

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

I greet you with my beloved biblical blessing. *The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face towards you and give you peace.* (Num 6, 24-26)

As most of you already know, after a time of thinking and praying, in July of this year, in the 50<sup>th</sup> year of my life, I decided to leave my work at the Social Care Center of Daruvar, after having led it as the director for 20 years. Then, after I moved with my family to Daruvar, the place where we had worked for so many years already, a new Christian fellowship was established in our house. In this time there are 19 believers with the witness of being born again. My work at the Social Care Center has always been challenging, and I always wanted to do the best job possible. But in the meantime, the spiritual needs of the believers in the congregation continued to grow, as well as the need for time with friends who visited our congregation. Simply, in different ways I realized that God was calling me to take a new step, and in His grace I have decided to take it. *No-one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs - he wants to please his commanding officer.* (2 Tim 2, 4)

My dear friends and co-workers, Dick Fischer and Ralph Gatti, visited me this year and invited me to America, to visit churches and individual Christian groups to speak about my experiences, impressions, and opportunities as a full time worker in my

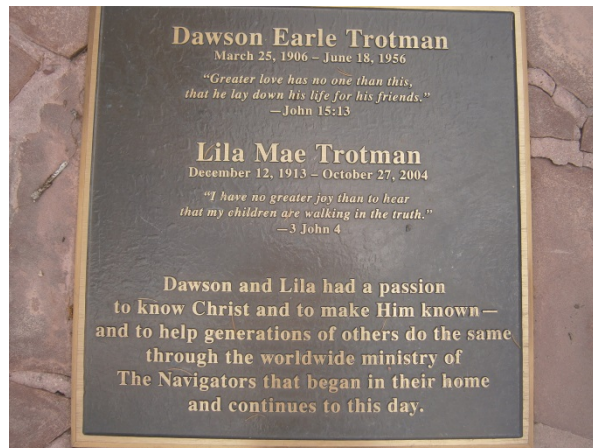
situation. Surely the 2 weeks of travelling (about 6500 km, by car) I will never forget. I have memories of the meetings with the brothers and sisters in Colorado Springs, Indianapolis, Akron and Wyckoff, New Jersey. It was a great satisfaction and blessing to meet them all and to share.

Our congregation in Daruvar is not formally registered. To function officially, we formed an NGO with the goal of promoting Christian culture. The core of our vision is to build up a new generation of believers who are not burdened by division of denominations, but who appreciate things such as: building up and developing personal studies, a sense of belonging to the church as a local congregation, sincere and humble love for friends who are yet non-believers. *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.* (2 Tim 2, 2)

For now we are renting a house which we use as a congregation for different purposes: the service on Sunday, a Bible study group on Wednesday, prayer meetings Friday, youth group on Saturday, etc.

Right now we have some friends who all show a sincere and deep interest in the gospel. We have prayed a lot for them and built bridges of sincere friendships. Most of these are young people.

Besides that, with the encouragement and help from missionary Dick Fischer, some months ago a small group was formed by our church (Damir, Helena, Marina, Daniela and



Colorado Springs: gravestone of Dawson i Lila Trotman, founder of the world mission organization, The Navigators

1). The goal of the group is to enable each to be able to offer individualized spiritual help to others (one to one), personal discipleship as the basic model of life in Christ... *so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.* (2 Tim 3, 17)

At the end of November, for the third year, our congregation is organizing what we call „Krist Dar 2013“, a public event consisting of various cultural, social, humanitarian and evangelistic activities. Through these we wish to help people in need, and mobilize our local community to become aware of and help them, and finally - through an evangelistic concert - to come closer to them all and witness about our Savior Jesus Christ.

Further, over the last two months, I encouraged our congregation to invite non-believer friends to their homes to introduce the Bible to them. This is quite a new step for most of the believers in our congregation. I believe this is an important step to give us a new passion to serve our community and an important model for our future work with people. But I am aware that this will take time and it requires developing new habits and a greater spiritual discipline.

So here are our immediate prayer needs<sup>1</sup>:

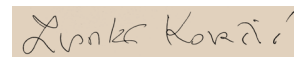
- to enable small groups to support personal discipleship,
- successful organization for our „Krist Dar 2013“ event
- to be able to establish new home Bible study groups (with our non-believer friends).

<sup>1</sup> I'll send new prayer requests in my upcoming letters.

Dear friends,

Thank you in advance for all your prayers and every other kind of help. Thanks also for taking time to read this, my first letter which I plan to send out every two months, or more frequently if needed. Naturally, if you have any questions, suggestions or ideas, please let me know. I want to receive your involvement as a contribution and blessing, for I sincerely wish, in partnership with you, to committedly and responsibly follow this vision<sup>2</sup> which God has put on my heart.

With you, in Christ,



Zvonko Kovacic



My family: Luka Ivan, Marica, David and I

<sup>2</sup>“Vision: Disciples” is what I had previously called “Vision: 110.” This is about the prompting, hope and faith that, in the years ahead of us, God will raise up and build up 100 believers and 10 leaders who deeply value and live out discipleship, in this area (the city of Daruvar and surroundings). The emphasis here is on giving rather than merely following (with its emphasis on receiving). *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* (Acts 20:35). Naturally, every result, whether “smaller” or “larger,” which comes about because of genuine and committed serving, we will receive with thanksgiving, aware of our total dependence on God’s will, grace and mercy. *“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.”* (1 Cor. 3:6) *“...apart from me you can do nothing.”* (John 15:5)