

Zagreb Baptist Church Builds a New Grocery Store after the Earthquake

(In cooperation with People International)

May 2021



Our American team began to arrive in Croatia. They are being housed in Bačuga

We inspected the location of the project noting about 10 cm of fresh concrete was laid on top of the old foundation. The concrete was rougher than we expected and wondered how to make it waterproof when the boards are placed on it.

It was explained to us that a form of tar paper will be burned on the foundation where the walls will go, making it smooth and waterproof.

Saturday May 22

The three Americans together with Mihal Kreko went to Baumax to buy supplies for the construction. The supplies include:

- 4 foot water level.
- Glue to use on the base boards
- A drill
- Heavy duty Nail gun (pneumatic hammer)
- Nails
- Screws
- Etc.

The last member of the American construction team arrived from the USA. Here are the members of the team:

- Mose Kaufman is the professional builder of homes in the USA. See: www.kaufmanbuilders.com
- Louie Matthews Jr has been on numerous construction teams in various parts of the world.
- Michael and Diana Johnson lived in Croatia back in the 1970's and served in the country from time to time in various capacities. They speak a fading Croatia to some degree.

We were informed that the first shipment of wood has arrived at the work site. Later as we got to Bačuga, we counted 112 boards 15 cm x 5 cm x 400. This was just the beginning of the wood needed.

Sunday May 23



The local workers in Bačuga put the tar down where the walls will go as a barrier between the concrete foundation and the wooden wall frames.

The did all of the outsides of the building plus one interior wall. They did not do this on one of the interior walls.

Monday May 24

7:00 AM The American team arrived at the work site. Main tasks included:

Measuring the base of all the walls and marking them "square," that is even when measured Criss crossed. As we expected the foundation and newer concrete is fairly square but not totally. In one or two places we had to bring the wall in a few centimeters in order to avoid having an overhang of the walls past the edge of the foundation..

Some of the team went across the street to get fresh and accurate measurements of the old doors and windows that will be used in the new building. We discovered that no two pieces have the same dimensions.

We laid out the measurements of the front wall so that the doors and windows look symmetric. The fact that each door and each window are different sizes, we had to adjust the distance between them so that the appearance from the front will be symmetrical.

At 8:45 Three local men joined us. We introduced ourselves to each other. They are Davor, Lazar and Daniel. We did not get their family names.

We needed electricity so Michael Johnson and Louie went to Zoran's home to ask if it is possible to get a generator and air compressor.

A short time later they were delivered along with 2 goats ("saw horses").

The local men put down the tar on the concrete for the last interior wall.

It began to rain and washed away most of our chalk lines where boards should go as a base on each wall. A set back.

Work was begun on building a template for the roof trusses needed for the back room. We started with these trusses because they will have the widest span and therefore the highest point of the roof. The front room will be at a slightly different angle in order to reach the same height as the roof on the back room. Louie led this aspect. It took quite a while to get it exactly right with all the angles and measurements. The loss of the chalk lines due to the rain, added to the challenge.

Mose took boards and placed them where the front wall will go. He measured off where each vertical stud will be attached. The 300 cm boards had not yet arrived so we could not begin to build the front wall frame.

Michael and Davor went into Petrinje to buy the spray against termites and other insects so that the foundational boards of the walls will not be damaged by them. We bought the chemical and a sprayer.

Diana bought food supplies for the team, especially for breakfast.

13:15 Zoran bought cevapcici for all of us for lunch. After Lunch we hoped the rest of the wood would arrive, but that did not happen until much later.

Lazar left for much of the afternoon, but returned to the job at 16:15

We cleaned the front slab so when the wood arrives it will be ready for framing.

We went ahead with the measurements of the front wall and part of the back wall as well as one interior wall.



At 16:15 or so a van arrived with OSB . We stacked it up in a good place. He also brought nails for the pneumatic hammer—2 sizes: 5 cm for the roof and tresses and 7 cm for the walls.

The template of the roof truss was completed. All measurements were accurate.

17:35 Since the wood we needed for framing the walls had not arrived, there was little more we could do. The American team left but the local fellows decided to stay until the truck arrived with the rest of the wood.

18:30 The American team went to supper at the restaurant that Mihal had arranged.

Around 19:30 the truck came with the major portion of the wood. It took until 8:30 to unload the wood. The three men, Lazar, Daniel and Davor together with the driver unloaded the wood along with several other local people.



At 20:45 we closed up everything as best we could and went home. Two of the three local men went for supper at the restaurant that Mihal organized. {Note: Lazar did not eat supper with us but went home to have supper with his family}.

Diana Johnson was our photographer throughout the week.

End of a productive day.

Written by J Michael Johnson

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