

Children's Ministries

NEWS FROM THE ADRIATIC UNION

Jovan Radovanov, Children's Ministries Director

Meet the new Children's Ministries director at the Adriatic Union - Jovan Radovanov

He has been married for 12 years, his wife is Christiane Anna. They have two kids: a daughter - Johanna Nada who is two and a half and a baby boy - Jan Nikola who is 7 months old.



He started this April, fairly new at the children ministries department.

The biggest challenge for him is multitasking with departments that he is in charge of.

The biggest joy in his work is seeing happy faces of children, youth and their parents while worshipping our Heavenly Father.

His favourite Bible text is Isaiah 40:31:

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint”.
(New International Version)

We wish him God's richest blessings in his work for children.

First Camp 2018, Karlovac area

From the 22nd to 25th June 2018, the traditional pathfinder's camporee First Camp was held. The event gathered together pathfinders from all over the country. Although it was raining at the beginning, later on it got better so we could continue with planned activities: Bonfire talk, devotionals, singing, hiking, walking in the nature. We also did attend different workshops with instructions how to do pathfinders marks, building shelters, etc.



We had even more fun this year: rowing kayaks in the nearby river and also jumping in the river from the tree, using a rope. Children as well as the adults learnt to cooperate, take care of each other and develop positive habits. It was yet another successful First Camp and our pathfinders are already looking forward to the next one.



Bible Summer Camp 2018

Like previous years, we had the Bible Summer Camp in Marusevec (Adriatic Union College). It was held from the 8th to 14th of July. Participants were kids from 7 to 15. The Camp has attracted many of our children.

They have enjoyed every day by doing different activities that brought them closer to God and each other.

Every day they had opportunity to study the Bible, attend creative workshops, treasure hunt, bible quiz and do various sport activities, water slide, baseball, to name a few.

They have prepared diligently a special Sabbath programme and they had evening worships every day.

The special day was on Wednesday, when we had an excursion to Karlovac and a visit to "Aquatika" aquarium as well as the Ozalj Castle.





Children have put an extra effort in organizing the Sabbath worship. Everybody did an excellent job in doing so and the parents were very happy witnessing it. As with every ending, the children were very sad to leave but the comforting idea is that they will see each other again next year.

Summer Music School

It was the 4th year since we started organising the summer music school on campus of Adriatic Union College in Marusevec. This year the event attracted around 100 participants and music teachers, mostly non-Adventists. During that 5 days, the participants had taken part in different workshops, individual classes and at the end they formed the orchestra comprised of every student and teacher present. Plenty of social and interactive music games were organized. The instruments represented were the following: piano, accordion, violin, saxophone, clarinet, flute, horn, trumpet. On top of that, classes in Solfeggio and harmony were provided. During the 5 days of its duration, 3 concerts were organized, in which the final one we had attendance of 250 parents, friends and teachers. After the concert, reception was organized where they had another opportunity to encourage each other and to exchange the experiences. They left the school with the desire to come again next year.





These couple of days is always a special experience for all participants. We believe that in this way we offer an opportunity for non-Adventists to get to know each other in a friendly but professional environment. They come in contact with biblical believes and we have plenty of opportunities for witnessing. We believe that God leads us and uses us that through this project. We touched many hearts who were involved in the Summer Music School. It is our task to be ambassadors for God's kingdom.

Messy Church in Pula

Pula Messy Church Project is still going very well in Pula. It gathers children, church members, parents, visitors, and youth all together - all around the theme of Jesus Christ. More than 50 children of our church friends went through it. Messy Church is about:

1. Bible - through songs and stories,
2. about creativity and parenting - through workshops and games,
3. about friendship - through common meals and talk.

These three parts are something that every child can expect each meeting once a month in this church happening. Once involved, children can hardly wait for another Messy Church! It is also good piece of work for church itself! Young and old church members, who, instead of eventual complaining or arguing, they are coming together in Christian unity with one goal - to present Jesus Christ in a new, creative, understandable, and profound way!



SlatinaFEST 2018

26th of June 2018. In Slatina, the 19th festival of spiritual music for kids has taken place. This year, all songs prepared by children were presented during the morning worship on Sabbath. Besides, the visitors were able to hear several interesting messages with a topic about physical and spiritual health such as importance of physical activities, dangers of addictions and smoking, etc. Because the whole event was focused on health, the time after the lunch was dedicated meeting people in the park and presenting special musical programme in order to get the attention of the inhabitants of Slatina. Special stands with the 8 factors of health according to the New Start programmes were presented: food, physical activities, water, sun, trust, air, rest and temperance.



The citizens were informed about theory but also they were given opportunities to check their blood pressure, blood sugar level as well as their weight. Great help in doing so came from pupils in our medical school in Marusevec. Other sport activities and creative workshops were also represented, like a relaxing shoulder massage. The special tone of this Health Expo was given by singers and players that performed Christian songs. We firmly believe that this programme was a blessing for the inhabitants of Slatina but also encouragement for everybody that took part in its organization.



Relay Time travel

Relay Café in our church in Daruvar is taking place in the last year and a half. We had many children taking part in it, so we decided to organize a so-called Relay Time Travel: Let's sail together with Noah through the great flood. It was a 7 days event during the summer. More than 30 kids took part in different games, workshops, costume making and listening to the biblical account of faithful Noah. Everyday we had a different part of biblical flood story and the crowning moment took place on the Sabbath afternoon where children had a drama presenting the whole story. After that, the exhibition of all art pieces made by kids took place. The last day, an excursion to the Zagreb city zoo for all participants was a reward for all efforts that children and their parents put into this creative event.



This project was realised with great help from the TED as a mission project, the team of organizers would like to say big thank you for their support. It was real blessing for everybody that took part in it. We believe that the seed planted in children's hearts sprout in the future and that our efforts will be rewarded.



Resources for Children in Croatian language

The Croatian Publishing house Znaci Vremena (Signs of the times) published several books and picture books for kids: 100 creative ideas for prayer for kids, Book about Moses and God's people, Jesus and the main events from his life, Joseph, Noah and other heroes from the Bible. Beside this, picture book about creation, miracles of Jesus, that show colour only if one puts the book in water. We believe that these books and materials will serve as blessings for our children and they will use them to connect with the Bible and the God of Bible.



Adventist Kindergarten opens its door in Albania

It is with great joy and gratitude to God that ADRA Albania and the Adventist Church have inaugurated the first Adventist educational institution in the country after the church was officially established in 1994. On the 3rd of September the first Adventist Kindergarten opened its doors to the children of the community where children can receive a holistic teaching with a solid Christian foundation.

Camping of Slovene pathfinders: »I can move mountains!«

»We are all heroes! We can move mountains!« almost hundred voices shouted this at this year's camp. The adventurers and pathfinders from every corner of the country gathered the first week of July in Nazarje, in the Upper Savinja Valley, 70 kilometres from Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia.

At the camp for children aged from 4 to 15 years, there was a varied programme: swimming, climbing, hiking, sports games, night watch of the flag, creative workshops and workshops for honour badges, singing and camp fires. We climbed the mountains and indoor climbing walls, had a picnic with cows in the pasture and swam with fish in the river Savinja. We explored the nearby forest where we picked berries, mushrooms and collected wood for the campfires. We learnt how to sew and build a hotel for insects, even though the smallest haven't even held a hammer before. We braided hair, made bracelets and friendships.



The main theme of the camp was also extremely interesting: I can move mountains. We met the biblical heroes and heroes of today's time. Each evening at the campfire below the starry summer sky, we listened to the stories of the lives of Giants of Faith: Moses, Enoch, Gideon, Jacob, Noah, Sarah and Abraham. Regardless of the challenges ahead, we learnt that we can overcome them because we have God on our side who can help us move the mountains if necessary.

Motivated and synchronized team of leaders + excellent cooks who prepared the vegetarian feasts every day + imaginative, playful children who enjoyed new adventures, new friendships and incredibly beautiful nature = a recipe for success!



Children's Week as the last hurrah at the end of summer

With tradition of a decade, the last week in August is reserved for traditional Children's Week in Ptuj, the oldest recorded city in Slovenia, situated at the north-eastern part of the country, 130 kilometres from the capital city Ljubljana. The camp welcomed nearly 60 children this year, of which the majority were from non-Adventist families.

The activities on the site of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Ptuj were carried out for the tenth consecutive year, the third year in the form of a whole week camp, not just afternoon activities.

The main theme of the camp, prepared by Pathfinders club Slovenia and ADRA Slovenia, was water and inequality. Water is not only a source of life but also a source of children's joy, apparently. Through sports, arts, educational, scientific and creative workshops and activities, children aged 4 to 15 learnt about freshwater and salty water, standing and running water, water in various aggregate states and inequalities caused by its shortage and pollution.

We took part in various sports such as wakeboarding, golf and football. We lost and found ourselves in 32,702 square meters of a corn maze. This is the first time that part of the activities took place outside Ptuj and its surroundings, since the pathfinders went to the Slovene seaside for two days, where we were swimming, snorkelling and sunbathing, while the oldest ones were diving with oxygen bombs, also getting to know the Slovenian underwater world.

Through the motivational stories of young heroes who have changed the world, even though they are just kids, we have analysed the world around us - the problems we encounter, the solutions we have, and how each of us will change ourselves and with small changes also our communities and the small part of the world we live in.

Patricija Vrtič



NEWS FROM THE SWEDISH UNION OF CHURCHES CONFERENCE

Karolina Poland, Children's Ministries Director

Bäärnard in Israel

In September 2017 the pastors and departmental workers from the Swedish Union went to Israel for a week. As I packed, I decided to pack a puppet with me. On the trip I named him Bäärnard. Wherever we went, one of the pastors filmed Bäärnard. We filmed at the Western wall, in a cave in Bethlehem, at the gate where Stephen was stoned and many other places. These short films are now on our new Hope Channel Sweden page. <https://hopechannel.se/fler-filmer-med-baarnard/5708/2>

Bäärnard also took the time to interview some pastors about our 28 fundamental believes. This was an easy way to share with the children what we believe.



Bäärnard Podcast

Since we just started Hope Channel in Sweden we wanted to have Podcasts for the children there. Bäärnard and I are together reading through the gospel of Luke and Acts. Every morning there is a three minute long Podcast for families to listen to. Bäärnard is very good at asking questions about what we have read.

HallowTween

Every year in Sweden we arrange a long weekend for children aged 8-12 (tweens) about the time for Halloween. The purpose is to give the children something positive to do. Every year we pray for what we think God wants us to do. This year we went out in the city and did face paint, balloon animals, and gave out muffins. It is also the children who lead the Sabbath Service at the church where we stay. This year it was one of the children who did the preaching, which was very encouraging.



Camps

Every year we run three different camps for children.

The children's camp this year had the theme of secret agents. We were all looking for a cloth that Paul had touched and that had healing powers. Throughout the week we all followed Paul's journeys.

Pathfinder camp was a survival camp this year. It was very warm and sunny all week, which led to the fact that we were not allowed to have camp fires and cook outdoors. Everyone, including the chef, survived!

There are a lot of families who come to our family camps. This year was no exception. We did try something new this year, and that was to use a VBX (Vacation Bible Experience from North American Division). The families took care of their own children and went to the different activities. This gave the families more time to be together and was very much appreciated.



Leadership weekend 2018

Every other year the Swedish Union arranges a leadership weekend. This is a weekend for pastors, elders, deacons, treasurers and other leaders in the congregations.

The Swedish Union decided that the main topic for this year was going to be youth and children. Zlatko Musija (TED Youth leader) and Victor Marley (Norwegian Union President, former Youth leader) were invited as main speakers.

This weekend seemed to inspire many churches to let children and youth take a bigger part in their congregations. We pray that God will continue to let children and youth be active in different congregations around our country.



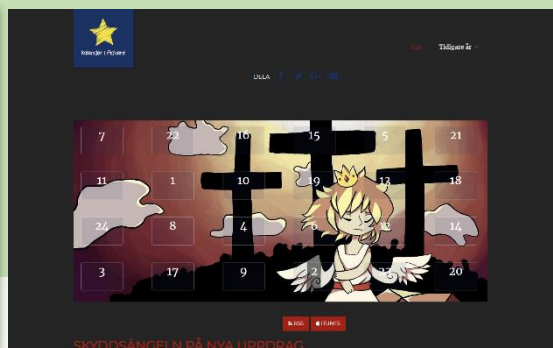
With Jesus in your heart

The Swedish Union has a theme this year called: With Jesus in your heart. The first Sabbath of every month is a theme Sabbath. There is a sermon outline and a children story. The Children's Ministry department also provides a booklet with crosswords, the Bible text, pictures and much more. Teenagers drew the pictures and did most of the work for this booklet, which has been fantastic.

Advent calendar

In Sweden in December every year there is an advent calendar for the children to follow on national TV and radio.

We would like our children to get the Christian perspective of advent (which is: that we wait for the Messiah to come). Therefore, we have a digital calendar that everyone can open daily on the internet.



2017 the calendar was the story of Jesus' life told by Jesus' guardian angel. It was a Podcast and every day had a colouring page for the children to do.

<https://kalenderiadvent.se/adventskalender-2017/1120/1>

NEW RESOURCES

TED news

Animated mission videos.

An exciting animated mission video is available each week for children. You can watch them or download them at MissionSpotlight.org or M360.tv/stories. Let the news out to your children's leaders and parents.



FAMILY PRAYER TIME: ON THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

By Lucy Moore

A Messy Mini Book about the ways in which families can learn to pray together.

This colourful, quirky and fun addition to BRF's Messy minibooks series is designed to encourage and guide families into a habit of prayer, individually and together.

Written in an interactive, user-friendly and jargon-free style, it offers simple prayers and addresses key questions such as 'Why should I pray?', 'Where should I pray?', 'How do I pray?' and 'What do I pray?'

Lucy Moore is the founder of Messy Church. She promotes Messy Church nationally and internationally through training and speaking events, and is the author of a number of books for BRF.