



Can six kombis in a row say more than a sea of smiling faces? Read on for why on this particular day Matt felt that they did!

news from Novi Most summer 2023 New Bridge

pioneering youth work in Bosnia and Herzegovina

@novimost   

It is the time of year when, for many of our team, our focus turns towards camps. In our next edition you will read stories of exciting things that have happened this summer. Here we want to start with an encouraging story of how we have built on what we saw happening at Teen Camp last year and developed it into coordinated work between all of our locations throughout the year. This is the latest chapter in the story of Teen Days!

Becca and Ivica hosted the first of these gatherings in Capljina back in November. She explains some of the thinking behind this new focus. *“Something that was really noticeable on Teen Camp last year was that the group who had been the youngest on camp pre-Covid were suddenly the oldest, and a big new group of young teenagers were on the scene. Friendships were forged and they were really keen for more opportunities to spend time together. Consequently, we have done a “Teen Day” in each Novi Most location throughout the year, and a winter camp for the younger group too. It has been great to see this group emerge and we look forward to seeing them grow and friendships strengthen as they enjoy future camps and Novi Most activities.”*

Sometimes there are little moments that crystallise a point of progress. For Matt, from our Jajce team, one of these came when parking the kombi after driving young people to the camp site in Jajce for a barbecue. *“I got out of the kombi and I was parked at the end of a long line of kombis that where all here because of the Novi Most teenagers gathering. It really hit me that it was just a year ago when we had all agreed to have a renewed focus of work with 10-14 year-olds. Now it's taken this many vehicles to gather everyone together for a day.”*



You can't make out their faces but, trust us, they're smiling!

The Mills are one of the “must-see” sights in Jajce...so we saw them!



A river jumping Ivica proves that he's still got the moves!



BEING TOGETHER IN PICTURES!

Spring has been cold and rainy in Jajce this year, but the Teen Day was a rare hot and sunny one. One of the activities was a photo treasure hunt around the Old Town. Above are some of the pictures from the winning team, led by Indira. Most of them had come with her from Mostar and she gave us a summary of their feedback.

“The young people from Mostar really enjoyed it, they say that they liked being able to spend time with teenagers from other locations. They weren't really enthusiastic about running around the city in that heat, but they enjoyed it while we were at the camp. The barbecue and togetherness; they played football and volleyball together. The only thing they didn't like was that it lasted a short time...they said the time it went by so fast!”





BUILDING TOWARDS A BIG SUMMER OF CAMPS!

We know there is a lot of excitement for this summer, many of our young people have been asking about camps for months now. Pray for them, and for all the young people who will be at camps this summer. We want to see them all having a positive experience that helps them make new friends and to get more connected to everything we are doing.

The Novi Most team in BiH plays a big part in helping make ECBiH camps at Emek Beraka possible each year and, on the practical side, it is really encouraging for us to see the progress in the development of the campsite. The Church in Bosnia and Herzegovina has seen amazing financial provision for this project and it is wonderful to witness dreams and ideas that have been talked about for years becoming a reality before our eyes.

You can follow developments in the building work at Emek Beraka and updates from all the summer camps at facebook.com/EmekBeraka

It is important to lay good foundations and this building project is itself built on the foundation of 25 years of summer camps.



STILL PRAYING TOGETHER

The Year of Prayer for BiH continues to gather believers around the country for monthly prayer gatherings in different towns and cities. In March the gathering was in the church in Jajce. More than 30 people crammed into the church building to pray and worship, before breaking into smaller groups to focus on different aspects of the churches outreach and to prayer walk around the town. At the end of June there will be a day of prayer at Emek Beraka.

More information about the Year of Prayer at ecbih.org

FIRST/LAST CONCERT!

The beginning of May saw the Novi Most Jajce summer concert happen – on a very rainy day! It was a bittersweet event as one of Rowan's violin students played his last concert with us before graduating high-school. However both Budo and Matt had new students playing at our concert for the first time. It was great to see nerves conquered and pieces played with confidence. There were lots of happy parents and the team are grateful for the opportunity to be able to provide such a positive experience for their students.

NOVI MOST IN THE UK

In the middle of May most of the Novi Most team was in the UK for a couple of days meeting together with our Trustees. It was also a time for the team to visit a few churches to talk about the work we do. Thanks to everyone who played a part in this trip.



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