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Dear Friends,

I pray you all had a wonderful holiday season. I had a wonderful Christmas. My parents flew me to Texas for Christmas, and some family time. I have been thoroughly enjoying my time with family and friends so far. I have also enjoyed spending some time at my home church, Worth Baptist Church. It has been a great time of refreshing and "recharging batteries". I am going to be in the States until the end of March, for a mini-furlough so that I can make good use of my plane ticket to America (plane tickets don't come cheap), and hopefully I can raise a little more support.

Back in Croatia, I helped the puppet team in Čakovec prepare for their Christmas service. They performed a small show for the church. They had a few visitors come to church that night. Please pray for the church in Čakovec, for growth.

Also, I prepared things for Sunday School in Varaždin while I'm away. They are all set to go, as far as materials and lesson plans are concerned, until I get back in March. I sure am missing teaching my kids, but they are in good hands while I am away. I'm hoping to take back more material for this year's Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Kids Bible Camp while I am here. I'm going to have some STUFFED suitcases when I return! I will also be taking back our new puppet stage! It would have cost over twice it's worth just to mail it. So I will be taking it back on the plane with me. Please pray that there will be no problems with customs when I return.

I will leave you with some pictures.

The first is our puppet team in Čakovec preparing for the show.

The second is our new puppet stage. It's a BIG one!

The third is of myself and Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Barber (The pastor emeritus of Worth Baptist Church).



Love from Croatia,

*Melissa Houston*



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