Family
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GIVE ME A MARK FOR COFFEE!

It's not uncommon here to meet people on the street begging. They are usually women with babies, but once in awhile they are men. Recently, Sean and two other teammates were walking along the boulevard in Dobrinja. A young man walked up them and asked them for one KM (Mark). But he wasn't asking for money so he could buy food. He was asking so he could go have a coffee! Seeing an opportunity to witness to this man, they told him, **"We'll take you out for coffee!"**

So they did. Although this young man was obviously not starving and was wearing a nice running suit, he began a long monologue about having no money and no job. We've heard this story many times. Sometimes it's true, sometimes it's not. But rather than

go down the rabbit hole, Sean just asked him, **"Have you ever had a dream about Jesus?"** Sure enough he had! After that question, his attitude totally changed and they were able to witness to him, share some verses from Scripture and even pray with him. He seemed to understand

what they were talking about and was interested in learning more. So they gave him a New Testament and invited him to come by our ministry center. He hasn't showed up yet, but later that

same day they saw this same young man on the other side of the boulevard calling out to someone, **"Hey friend! Do you want a Bible?!"** Pray that he will read the NT and not just sell it or get rid of it. Perhaps he will have another dream or vision of Christ!





Samaritan's Purse

This winter we had the privilege again to distribute shoeboxes of gifts from Samaritan's Purse to the children of Dobrinja. This is our **third year** to do this and it is becoming quite a tradition! Again we had one of the local churches come to help us by putting on a puppet show for the children. However, this year, we wanted to give **something to the parents** as well. So we put together a small packet with an evangelistic book, a DVD, a card and some chocolates. As the parents left with their children, we handed them this packet. They were so surprised that we had something to give them! Pray that they would read the book and watch the DVD which has testimonies of five people who came to faith in Christ through a dream. Some of you may have been involved in the packing and shipping of these shoeboxes and yet never see the fruit of your labor. If so, we thank you for your efforts. It is truly a blessing to be able to hand out these evidence of God's love to the children here. If you would like to watch a **short video** from this event, you can find it by clicking on the following hyperlink:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9qHhE3CNSs>



Summer 2011!

We are excited about all that will be happening this summer. We have short-term teams coming to help us with outreaches and we have new people joining our team. Pray for us and for our team as we reach out to the people in this community with the Gospel. May this be a summer of new birth for many people here!

Summer Camps!

Something we would like to do this summer, which we feel is important for our children, especially Alex, is to take them to a few special camps. The first one is a **camp in Croatia** for teen MK's (Missinary Kids) like Alex. We have heard many good things about this camp. It will be an opportunity for Alex to meet other teens like himself. Currently, there are no other male MK's his age in Bosnia! The second event is Christian conference for young people called **TeenStreet**, which is organized by OM <http://www.teenstreet.om.org/> We will serve as volunteers while the kids participate in the program. Lastly, we will send Alex to **MTO (Missionary Teens Only)**, which is intended for MK's with OM. At first, Alex was not too thrilled about going to these camps, but as we have been talking with him and explaining why we think they would be good for him, his is getting excited. He is struggling being here in Bosnia and we feel these events will help him to connect with others like him. However, all these camps cost money which is not in our budget! We need an extra **\$1500** to cover the fees and travel costs. If you are interested in **blessing Alex** in this way, please email us. Thank you!





Why aren't you a Hindu?

How would YOU answer this question? There are a million possible responses, but it's a good question. Why aren't you a Hindu or Buddhist or anything else? Sean was asked this recently by an older gentleman he met on the street in Dobrinja when our team was having a time of "broad sowing." He had a good conversation with this man and found out he even met another foreigner like ourselves many years ago in Zagreb. Not long after this, he came to our ministry center on a Tuesday morning when we have our regular prayer meeting. They were about to start, so Sean invited him to join them. He immediately replied with, **"Why aren't you a Hindu?"**

Sean gave the best explanation he could, but it highlights an interesting issue here in Bosnia-Herzegovina. **Most people here believe you are BORN into your faith and that you can't change.** Religion is so tied into their identity that they can't imagine someone can believe anything else and not lose their identity. This is a big challenge our team faces here and one which needs a lot of prayer. We meet people who are drawn to the Gospel, but are afraid of what their family and friends will say if they believe in Christ. Please pray for them that they will understand the difference between religion and relationship and not fear they will lose who they are!

A Little Local Humor

A friend of ours recently told us something funny which we think you would enjoy as well. Back when Bosnia-Herzegovina was still a part of the former Yugoslavia, they built their own model of a car called the **"Yugo."** Like many cars built in that era in Eastern Europe, it was very small and usually only came in a **two-door** model. However, when they came out with a larger **four-door** model, the Yugoslavs affectionately called it the **"WEgo!"**



I want to find my own way!

Here's an example of this issue. Our team in Bihac met a teenaged boy from a muslim background through a youth outreach not too long ago. He started coming around the team house a lot after that and showed great interest in the Gospel. But shortly afterwards his family found out and started to prohibit him from having contact with our team or going to any meetings with them.

Fortunately, some members of our team were invited to come to this boy's house and meet his parents to talk about all of this. The mother was more outspoken than the father, and her objection to her son was,

"You can't change your religion!"

She was obviously concerned that if her son continued to have contact with our team and believed the Gospel, he would not belong to them or Islam anymore. The boy's response was amazing:

"I don't want to be Muslim, just because you and the rest of my family are Muslim. I want to find my own way."

The parents were shocked by his response, but they could see that he was serious about this. So they decided to let their son explore this new faith



while still accepting him as their son. It won't be easy for him and the pressure will be huge to remain in the religion and identity he was born into. Please pray for this young man that the Lord would not only grab his heart, but the heart of his family as well!

As always we value your prayers and support. Thank you for your heart for the peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina.