

News and Views

FROM PETER KUZMIC'S MINISTRY IN THE BALKANS

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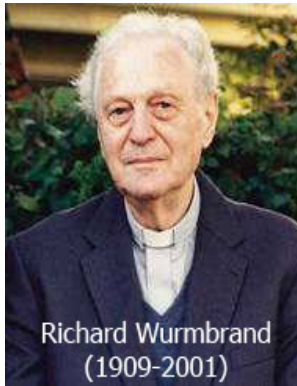
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*"And the things you have heard... entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."
- 2 Timothy 2:2*

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
- Matthew 25:40*

Pray for Persecuted Christians

"Our heroes are not with us because they are in prison," my friend Brother Andrew said at a conference at which both of us spoke to about ten thousand young Europeans. Did you pray for these suffering saints (along with hundreds of millions of Christians around the world) during the recent International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP)?



Richard Wurmbrand
(1909-2001)

I certainly did, remembering many, including the two saints pictured here. As a young minister I twice shared the platform with Richard Wurmbrand shortly after he was released following 14 year of horrendous suffering in Romanian prisons. Ivan Voronaev was used mightily in revival in the Soviet Union before he was imprisoned by Stalin and was martyred for his faith somewhere in Siberia. My spiritual mentor Ludvik Ullen spent 3.5 years in prison in former Yugoslavia where they twice tried to kill him because of his faith.

It also hit close to home. My own saintly father, Leopold Kuzmič, suffered immensely for his beliefs. I still remember when the Communist militia brutally broke into our home, verbally abused and physically mistreated him. They first searched our house for Bibles and then ransacked and sealed shut the church that my father had built with his own hands. They took him away and we wondered whether we would ever see him again. When he finally returned all

beaten up, he was under the order to appear every Sunday at 10:00 AM in the militia station. Two communist militiamen took him to a windowless room to 'play ball' with him, striking his head violently and kicking him across the room, while screaming, "Where is your God now? You see there is no god. We are gods and we'll kill you if you don't deny this Jesus and stop this subversive activity of preaching!" My father would come home, unable to chew his food or speak clearly because his face was so swollen. Yet, he would whisper with confidence, "I am so grateful that I just had the privilege to suffer for my Lord who died for me on the cross."

I have heard many similar testimonies of joy and strength in suffering from many saints in former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, China, Vietnam, Iran, and elsewhere.

Today hundreds of thousands of our brothers and sisters around the world are still persecuted because of the Gospel. Do not forget them! Write to me if you want to learn more about these suffering saints and their nations. Please pray for these heroes of faith and join me in advocating for their freedom.

Your partner,
in the Gospel,

Peter Kuzmic



PRAISE UPDATES

CONGRATULATIONS DR. ŠIMIĆ

Krešimir Šimić (left) recently received his PhD from the University of Zagreb. He teaches at ETS and the University of Osijek, serves as an associate pastor and national presbyter in the EC of Croatia and has authored several books. He represented the Evangelical Movement of Croatia at Capetown 2010.



YOUTH CAMPS BACK IN ORAHOVICA



After the prolonged reconstruction project, famous youth camps returned from the ETS campus back to their birthplace in Orahovica. Over 400 needy and excited children and youth mostly from Croatia but also from Hungary, Bosnia, Serbia and other nations were spiritually motivated and Biblically instructed (VBS type) this last summer. Powerful messages and workshops again changed lives every week. These still not completely finished facilities (help still needed!) will be better equipped to host camps, conferences and seminars throughout the year.

ETS WELL REPRESENTED AT LAUSANNE III

The Third Lausanne Congress on World-Evangelization was held in Cape Town in October. Over 4,000 carefully chosen Christian leaders from 198 nations consulted and prayed about the most challenging issues facing the global Church today and strategized how to bring Good News to our broken world with more credibility and efficiency.



Numerous ETS alumni represented their countries at this historic event. Dr. Kuzmić served as a senior statesman, member of the drafting committee for the final document and spoke in two sessions.

GlobalLink in Osijek

Just like hundreds of campuses all over the world, students, faculty and Christian leaders in Osijek benefitted from the rich contents of the conference through a GlobalLink. They listened to plenary speakers, discussed issues in small-groups and planned evangelism for their nations. Thank God for the miracle of modern-day communicative technology!

CHRISTIAN BOOK WEEK A SUCCESS

Reformation week in October was again a central event in Osijek. In addition to several public forums, the Christian Book Exhibition brought together all publishers from the area and attracted many visitors including classes (see photo) from public schools.



HELP BUILD LIBRARIES IN EASTERN-EUROPE



ETS is a pioneer in providing resources for the post-communist world, desperately needed for spiritual growth and leadership training. The needs and challenges are great!

In addition to the expansion of the ETS library, books and other resources are provided to other schools and learning centers across the region. Materials (books, magazines, journals, etc.) may be sent to: ETS/New Europe Vision, 130 Essex Street, South Hamilton, MA 01982.

PRAYER UPDATES

EARTHQUAKE HITS SERBIA

"I have never been as scared in my lifetime as the building was shaking, furniture thrown around, and walls cracking. Fortunately, I was able to lead my family to safety before we were injured."



Former Osijek student, pastor Aleksandar Vitakić, from KRALJEVO in southern Serbia made these comments the morning after an earthquake devastated his city and surrounding area in October. (You might remember from an earlier prayer alert that his church was fire-bombed a couple of years ago.) Another friend reports; "My house is a big mess. Walls are broken, the bathroom is shattered, and the house of my parents is destroyed. We hardly survived and two of our neighbors are dead."

Many were injured in this historic city, and more than more than 1,000 people lost their homes due to the destruction. Power outages, cut telephone lines and serious damage to the hospital complicated the matters for several days. Signal availability for most mobile phones is still not stable, which further complicates communications in a time of crisis. There has been major material destruction to other towns and surrounding villages. Several dozen smaller earthquakes followed and many people fled the city out of fear.

PLEASE PRAY:

1. For continued delivery of blankets, food, and provision of temporary shelters.
2. For funding and immediate reconstruction of many damaged facilities and homes before the harsh winter arrives.
3. For Pastor Vitakić and his team, as they minister to people who have experienced emotional scars and material damages.
4. For other ministers in Serbia as they meet human needs and preach the Gospel in their needy nation.

PRAY FOR RUSSIAN and other ORPHANS

"Russia is an orphan making factory", concluded Boris Altschuler—a leading Russian child welfare advocate. Of 28 million Russians under the age of 14, an estimated 4 million live in the streets or in orphanages and other not well cared for state—run facilities. Every year the orphan population increases by 120,000 children. In some other East European countries the situation is as desperate or worse.



Pray for Anita Deyneka, the retiring president of Russian Ministries and friend of NEV as she launches a new program called Home for Every Orphan. Pray also for orphans in other post-communist nations and for two orphanages in Croatia supported by NEV/Agape.

EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

This most strategic gathering, equipping leaders and coordinating efforts across the continent will meet again in May in Hungary. Well-informed European leader, Lindsey Brown (Int. Director of Lausanne) stated: "the Forum is the best initiative I have seen". We agree. Pray for speakers, participants and for the renewal of the continent.

CAN BOSNIA SURVIVE?

The future of Bosnia and Herzegovina is in question. Occasional violence and ethnic tensions continue while thousands of refugees are still not able to return to their homes. William Montgomery, the well-known U.S. ambassador to the region, received a lot of publicity stating that this nation has no future. Such alarming voices have lately become more frequent. Evangelical ministries bring hope and are rare bridge-builders between the Serb [Orthodox], Croat [Catholic] and Bosniak [Muslim] communities. Pray for unity, growth in democracy and for the Good News to transform this explosive and vulnerable nation.

NEWS UPDATES

2010 GRADUATION



36 students from several nations received their diplomas and degrees during the June ETS graduation. Dr. Corneliu Constantineanu, a graduate and recent dean was the commencement speaker. He has now become the president of a leading Romanian seminary in Bucharest.

MEET AN OUTSTANDING CROATIAN COUPLE



Ines Turinski recently married another first-rate student, Siniša Hamp. Ines was listed as one of the “100 best university students in Croatia” two years in a row. Both are 4.0 students and active in student ministries at the University. Siniša is also a gifted musician and local church worship leader. Both of them help other students by translating lectures from English into Croatian.

UNTIMELY DEATH



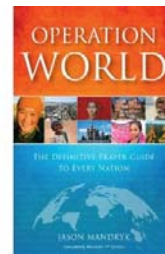
Dr. Davorin Peterlin died of a massive heart attack at the age of 51 just a week before the ETS graduation in June. Dr. Kuzmić said at his funeral: “his unexpected passing robbed him of a life full of anticipation, research and writing, teaching and mentoring. He was an effective leader, a constructive team player and a scholar who had the capacity to think critically and comparatively. The academic community at the Evangelical Theological Faculty will miss him greatly for we were all convinced that along with all of his many accomplishments his best work still lay ahead of him.”

EXECUTIVE DEAN VISITS U.S.

Marcel Macelaru, executive dean of ETS, PhD Oxford University visited the States for the first time this winter. He had the opportunity to meet with the NEV board and visit several colleges and universities.

FAMOUS OPERATION WORLD ABOUT ETS

Did you see the newest edition of the **must-read** Operation World? Note the entry: *The Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osijek, an international interdenominational school, is greatly impacting much of Central and Eastern Europe. Many fruitful ministries have been birthed out of it. Pray for the continued spiritual fruitfulness and theological health of faculty, students and graduates.*



STUDENT PROFILE: MUFID BEŠIĆ

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a vulnerable new post-communist nation-state. Did you know that this Muslim dominated war-torn country is considered to be one of the least evangelized nations of Europe? Graduates and students of ETS have planted many churches and alleviated human suffering. Mufid (Muslim background) is a first generation believer with a tremendous vision “to encourage and evangelize Bosnia...and be an example for my country”.



CAN YOU HELP THEM?



As you know, a once strong US dollar is now one of the weakest currencies in Europe. This is compounded by the recent economic crisis. On top of that, East European students have no access to loans, grants or scholarships like their western friends. They need your help!

Gifts to AGWM Account #232-9118 are needed and tax-deductible.