

April 2020

Grace, peace and power of our Jesus be with you! Thank you for your support and enthusiasm for what is being done in Zagreb and House of Hope. God knows how much I needed and how I value your encouragement, especially as we met severe local and political opposition.

I wanted you to know what happen this week - something no one could plan, except, God Himself. In the neighborhood of Gajnice, where the House of Hope, lives a man by the name OTTO (77). Now this man is a legend of this part of Zagreb. In his younger days, (during the communist era, particularly) he was considered to be the strongest man in the region (and I do not exaggerate!).

This is what one citizen wrote yesterday about OTTO:

'Dear children Otto is a neighborhood legend, until a few years ago he was a muscular voice of 130 kg, as strong as three normal men. If a forklift in the Unity company where he used to work, broke down, then they called Otto to move the forklift. He used to be an entertainer for the circus of Our Lady of Stenjevec, where he would literally on his back bend iron pipes traffic signs or rip police cuffs'.

He would work for police (in the ex- police station where the HofH is!): one week catching juvenile delinquents on the streets and bringing them into the police station and the next week, beat up police officers that he works with.

Why am I telling you all this? Now, a few weeks ago, in our neighborhood, one poor house burned to the ground, leaving its old owner and his 'girlfriend' (60) with nothing left. And because of COVID 19 and public restrictions, they were left alone and almost forgotten, until the puluc heard that the owner was no other then, the legend, OTTO, whom all the aeria knew and respect.

<https://www.dnevno.hr/vijesti/prica-koja-ce-vam-slomiti-srce-otto-je-u-pozaru-izgubio-sve-spa-va-u-rusevinama-svoje-spaljene-kuce-na-madracu-sa-smetlista-1449291/?fbclid=IwAR1AAqRf051HjA05tm8x2ubaNDcA4eJfRRRouVTd4LFY5MjARSr IVzKCkg>

Five people gather this past Monday to see how they could help him. Three of those five were, so far, the greatest opponents of our project and the church. One member of our church was their college in the days of his youth till his his conversion (1993), with them a hooligan in the aeria. He told them he is going to contact his pastor, (me) who will certainly help in this critical situation. And for sure, next day, Thursday morning we gather at the House of Hope, planning together immediate and future relief for OTTO. To shorten this story - as of yesterday - Otto and his girlfriend, are housed in the House of Hope as its first inhabitants! We made contract - offering shelter in the HofH for three months. Within this period the community of Gajnice are committing to rebuild his burned house and move Otto back to his previous place. When we did it and the news broke in public, the group listed all

things OTTO needed in the house of Hope - the list was put on social media and with in 48 hours - we had all items need to furnish the room and bathroom - and make it into a living space / little home.



'Let's help Otto' Otto was moved from his new habitat 'House of Hope' at 12.30 today. The citizens of Gajnica and the members of BC Malešnica, led by a group of 'lets help OTTO' furnished and equipped for him, in the 'House of Hope' building, a 20m2 space, bathroom / toilet, and collected everything necessary for his life and peace. At his 77 years of age, he lives with significantly impaired movement and signs of Parkinson's illness, unable to help himself. After 22.02. 2020, when his old house burned down, Otto was left with nothing! The 'Let's Help Otto' group from Gajnice is working on a more permanent housing solution for Otto, and till than he will be staying at 'Home Hope'.

All people of Gajnice turned 180 degree round regarding our church and our mission station - HofH. Whole area is talking about baptist church giving shelter to poor OTTO. Internet is burning with the happy news about OTTO and us.



OTTO MORNING AT 11.30 AM In front of his new HABITAT.

What a pleasure (such a pleasure is enough reward for all the hard and loving work of many) to watch a man who until yesterday was abandoned alone and in anxiety, and today sits in the sun in peace, satisfied, grateful and happy, knowing that there are people that care and genuinely love. Glory be to God in the highest, and to the people in the lowlands, whom He loves, PEACE!

BETTER OPENING OF THE HOUSE OF HOPE WE COULD NOT EVEN IMAGINE! GOD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS. GLORY BE TO HIS HOLY NAME!

CONCLUSION

HOUSE OF HOPE – Finishing phase / THE BUDGET

For the renovation of the HoFH – Urban Mission Center – the ministry platform of the Baptist Churches of Zagreb, Croatian Capital, up to date, God provided total 162.313,44 US\$. We do not stop to marvel at his provision and care! We are in the last face of finishing the renovation and start ministries of mercy for the community of cca 100 000 people living in the area of our Baptist Church Zagreb – West.

We need additional 43. 000 US\$ to finish and open the center. Would you please prayerfully consider to help us with one time gift toward finishing the renovation? In this way you are investing in the Gospel ministry of mercy for children, marriages, families, senior citizens and immigrants in city of Zagreb, Croatia. Here is the budget for the materials and work we need to complete our renovation project:

MATERIALS	
Doors (altogether (16)	US\$ 2250,00
Paint (wood / walls)	US\$ 700,00
Heating (whole house)	US\$ 8500,00
Floors - First level	US\$ 5000,00
Floors - Second level	US\$ 2500,00
Electricity: lights, lights switches and el. plugs, (both floors)	US\$ 4000,00
Air condition: 6 units	US\$ 2500,00
Bathrooms: 3 / Toilets: 5	
1. Ceramics	US\$ 2500,00
2. Toilet bowls, washbasins, bath tubs	US\$ 2000,00
Terrace and patio: Outside lights, grass and greenery, trees, stone tracks	US\$ 5000,00
Work (Note: some work will be will be donated service by local believers)	US\$ 8000,00
TOTAL	US\$ 42 950,00
NOTE: Furniture, equipment, opening and operating of HofH for the first 6 months – estimated cost cca 20.000,00 US\$. This amount is being raised additionally from the local believers and small Christian businesses.	