



## Sam Ward

Missionary Helper

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# GOD SAVE CROATIA

“... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”  
Mark 16.15

06/17/24

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings from beautiful Croatia!

Here I am again wishing I had a better report for everyone, but again I must tell you the truth.

The infection I have battled since Dec-Jan proved to once again be more resilient than all the antibiotics I have taken. I was re-admitted to the hospital in late April where I was again given intravenous antibiotics for a number of days.

In addition, the first surgery I had in March did indeed prove to be inadequate, so I had a much more invasive surgery on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. After that, I spent about eleven more days in the hospital on a wound vacuum machine and I have been under the surgeon's care as an outpatient ever since.

This latest hospital stay was 23 days long, bringing me to a grand total of 47 days in the hospital since late December. For someone who had not seen the inside of a hospital for 40 years, this has really been quite an adjustment. I promise you I never started out to create my own soap opera, but it is what it is.

As of now, I am recuperating from the surgery. (The incisions were left completely open to heal on their own, which surprises me.) In addition, I am still battling a persistent case of anemia, which has really zapped my energy level. I am working on that, hoping in the next month or so to see some significant progress. Please pray that I can overcome this and get back in the action in a big way.

In the mean time we continue to fill the Bible orders that come in via our website, and to supply the various groups around Croatia that pass out Bibles on the street. I simply have not had the energy to this point to do another major advertising push on the Free Bible website. I started out this year hoping and praying to send out 20,000 Bibles in 2024, after sending 14,000 in 2023. That certainly has changed because of all these medical issues. Sometimes the road we must walk is not the one we would choose for ourselves, but rather the road we are given. Right now, this time dealing with all these medical issues appears to be monumental, but I know, down the road when I look back on it in the years to come, it will seem like it was no big deal.

Also, I would ask that you continue to pray for our church in Varaždin, as we struggle in attendance. We recently counted up about 17 people that we have lost in recent years through death and other unfortunate circumstances beyond our control.

Thank you so very much for all your support, whether financial, or through prayer and encouragement. Without you, this would not be possible. Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing.