



THE METHODIST VOICE FROM CROATIA

SUMMER 2026



REMEMBER THOSE WHO SUFFER

“Remember those who are in prison as if you were there with them, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”

HEBREWS 13:3

As a pastor in Europe, I’ve often felt that believers here face significant challenges—strong secular influences, a general lack of interest in faith, and the difficulties of planting a new church from scratch, as we are doing in Croatia. These struggles can feel heavy.

But then I read something that completely changed my perspective: Christians today are experiencing the most severe persecution in history. Followers of Jesus in Islamic-dominated countries such as Afghanistan and Iran, as well as in communist China, face discrimination, imprisonment, and even the threat of death. Their testimonies moved me deeply and helped me realize that the problems Christians face in the free world are small in comparison.

Although our church in Croatia is still relatively small, we decided to take action and support our brothers and sisters who are suffering. We partnered with OPEN DOORS INTERNATIONAL, an organization serving persecuted Christians. We translated and published several of their materials and organized public events in Zagreb to raise awareness.

The response was very encouraging. Pastor Vatroslav was invited to speak in media interviews and television, radio, and social media broadcasts. We also had productive meetings with Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox bishops in Zagreb. Because Pastor Vatroslav serves on the GMC’s Ecumenical Relationships Commission, these conversations are meaningful for our worldwide church as well. Our lay leader, Martina Lukić, even presented this project to the Croatian Parliament.





We have already been able to help several individuals directly, and with your prayers we hope to continue this important ministry.

YOUTH MINISTRY AND FUTURE LEADERS

Summer brings the end of school and the beginning of Christian youth camps. Our congregation has a few young people whom we are encouraging toward service for God. Please pray that God will raise up future leaders and missionaries who can serve children and youth in the GMC here in Croatia.

PASTOR VATROSLAV'S VISIT TO THE USA

At the end of August and beginning of September, Pastor Vatroslav will be in the United States. Through the hospitality of Christians and GMC churches, he will visit:

AUGUST 17-23: Wilmore and Lexington, Kentucky
AUGUST 24-31: Dayton, Ohio
SEPTEMBER 1-5: Pennsylvania

If you would like to meet with him, feel free to contact him on WhatsApp at +385 99 7510 097 or by email below.

EUROPEAN METHODIST GATHERING – OCTOBER

At the end of October, the GMC will host another European Methodist Gathering on the Croatian Adriatic Riviera. The last few gatherings have been a great inspiration. One sister from Estonia recently wrote:

“This event has been a great blessing for Europe! Many new connections have been made and new collaborations started. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet again.”

If you are considering attending in October, please register here:

<https://metodisti.hr/en/2026/07/09/european-gathering/>

In His Love,
Pastor Vatroslav

WWW.METODISTI.HR

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