



# TEP Children's Ministries News

September 2017

Dear Friends,

As you can see by the really large newsletter before you there is a lot going on in the Adriatic Union when it comes to children. Some of the ideas may encourage you to start something in your local church. This is why it is so important to share with one another what is going on.

When you look at families in society today so much of what they do revolves around the children. Some calendars are pretty full. So parents are willing to bring their kids to things which they enjoy and the church should make use of this knowledge.

So as you enjoy this newsletter ask yourself this: Is this something we could do in our local church? Would this programme work in our local setting?

May God bless you as you read and are encouraged and may the Holy Spirit impress on you something you could be doing to reach your local community for Christ.

Blessings,

*Clair*



# TED Children's Ministries News

## NEWS FROM THE ADRIATIC UNION

Slobodan Bobo Marčeta, Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries and Pathfinders

### CHILDREN'S TEACHERS SEMINAR

In order to train teachers to work with children in our local churches, every second year we organize a professional training in a hotel in Crikvenica. The venue is at the seaside, and its owners are Christians. This year the Children Teachers seminar was organized from 31st March to 2nd April and there were present more than 100 teachers from all over the Adriatic Union. We invited special guests, Clair Sanches (TED Children's Ministries Director) and Linda Koh (GC Children's Ministries Director). During this weekend we trained teachers through seminars, workshops and presentations, equipping them for quality work with children, and also strengthening their spirituality. The topics for training were very important for our churches and some of the topics were: ministry to children with special needs, preventing depression with children, preparing our children for baptism and witnessing, creative ways for telling Bible Stories etc. We received great blessings from the weekend programme and we hope that this will greatly help to work with children in our local churches and preparing them for the Kingdom of God.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN ALBANIA

In Albania we have organized a Vacation Bible School this summer so that our little ones and their friends can know more about Jesus and have a deeper relationship with Him as their best friend. The Vacation Bible School was held during the month of July in the cities of Tirana and Korca and children were full of enthusiasm. Children had the opportunity to learn from the Bible, create crafts and play different games outdoors. Volunteers from Australia and Brazil joined efforts with our local churches to develop a beautiful programme. The churches of Tirana Central, Tirana East and Korca went out to the neighbourhood to distribute invitation leaflets, which many happily accepted promising to attend the programmes. The attendance surpassed our expectations! The first day we had a "sea of children" flooding the facilities of the ADRA compound! We had an average of over 200 children attending our summer schools this year. The staff had to reorganize into rotating working groups to be able to supply the large number of our little visitors. A little girl said: "I wish we could have Vacation schools all year!" Needless to say, the staff invited them to join the regular meetings in our different churches. We thank God for the enormous blessings!



## TED Children's Ministries News



### SLATINAFEST 2017

In order to develop musical creativity of our children, every year we have SlatinaFEST, a gospel music festival where the children participate in songs, plays, and musicals - praising the Lord, and sending a strong message to the audience. This year we held the 18th SlatinaFEST which was the special one because our SlatinaFEST "reached adulthood" so we had a special programme for that occasion. This year the special guest of the Festival was pastor Saustin Mfune who is currently serving as the Associate Director of Children's Ministries at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. This year there were about 250 children and adults not only from Croatia, but also from the surrounding countries. We remembered the time when SlatinaFEST started, remembered some old songs and had a special cake for that occasion.

The Festival started on Friday night with an instrumental concert, followed by worship on Sabbath morning where pastor Saustin shared from the Word of God adapted to children's level and with his singing making the programme special. On Sabbath afternoon there was another concert where children were singing and worshiping God. On Sunday morning pastor Saustin held a seminar for children's teachers from the nearby areas. Every SlatinaFEST is also a humanitarian event and this year the fund raising was for the new Music School that will be build in Slatina town, where the SlatinaFEST is held every year. It brings us delight to see children and adults enjoying the sermons, the fellowship, and children's performance, and we hope this event will develop the talents of our children and encourage them to serve God with their talents.



# TEO Children's Ministries News



## FIRST CAMP IN VELEBIT

At the end of June we held our national Pathfinder Camp that is called First Camp. In the beginning of our Pathfinders in Croatia that was a first camp in the year so we called it First Camp – and that name remained.

This year the location of our camp was a little place in the foothill of the big mountain Velebit. There was beautiful nature, plenty of possibilities for games, activities and even for adventure. I can, with pleasure, say that we used all of that.

The Pathfinders, big and small, all have opportunity to learn some new skills, to play, have fellowship and show their new skills in Pathfinder's competitions. We also prepared a mountain adventure. The smaller Pathfinders went to one day trip where they hiked to one mountain top and that was for them a real challenge and adventure. And those who were 12 + we took to a very beautiful and challenging part of Velebit where we overnight in the mountain shelter in the middle of the mountain.



There were more that 50 of us on the First Camp this year and we are very glad that there were also about 10 children who were not a members of the Adventist Church or Pathfinders. A special encouragement for us is that those 10 continued to come to our regular Pathfinder meetings and activities and they are very enthusiastic.

Praise God for all of that! Big Pathfinder greetings from Croatia!



# TEC Children's Ministries News

## CHILDREN FOR CHILDREN

This year in Ljubljana we decided to launch a project "Children for children" of south Sudan. We wanted to help those in need so we organised a very diverse concert with children, youth and adults performing from all around Slovenia. The crowd was very pleased with our performances and they donated with an open heart. We gathered enough money for 1512 meals for the children of south Sudan. We were overjoyed with the results of our concert. But we were not done yet. We inspired our brothers and sisters in Ptuj and they organised a similar concert later this year. They also had a lovely experience and we were glad that we made an example and inspired others.



## PATHFINDER'S CAMP IN SLOVENIA

Slovenian Pathfinders organized annual Pathfinder's camp in Jezersko (in Camping Šenkova domačija) for children of age 6 to 15 years. The camp took place from 9th to 16th July 2017. The programme was pretty much the same as other pathfinder's camps: swimming, supping, climbing, hiking, horse riding, sport's games, creative workshops and workshops on pathfinder's skills, singing songs, fellowship at the camp fire... The guiding line was: Live your dreams! Children listened every evening to the stories of the patriarch Joseph and learned from him how to live their own dreams: how to meet the challenges in the childhood, how to be persistent, responsible, caring, how to trust God, how to forgive...

The camp was unique, statistics show that of the 60 children 59% were not from Adventist families and 40% of children present on the camp were from a mission project of a local church in Ptuj which focuses mainly on children. The Pathfinder camp was very inspiring for all children present and we hope that in the future the statistics of pathfinder camp can be even more unique.

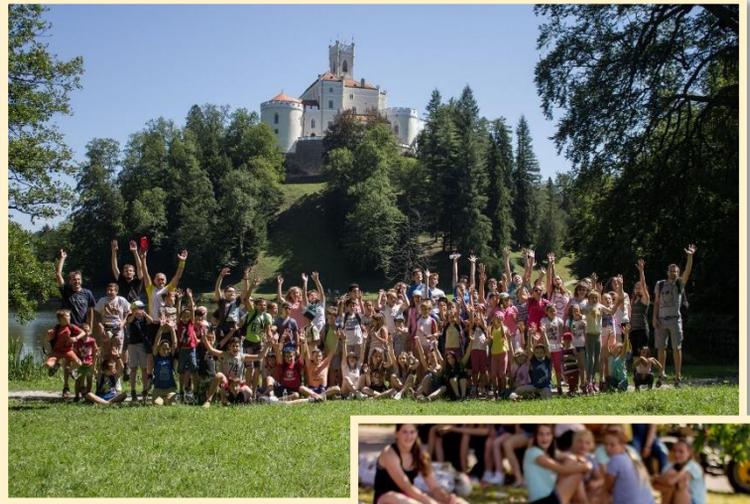
*Nataša Kostanjevec*

# TEC Children's Ministries News

## SUMMER BIBLE SCHOOL IN MARUSEVEC

As we have it every year this year we also had Summer Bible School for children in Maruševec (Adriatic Union College) from 9th to 15th of July. This year there were more than 80 participants between 7 and 15. Every day children had some biblical classes, sport activities (baseball, water slide), they sang and prepared for the special Sabbath programme and in the evening they had worship. On Wednesday they went on a trip to the nearby old castle Trakošćan that is very nice and is surrounded with wonderful lakes. In the evening they had a special surprise programme that was a puppet show with spiritual message.

On Sabbath when the parents came to pick up their children the special Sabbath programme was performed by children who had they prepared all week long. The programme was great and the participants but also the parents, grandparents and other guest were very pleased with it. We believe this Summer Bible School is a great way to connect our children with Jesus Christ in a creative way and show them that the surrounding nature wonderfully shows that God cares.



# TEC Children's Ministries News



## SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

With intention to promote the Adriatic Union College in Maruševec, and to offer children and young people quality musical education from professional music pedagogues, from 20th to 25th of August held the 3rd Summer Music Camp in Maruševec. This is the summer school of different instruments and music theory where the music school students have opportunity to strengthen their music knowledge and have professional instructions from quality teachers. The idea of Summer Music Camp was born among parents and teachers of Children Sabbath School in cooperation with music pedagogues who are members of the Seventh-day Adventist church. This year there were 96 participants on this camp from 6 different countries and all of them enjoyed delicious food, games, performances, fellowship and professional improvement in music during these days. There were 8 different workshops from: accordion, violin, piano, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, solfeggio and harmony. In the morning and afternoon there were individual classes and in the evening the attendees made music together, play sport and games and organized concerts. As it is every year the Summer Music Camp ends with the nice concert where there came lot of parents, relatives and friends of the participants.

We are glad that through this project we could reach more than 400 people who are included in this project through their children or students. This model of cooperation did not just influence the musical skills of children and young people but also connects people to the church raising their interest for spirituality and healthy lifestyle and showing them God's love and care. We hope this project will grow and reach the hearts of lot of children and parents who never heard before of Jesus and his love.



# TEĎ Children's Ministries News



## PUPPET THEATRE

Ružica and Marijan Šporčić started the Puppet Theatre „Ahaaa!“ in 1989 in Stuttgart. During the war in Croatia they performed a lot of Christian plays in German and Croatian language in Germany and Austria where the interest for such a plays was very big. After the war in 1994. they moved to Croatia and encouraged with such a missionary experience in Germany and Austria they decided to continue with that work in their homeland. So they built a stationary Puppet Theatre in Legrad but due to some human envy, nonchalance and human destruction that project couldn't be realized fully. In 2010 they started a Christian association „Spiritual impulse“ that among other things tried to continue with children evangelistic programme through Puppet Theatre. They are making their own theatrical pieces, musical pieces, puppets and the backdrops and with help from young musicians from Varaždin for the music arrangements. They would like to relay the baton of Puppet work to the younger Christian generation. Recently they connected with the Adriatic Union College in Maruševac and found friends and good associates so the Puppet Theatre „Ahaaa!“ found an ultimate domicil there.

Until now they had two shows in Maruševac – one for the children in Maruševac and surrounding areas and one for the children who were in Maruševac on the Summer Bible School. The shows try to tell some Bible truths through the fable so that children and adults also can understand easily the moral message. Until now there are 15 shows and they hope they will make some new shows also. We hope the great cooperation among them and Maruševac will continue in the future and the Good News among children will be spread.



# TEO Children's Ministries News

## PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN IN PTUJ

As the church of Ptuj moved in 2009 to another place they started the same year with »children's weeks« - workshop for children at the end of summer holidays. Through various activities such as: being an Indian, pirate, Viking... the neighbourhood's children learned the Christian values. As the number of children rose up year by year and we realised that the children would like to hang out more than once a year, the church started to use the pathfinder curriculum to work with them. Today there are around 40 registered Pathfinders in Ptuj (but only one of them is from an Adventist family). Children under 10 years meet weekly at so called Pathfinder's Club (which is scheduled at the same time as the children Sabbath school). The children learn pathfinder's skills, participate at creative workshops and learn the Christian values through Bible stories. They also meet once a month to sleep over in the church and to have the activities for a whole weekend. Older children meet once a month for the whole weekend (they sleep over in church as well), the eldest among them meet an extra time once a month in so called chat-room where they study the Bible. From this last group we already have new pathfinder leaders.

This year's children's week moto was »Exploring Professions«. It was held from 27th to 31st of August 2017. Children had the opportunity to explore the professions such as baker, forester, decoration stylist, chemist, athlete, rescue dog trainer, pilot, restaurant manager in a hotel, humanitarian worker. On the mornings and evening they learned what the Bible says about the attitude to work and which values we have to develop more. All this was based on the Biblical story of Daniel. There were entertainment activities as well, such as summer sledding, swimming, water gliding, flying with sport's aeroplanes,

As the new school year begins, we will continue with pathfinder club, pathfinder weekends and with a lot of new pathfinders.



## TEO Children's Ministries News



### MESSY CHURCH IN PULA

Is there anything better for kids and their parents on Sabbaths afternoon than the Messy Church? Hardly! This project is one of the best projects for your church if you wish to keep your church young, active and reaching families - still cores of our society. So, what it's all about? As first, it's of course about Bible and it's meaningful stories. Secondly, it's about being together. Not only with our church members, but mainly to "force" fathers and mothers to spend these two or three hours with their child in the middle of the busy world we live in.

What the meeting looks like? Simply messy! Don't worry, even most suspicious church members accepted it after a while... The programme consists of three parts. First, there is Bible lesson which is well prepared and presented with multimedia, relevant stories, and even performances sometimes. During this part, kids are usually sitting on the floor on cushions or in the circle, dancing, jumping, listening, learning, singing and praising our Lord. In the meantime, parents are in the background watching all the programme and participate themselves.

After that, we are moving to the next room where we have five to seven workshops connected with the previous story. Parents and kids can make a real slingshot there and feel the story of David and Goliath - and of course much, much more. Every workshop has it's own story which is told by the leader. Everything that child produces can be taken home. After workshops there is a "theme dinner" where all participants can experience healthy and tasty food, which is theme-shaped in so many different colours, shapes and positions.

We encourage you to try this at your church. This programme reaches families outside church, it keeps our children within the church, it helps our church members to be young and helpful, and it connects people with Bible very vividly. We started it with Clair Sanches whose rich experience and care made it possible. Now, we are fourth year in it, and if you ask any of our church members about it, you would have been told that this programme is one of the best things that happened to our church last few years.



## TEC Children's Ministries News



### MESSY CHURCH IN MARIBOR

Messy Church came alive in Slovenia, Maribor in the fall in 2013. Since then we meet every other Saturday monthly and this is the time children eagerly await.

Our meetings are composed in three parts:

- creative workshops,
- an interactive work in which the theme of the meeting is recreated in a picturesque way,
- healthy and themed meal.

Our meetings are usually visited by Adventists and non-Adventists with their parents and friends. We also have a webpage and we do advertise on Facebook page. The number of volunteers varies but God provides. We hope to soon grow in numbers.



### MESSY CHURCH IN ALBANIA

When talking about children, we could safely say that they are the thermometer that measures the future of our churches. The Messy Church programme is one of the main activities in our Mission field that continually brings joy to our children in the city of Durres. They learn more about Jesus through the combination of activities, i.e. crafts, songs, testimonies, Bible Stories, plays, quizzes and of course the food time. This year in one of our programmes, Libia's grandma couldn't confirm her attendance as she was not feeling well due to her advance age; however, she made her best effort and came to the event, even invited a neighbour. She said: "I cannot keep this just for me and my kid, I want my friends also to enjoy this nice activity." Once in church, little Libia ran to greet everyone, and to ask the programme coordinator if she could participate in the programme. This time Libia was not just enjoying the activities, but she was also being part of the programme! It is our prayer that new contacts to get to know Jesus better, and to become citizens of His kingdom; this is our wish and prayer.



# TED Children's Ministries News



## MATERIAL FOR CHILDREN

Every year our publishing house publish some books and materials for children. This year they published four different hand-illustrated postcards for children that they can colour and personalize. They also made pendant and magnets with appropriate Bible verses and illustrations for children. There are also four different Bible based puzzles for children: David and Goliath, Noah's incredible boat, Jesus is born and Jesus calms the storm. The publishing house will continue to publish materials for children so that they could be attracted to Bible stories and be reminded on God's love toward them.

