



Strategic minds:
(left to right)
Peter, Paul,
Katie, Ivica,
Indira, Becca,
Anna, Rowan,
Julian, Mike,
Beki, Pete, Budo,
Simon, Matt

news from Novi Most summer 2022
New Bridge

pioneering youth work in Bosnia and Herzegovina

@novimost   

In the middle of May the Novi Most team and trustees gathered for a Strategy Review. It has been a while since we've all been able to get together, and we all agreed that after the challenges of the past couple of years it was important to talk and plan for what needs to happen next.

It is too soon to write about specific outcomes from our couple of days well spent at Emek Beraka, but we wanted to share some initial reactions. Here is how our Director and the trustees summed up our time together.

"It is always good as a team and trustees to get together, for fellowship but also it was amazing to have an expert who will help us clarify our objectives, our strategies and ways that we want to do things in the field here. So I'm encouraged, refreshed and looking forward for the things to come." Beki

"We've had a great week with the team and been able to reset our priorities and strategy. It's good to do all that in light of having come through Covid now. I'm very excited about what the future holds going forwards." Peter

"I was really amazed by the review. We were very honest with each other and we all ended up on the same page." Simon

"It's been so good to be here at Boracko this week with the full team of Novi Most. It's been such a good time together where we can think about the future, and vision, and values, and what God wants to do with us. I'm excited for what he's going to do." Pete

"As one of the newer Trustees with Novi Most, this has been my first time meeting with the board alongside all the BiH workers. It's been a real privilege to meet them and to build relationships; to get to know more about what's happening here and to see where we need to grow and develop together, for the sake of reaching young people in BiH." Paul

"It was a fantastic experience to come and spend time with the whole team from Novi Most. We were beautifully led by Julian, our facilitator. It was amazing to see the team exhibit real vulnerability, a desire to learn and improve, and a heart to show Jesus to the young people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our team has been here for a hugely long time and yet their commitment is unwavering and their passion has not diminished. And that's amazing to see." Mike

"I think it's been amazing to get all the trustees and team together. To actually spend some time with each other and looking at the work we are doing; taking that step back and saying: is what we are doing what we want to be doing? How can we make sure that's sustainable for the future? How can we make sure that work continues in the best possible way? So it's been challenging at times but it's been really good." Anna

THE VIEW FROM OUTSIDE

Julian Lomas, of Almond Tree Strategic Consulting, led the review process. He summed up his experience like this...

"It's been great to spend two amazing days with some amazing people, thinking about what the future for Novi Most should be. I think what I've witnessed is people with a real heart for the country, a real heart for the young people of this country, and some exciting ideas for the future."



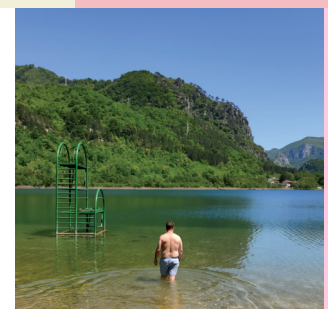
The team that eats together... thank you to Pastor Sasa from Sarajevo serving us great food!



Discussions happened in the shade and in the sunshine.



Mike showing an unwavering commitment to a quick swim after lunch... it was nowhere near as warm as it looks!



The team from Jajce playing the Buka Vesela album in full in Sarajevo.



WE ALL NEED TO BE PART OF A JOYFUL NOISE!

April was a month that really brought home the importance of the work we are doing with music, and specifically how it is helping people worship together.

It started in Sarajevo, at a conference for former drug addicts where Beki had been asked to lead worship. There were about 150 people gathered from across the region, in a hotel function room, for a weekend of meetings. Beki was joined by Matt and a group of the young musicians they are working with. The worship times were alive with the buzz of people excited to be part of a like-minded crowd. Some were so eager to share the experience they were holding up their phones, live-streaming songs for their friends!

The next weekend the team from Jajce, along with Budo's sister Sanela, were in Capljina to play the Buka Vesela album. The church was packed with people from Capljina and plenty of guests from Mostar, including Indira and many of the young people who are part of her Royal Rangers group. Ivica summed up the evening like this: "For me it was fantastic. I really felt and experienced God through the songs. We haven't had anything like this [in the church] since 2018, and it's so wonderful to have such an event. The church is very, very grateful for that." Becca told the team the next morning, "It was great to see a full church, it was great to hear new music. Come again!"

The following Sunday it was time for the Jajce team to bring Buka Vesela to Sarajevo. Again the church was full, with a healthy mix of regulars and guests. Dina preached at the Sunday service and the concert started after that. The whole evening was live streamed: search for "Evandeoska crkva Sarajevo, Dolac Malta Live Stream 17.04.2022" on YouTube. Churches in BiH are small so it means a lot when people can gather and worship together. It is a privilege to see young people we've trained and songs we've written play a part in this.



Matt explains his thoughts on Buka Vesela



Budo makes drumming and singing look easy - it isn't!



Ivica sums up after the event in Capljina



One of the many mobile phones involved in the worship times!



Beki leading a band of (mostly) young people at the conference.



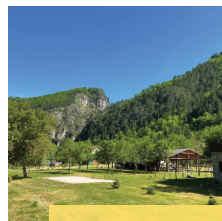
RECORDING NEW SONGS

Matt is working on new worship recordings with a group of young people (including those who played at the conference) to be out in time for the summer. More on the story behind the project in the next New Bridge!



ALMOST TIME FOR SUMMER CAMPS!

At the Strategy Review a few comments were made about how beautiful and peaceful the Emek Beraka campsite was. In a few short weeks it will still be beautiful but the silence will be broken by the happy sounds of children and young people. Pray for the Novi Most team as they play a key role in the running of ECBIH summer camps, and for all the children and young people who will attend. We want this to be a memorable and life changing summer for all of them.



novimost.org



Novi Most International,
Lee Common Methodist Church,
Oxford Street, Lee Common, Bucks HP16 9JP
Telephone: 01494 793242
Email: chesham@novimost.org

NoviMost
pioneering youth work
in Bosnia and Herzegovina