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*Sent Through The  
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Dear Friends,

It's busy season here in Croatia! The kids are now out of school for the summer, so we are in preparation for VBS. I'm excited to again have the opportunity to teach. This year I hope to speak only in Croatian, instead of using an interpreter as I did last year. PLEASE pray for me. This will take a lot of preparation on my part. I will write out my lessons and have my language teacher help me translate them. Then I will have to work on memorizing the lessons. There are always new words to learn in each lesson that I give, so it can be hard to remember the new words. I'm trusting God to help me though. Our theme this year will be "Let's go to the Sea." I'm excited about working on the decorations. Who doesn't love the sea?! I hope to have an ocean wonderland by the time we are ready to start.

The puppet ministry is coming along. I have given Pastor Telebar our first official script to translate. We have been working every Wednesday on the basics of puppetry. I keep hearing from our team how much more there is to think about, and how much harder it is than it looks. That is so true! You have to think about opening the puppet's mouth properly, and at the right time, as well as where the puppet looks (so they aren't always looking at the ceiling or floor), and you have to think about giving the puppet "emotion", as well as moving the hand with an arm rod (and remembering to actually move the hand, so they aren't always raising their hands in the air, etc.), as well as many other things. So it certainly takes time to have a good puppet ministry. I think we are finally ready to move on to our shows. Please pray for me, as I continue to write scripts, and for our team as we practice every week.

Thank you for all your prayers and support! I would not be here without your faithfulness!

I'll leave you with some more pictures: The first picture is of Pastor Rich Telebar and his wife Ljubica as they prepare to perform our practice skit. The second picture is of the kids I had the pleasure of teaching during our Bible Conference. Here they are painting a picture of Jairus, whose daughter was healed by Jesus. The third picture is from our Sunday School class in Varazdin. The boys are wearing their "fur bands" to go along with the story of Jacob and Esau, when Jacob deceived his father for the blessing.

Love from Croatia, *Melissa Houston*



Pastor & Mrs. Telebar



Bible Conference Kids



The Story of Jacob & Esau



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