



## THE METHODIST VOICE FROM CROATIA

NEWSLETTER / WINTER 2022



# THE BLESSINGS OF THANKSGIVING

*Now therefore, our God, We thank You  
And praise Your glorious name*

1 CH 29:13

These words of praise and thanksgiving from the Bible were spoken by King David when he prepared gifts and offerings for the future temple of God that was supposed to be built by Salomon.

Thanksgiving to God was very important to David, as it was throughout the whole Bible and Church History. In the European protestant circles the churches celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday on the first Sunday of October. The altars and the pulpit are then decorated with the fruits of Autumn, such as: pumpkins, corn, grapes, and fruits; and the texts and the sermon are usually directed toward the theme of Thanksgiving.

We as the Global Methodist Church in Zagreb, Croatia, celebrated on October the 2. our first Thanksgiving Sunday as a renewed Methodist community. After our blessed service, we share an agape meal together with pumpkin soup, fresh pastries, and

deserts. It was a joyful experience for all of us and our visitors.

Before that, in September, we had a visit from Rev. Mitch Arnold and his wife from Ohio who were traveling through central Europe. Our congregation was very blessed by his Sunday sermon where he preached about the importance of the Church. He also shared with us information and positive thoughts about the future of the GMC.



We also had an opportunity to invite several important guests to a panel discussion about the abortion law in Croatia. Along with several pro-life activists and politicians, we could also hear what role the churches played in the half-century struggle for the rights of the unborn in America from an expert: Dr. Stephen Bartulica, who came from the USA.

With our partner Church in Zagreb – The Church of the Nazarene, we celebrated Reformation Sunday together on October 30. Pastor Glendenning focuses the ministry of the Nazarene church on work with migrant and persecuted Christians, mostly from the near East. It was exciting to hear some testimonies



like the one from their church member from Iran that has regular contact with his sister who is still living in Iran. She is as a new convert to Christ and because of this she stays under severe risk for her life. But she is very faithful in her devotion to Jesus. Please join us in prayers for her and for the Christians in Iran and Near East and for the ministry to

the refugees in Croatia. A few weeks later, on November 7, Pastor Vatroslav presented together with Pastor Glendening at a Bible School in Zagreb the book „A Plain Account of Christian Perfection” by John Wesley. This is our first Wesleyan Book that we are presenting to the Croatian public. Next year we are planning to publish „The

Life and Theology of John Wesley” and then also present it together to an even broader public.

In the last few months, we have some regular new visitors. For three of them I plan to organize lectures based on the GMC catechism at the beginning of next year.

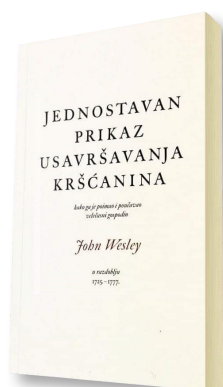
On a personal note, as a family, we are doing also well, and we are thankful for all of your gifts. One of them was given with a purpose and gave us the possibility to visit as family the Holy Land-Israel this December. We hope that we will write you more about it and our impressions in the next newsletter.

To our American Friends and partners of our church we wish you a blessed Thanksgiving and coming Christmas time with a vision that next year we together will have more time to build up together our Global Methodist Family and be thankful for every blessing.

Just as David was thankful for all the gifts that he collected for the building of the future temple, so we can be thankful for all gifts that are now invested in the Methodist work that will bear fruit in the future mission work in Croatia.

Let us because of all be joyful and thankful to God

In His Love, Pastor Vatroslav



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