

“We joyfully proclaim the Good News of Jesus worldwide because inviting people to know Him is the most loving thing we can do.”

Throughout one remarkable week in Zagreb, Croatia, that mission came to life in ways both large and small.

Yet ZagrebFest was never simply a week-long event. It was the culmination of more than 18 months of partnership with local churches and leaders, building towards a city-wide opportunity to share the hope of Jesus.

Long before festival stages were erected, pastors from across Zagreb had begun meeting together to pray and rebuild relationships after years of division and isolation. Their commitment to pursue unity laid the foundation for everything that followed.



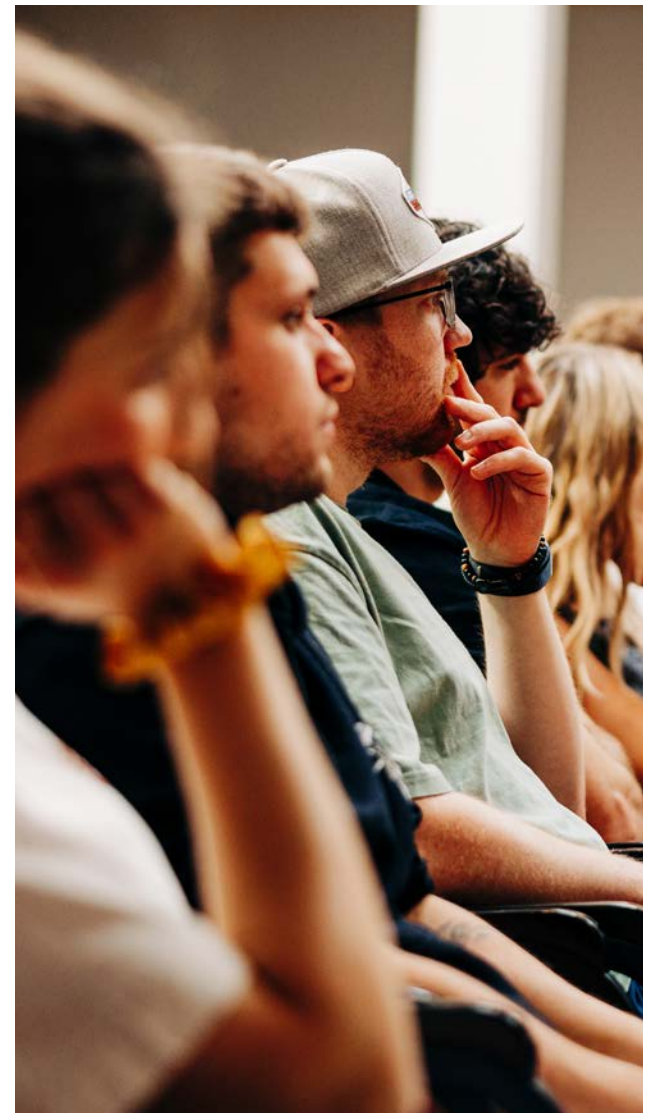
As preparations continued, that growing partnership became one of the most encouraging aspects of the campaign that we ran together. One leader reflected on the first evening of the festival week, “Even if you were to leave tonight, the most amazing work has already taken place.” Another spoke of seeing a level of unity not experienced for decades.

Again and again, leaders described this renewed sense of partnership as one of ZagrebFest’s greatest victories. Before crowds gathered or invitations were given, God was already strengthening His Church.

Even if you were to leave tonight, the most amazing work has already taken place.

Mario Ducic, Festival Chair

Across the city, ministry teams made up of young people who had flown in from the US, UK and from across Europe spent the week engaging people in conversation and looking for opportunities to share God’s love.



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One afternoon, a team member met an 18-year-old traveller from the Netherlands who admitted she felt lonely while inter-railing across Europe. What began as a simple chat became a forty-minute conversation about life, faith and hope. Though she described herself as an atheist, she listened with genuine interest and gladly accepted prayer before they parted.

Elsewhere, a young man named Eric met team members while carrying a pack of beers to meet friends. A conversation sparked by a Star Wars T-shirt soon became an hour-long discussion about life and faith. Before leaving, Eric accepted an invitation to attend the festival.

Another team met a woman selling handmade wooden carvings. After receiving prayer and encouragement that spoke directly into her circumstances, she expressed a strong desire to come to ZagrebFest herself.

These encounters reflected the heart of our mission: inviting people to know Jesus because it is the most loving thing we can do.

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The message also reached beyond the streets. Andrew and Wendy Palau were interviewed on national television, sharing openly about faith and inviting viewers across Croatia to engage with the festival.

At the Stories of Hope women's event, nearly 300 women gathered to hear honest



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stories of struggle, resilience and faith. Leah McFall shared about finding hope in Jesus through difficult seasons, while Wendy Palau spoke about the value Jesus places on women and His invitation into God's family.

The response was extraordinary. Ninety-five women indicated a response to Christ, and 300 Bibles were distributed.

One Croatian organiser later wrote:

"God is so good and you guys are such a blessing and an example of capable, amazing yet beautifully humble servants of Jesus."

The following evening, men from across Zagreb came together to hear stories of faith, purpose and transformation, exploring not simply religion, but the invitation into a real and living relationship with Jesus Christ.

Over food and drinks, men from a wide range of backgrounds shared honest conversations and powerful testimonies. We heard about the cost of putting Jesus first while pursuing success in the business world, the unexpected journey of discovering Christ through creativity, and the freedom that comes from bringing our deepest failures and struggles before Jesus, especially when life reaches its lowest points.



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Then came ZagrebFest itself.

Families filled the children's programme, enjoying games, inflatables and entertainment while hearing that they are deeply loved by God. Then, as evening fell, the festival came alive with music, celebration and worship. Yet at the centre of it all was the message of Jesus.

Andrew challenged the crowd to move beyond cultural Christianity and discover the life-changing relationship Christ offers. Men and women stepped forward publicly to surrender their lives to Jesus.



What took place in Zagreb was far more than a festival.

It was a picture of the Church working together. It was many hearing the Good News of Jesus for the first time. It was conversations in cafés, prayers on street corners and lives being changed by Jesus.

We believe the impact of ZagrebFest will continue long after the final stage was packed away.



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