

The McCollum Family

From **A**merica to **Z**agreb

Dear Friends,

We praise God for His mighty power and His gentle working in our lives. Last fall we began prayerfully contemplating a new role in God's kingdom. We desire, above all, to honor and glorify God while not wasting our lives that He has given us.

We had the opportunity to meet and cultivate a relationship with Steve and Jenny Meeker, missionaries to Croatia, while they were in Minnesota on home service. We began to feel that God was calling us to minister to the Croatian people by becoming missionaries with SEND International. Our goal is to serve God in a camping ministry already underway in Severin na Kupi, near Zagreb. The objective of this ministry is to expose children, young people, and families to a biblical world-view and to the message of the Gospel. This is done by providing a place where they can spend time away from the routines of daily life in order to hear and obey the truth of God's word. A leadership program for training and team building for lay leadership and ministry teams is also being developed. In addition, we intend to be involved in a local Evangelical Christian Church in Zagreb.

We have been pursuing this opportunity since early January. We have applied for missionary service with SEND International and have reached *Approved Candidate* status. SEND has invited us to attend missionary orientation in January. We are both taking classes through Moody Bible Institute, utilizing their distance education program. We have attended a Baptist General Conference missionary assessment and have received a conditional recommendation. The main condition of this recommendation is that we take a "vision trip" to Croatia to witness the work God is doing there and understand more deeply our role in this work.

We plan to take that vision trip during the latter part of October. In Croatia we will:

- See the camp in Severin na Kupi.
- Visit the city of Zagreb where we will live.
- Visit a Croatian church.
- Meet Croatians with whom we will be serving.
- Observe everyday life while we stay in the home of Croatian missionaries.

Our prayer needs are:

- A greater sense of our part in God's work in Croatia.
- Protection for our children while we are away for the vision trip.
- Safe travel.

In addition to prayer, we also need financial support to help us fund this vision trip. The approximate cost for the trip to Croatia for the two of us is \$3000. Any additional support that is raised will go toward our orientation in January. The children will also be involved in the orientation as they are preparing to embark on a new culture and adventure!

Only 0.18% of Croatians know Jesus Christ as their personal savior. We are excited to become part of the ministry that God has begun with the Croatian people. Would you consider partnering with us in prayer, financial support or both? If you feel led to financially support this ministry, your tax-deductible gift should be made out to SEND International and mailed to us at:

Michael and Brenda McCollum
607 13th Avenue North
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Thank you for prayerfully considering this.

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.
1 Corinthians 2:2

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For more information about SEND in Croatia, please visit www.send.org/croatia.

Please contact us with questions or comments. Here is how you can reach us:

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God's blessings to you,

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20