

## Melissa Houston

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Dear Friends,

We held our first "Kid's Bible Camp" at the beginning of August. The church in Čakovec put this together. We went out to the village of Frkanovec (no, that's not a typo!) where Bro. Rich Telebar, the national pastor, lives. It is about 30 minutes away from Čakovec.

Our program lasted 3 days, with a lesson time each day. I was very happy to be able to head up the main lesson time during the camp. Last year, for VBS, I gave the lessons in English and Bro. Telebar translated for me. This is definitely not ideal for teaching kids. So this year, with God's help, and the help of Ljubica Telebar, my language teacher and the national pastor's wife, I was able to give the lessons in Croatian. It was quite difficult, and I had to have help saying a few words, but it went very well. Each day the kids heard a Bible story with the chance to hear the good news of Christ. The children listened very well to the stories. We also learned a Bible verse each day, sang some songs, played a Bible Review Game at the end of the lesson, had craft time (headed up by Ljubica), and game time (headed up by Bro. Kevin Brown, fellow missionary to Croatia). Our puppet team made its first official appearance as well. Friday evening we were able to enjoy a fire-cookout, roasting corn and sausages on sticks. And of course no fire-roast is complete without marshmallows!

Attendance was GREAT for our Bible Camp! On day 1 we had 26, day 2 we had 25, and day 3 we had 26. For Croatia this is a GOOD group! Some of the children have even asked when we are going to do another one!

What is most exciting to me is that these kids got a chance to hear that Jesus, who was without sin, died on the cross for us, who are sinners! The seeds were planted in their hearts. I pray that one day those seeds take root!

I'll leave you with a story that made my heart sing when I heard it: Our youngest attendee for the week was Andreji, a 4 year old boy. After the camp was over, he went home and told his grandfather about Jesus, who was born, grew up, and died on the cross. I don't know how much he understood, but he was listening! He has that seed in his heart! Please pray we can continue to hold special meetings in Frkanovec, to continue planting and watering.

On the right are some pictures to enjoy: The first is a group shot of the kids. The second, I am walking around letting all the kids feel slime so they can imagine what it might be like to be inside a giant fish (Jonah). The third is Andreji, our youngest attendee.

Thanks for your continued prayers and support! Without them I couldn't sow seeds here in Croatia.

Love from Croatia, *Melissa Houston*



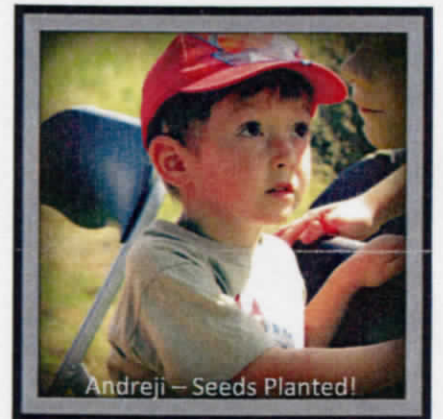
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Vacation Bible Camp



Giant Fish Slime



Andreji - Seeds Planted!