



Two camps meant twice the fun!



news from Novi Most spring 2023 New Bridge

pioneering youth work in Bosnia and Herzegovina

@novimost

In February we held two Winter Camps on Jahorina, one of the Olympic mountains outside Sarajevo. The first camp was for teenagers, held over a long weekend, the second, for students and twenty-somethings was mid-week. Both camps were a huge success, not just in how well people learned to snowboard but also in the new friendships that were formed and how everyone was engaged with what happened in the programme.

We begin our round-up of Winter Camp feedback with Ivica, from Čapljina.

"Before I came to faith my perception of being a Christian was of a boring person who is praying all day in his room and just being miserable his whole life. Boy was I wrong! Winter camp is one of those moments in a year I'm really excited about, not just for the fact that I'll be on the mountain snowboarding, but the fact that we can spend time with young people who would realistically probably never have a chance to try snowboarding. It's amazing how much you can compare learning how to snowboard to everyday life and especially faith in God. It helps you think about how to have (self) confidence and who to trust."

The theme of the second camp was "(Self) Confidence". The challenge was for us to think about what we put our confidence in. On the last night of the camp Novi Most intern Angela shared her experience. It was the end of a week where she had tried snowboarding for the first time. She was grateful for Budo's help and instruction, and for the picture of God's care for us she'd got through the learning process.

"When I get on a snowboard, I know that there is someone who will help me. For me that was Budo. It is really positive that when we fall, even in our weaknesses, there is someone who will always help us. He will always be that person, when it's bad and when it's good. Even in our strengths, when we see some moments of victory - like when Budo let me go alone and when I managed to put into practice what he had been working on with me for two hours - God was also there and supported me."

Budo is all smiles with Angela and his other students!



Ivica walks back up the hill with some of our first-time boarders



Beki talking during one of the evenings at Teen Camp.



WE ARE NOVI MOST!

It's always good to have guests join us on camp - even if they don't realise who we are...

Hi, my name is Phil. I'm involved in the Christian Action Sports Network, which is a network of skaters, surfers and parkour athletes who love Jesus. We are planning for our next European regional gathering to be in Sarajevo. So I was planning to come down to Sarajevo, for planning meetings and to go snowboarding, and I was thinking I bet there are some people in the Action Sports Network that want to come. I knew SFC had sent some people so I reached out to them. Stefan Burri, who's been to a number of these camps, said if you're going down there try and time it so you can help out with one of the winter camps. All I knew is it was a Christian camp for young people. I got given Beki's number and said "we'd love to help".

When we got here I discovered it was a Novi Most camp! I remember years ago being at Spring Harvest, I was in the youth meeting and they were taking up an offering for a couple to start a youth ministry in BiH. That was Nikola Škrinjarić and his wife. I remember putting in my couple of quid. I didn't think about it much until some years later, when I came to visit YWAM in Sarajevo. I remember hearing about Novi Most so we went down to Mostar to visit. Now to discover there's also Novi Most in Capljina and Sarajevo and Jajce, it's just super encouraging to think that something I heard about more than twenty years ago has grown into something where there are active youth projects in four cities. One of the takeaways of this time is realising Novi Most probably plays one of the key roles in Christian youth work here in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Phil's connection to Novi Most goes right back to the very beginning!





RIJEKA USRED POŽARA



The Bible says 'enlarge the place of your tent'. Sometimes that looks like bricks and concrete, even on a campsite!*

RIJEKA USRED POŽARA - AN EXCITING NEW SONG!

At the beginning of February we released a song called "Rijeka usred požara", written during a songwriting workshop at Youth Camp last summer. Matt produced the track and was able to involve almost half of those who had been in the workshop in the recording.

"I'm so happy we had this opportunity. It's important to make things. Producing a song like this is a practical way of showing that change is possible. The fact the three singers are from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia makes a statement. It is just one bit of evidence of a new level of connection we see developing between young believers, which is massively encouraging."

We've had really good feedback about the song. There is a real sense of ownership of it from those who were at Youth Camp. We hope that it is just the first of many projects like this. Angela, who was a singer and songwriter on the Izvor Života EP, gave us her reaction.

"I can't stop listening to the song - it's so good! God has really spoken to me through the song, and I feel like the lyrics are much deeper than they seem. I'm really impressed by the fact that the youth from all around the region managed to create something like that. It's inspiring and empowering. It's also motivating me to be involved in future projects."

Listen to "Rijeka usred požara" at youtube.com/NoviMostMedia

Also "novimostmedia" is now on Instagram

*Work has begun on a new phase of developing Emek Beraka, the church campsite at Boracko Jezero. This new building will have a meeting area, cafe, kitchen, apartments and dorm rooms. It is part of plans to enable the campsite to be used throughout the year.



Saša Nikolinić, pastor of EC Sarajevo, created the illustration used on the cover of "Rijeka usred požara" and in the lyric video. He's also overseeing the building work at Emek Beraka.



TIME TO PRAY TOGETHER

The Evangelical Church of Bosnia and Herzegovina has made 2023 a Year of Prayer for BiH. January saw this start with a Prayer Conference in Mostar. On the Saturday at the end of February, Čapljina became the prayer and worship centre. Christians from all over the country came to pray and thank God for the southern part of the country and encourage local Christians to be a salt and light there. Becca and Ivica have an important role in the local church; Ivica is in leadership of the church and he and Becca are worship leaders.

Ivica explains, "The event started with a short breakfast followed by worship then prayer for unbelievers. Rock, Seed and Clay were our theme of the event. We prayed that 'rock' solid hearts would soften, for every 'seed' of the Good News to fall on good soil and bear fruit, and for the 'clay' - the local Christians - that God would shape them and there would be unity in Jesus Christ. It was a grey and rainy day but that didn't stop people doing a prayer walk around the town!"

Summer camps at Emek Beraka will be happening between 19th June and the 30th July. If you would like to volunteer to be part of the team that makes them happen please contact the Novi Most UK office.

More information about the Year of Prayer at ecbih.org

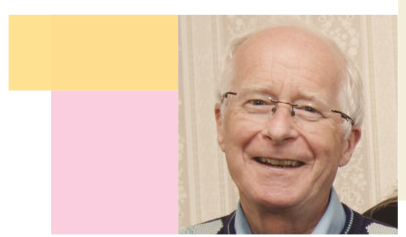


Ivica leading part of the Prayer day in Čapljina

REMEMBERING DAVID STILLMAN

24th Dec 1941 - 10th Jan 2023

David was part of our Board of Trustees from the very early days. Over many years he brought continuity and understanding about BiH to the role. He was a person of integrity and discernment, who was servant-hearted and helped us to see the bigger picture. We are grateful for everything he gave to Novi Most.



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