

Crosscurrent Newsletter of Tom & Ana Smith
Winter 2016
2015 Summary

- January trip home to PA to help Kristina, gave brief report to annual congregational meeting at St. John's Burry's Church which unanimously voted to help with a hip replacement for Tom
- Tom returned to Croatia in February to help Ana pack up apartment in Samobor, say goodbye to friends and ministry partners, put things into storage until our return after surgery in America
- March – August pre-operational tests, exams, total hip replacement surgery, then post-op physical therapy. Surgeon pleased with Tom's rapid & complete recovery.
- We witnessed and celebrated Kristina's graduation from Riverside High School. She was accepted into 5 universities, she choose Seattle Pacific where Katherine attends.
- Began emptying our house, painting, and minor repairs, but did not sell house due to operations and recovery afterwards.
- Midsummer, Tom began preaching and visiting new & current supporting churches, as well as visiting family, friends, and supporters after no longer needing a cane.
- Medical testing for Ana resulted in 2 operations in August, recovery: September – October. Ana was declared medically fit to travel in October by her doctor. British Air changed our return tickets at no charge.
- Tom visited ITEM in St. Louis and picked up a load of theology books from Dr. Joseph Hall for Croatia, which are being stored in St. John's Burry's Church awaiting shipment to Croatia.
- Returned to Croatia in October, found an apartment in Karlovac, approx. 8 minutes walk from the church plant. Thanks to God for Pastor Almir's dad who found us such a nice apartment.
- We began helping with preaching, Bible study, women's fellowship, film nights & outreach
- Tom taught lesson on the Heidelberg Catechism & an Old Testament overview course.
- Delivered socks, toothbrushes, and chocolates to the Children's Home in Karlovac
- We raised \$2300 from supporters through Burry's Church to buy food to give away at Christmas in Karlovac, then we assembled and helped deliver packages to 30 households before Christmas Eve.

Praises and Prayer Requests for 2016

- Praise God, that both of us are healthy. Tom's hip is pain free and walking without a limp.
- Our daughter, Evelyn will graduate with her Doctorate of Physical Therapy, but is required to complete a clinical after graduation in Indianapolis (May – July) and she will need a place to stay.
- Kate will finish her 3rd year at SPU, and is applying to study in China for Fall 2016.
- Kristina will finish her 1st year at SPU and hopes to get a summer job.
- We plan to sell our house in PA this year, now that all 3 daughters have graduated high school.
- Tom hopes to raise \$4000 - \$5000 to ship the theology books from the USA to Croatia.
- The church plant we help in Karlovac needs a larger space for worship services, and will need more monthly income to pay a larger rent. Pastor Almir also needs more income to support himself.

Spring Plans 2016

- Tom is preparing & now teaching a New Testament Overview course, then to be followed by Church History, and then Apologetics in Karlovac.
- Ana is leading the women's group, Susret (encounter)
- Tom is preaching once a month in church, and may help teach on Wednesday nights during Lent
- Tom & Ana & Pastor Almir will translate a 70 page booklet for a hermeneutics class for Dr. Bob Smart from Christ Church, Normal, IL who will teach at Mihael Starin Seminary this April.