



I am on a two-and-a-half week visit to the overseas dioceses of the Reformed Episcopal Church in Germany and Croatia.

Last week I was with Bishop Gerhard Meyer in Germany and the German Pastors as they met in their Annual Synod. I had the opportunity last Friday to spend a few hours teaching the pastors on the subject of the Apostolic Mind of St. Paul from 1 Corinthians 11:2. It is the duty of the apostolic ministry

1. To find the bride.
2. To care for the needs of the bride.
3. To protect the bride.
4. To present the bride to Christ as a "pure and chaste virgin."



I was very pleased to learn that we have added four new missions this past year bringing the number of German missions to eight. There are several new pastors and we ordained a new Deacon, Marc Jankowski, at Synod.



I left Germany on April 28 and flew to Belgrade Serbia where I was met by Lay reader Alan Rankovic from the Kapelna Mission. He very kindly transported me to Osijek where I am staying in the apartment at Good Shepherd Church. On Wednesday, I drove with Bishop Jasmin Milić 264 kilometers to the Capitol of Croatia in Zagreb. Bishop Milić was invited to attend a State function where the President of Turkey was received by the President of Croatia. While Bishop Milić was occupied, I had the opportunity to spend the day with our pastors in Zagreb and Karlovac.

The Rev. Jasmin Koso pastors our church in Zagreb. He holds services in a small chapel not far from the Capitol. He and his wife have just adopted two little girls. Their life is now quite full of blessing as they enter the joys of parenthood and continue holding Reformed Episcopal services in Zagreb.



I also met with The Rev. Almir Pehlić and The Rev. Tom Smith and we spent the majority of the afternoon talking about their ministry in Karlovac, a suburb of Zagreb. They have grown substantially over the past year and the small room in which they hold service is now full. They are facing the challenge of finding larger space. This a real challenge because it will cost three times as much as their present space. The challenge all the Croatian pastors face is the very poor Croatian economy. The support of the American Church is vital at this critical time in the development of the Croatian Church.

Good Shepherd Church houses the office of the Bishop and also Michael Starin Seminary. Dr. Michael Starin was the leader of the Protestant Reformation. There are 20 students from 3 European countries now studying at the seminary. On Saturday, 9 students will receive theological degrees. I will be preaching at the graduation.

At the end of May, a team from the Diocese of Mid America will be visiting and working at Good Shepherd Church. We are constructing a reformation museum at the Church. Our parish in Tordinci was the birthplace of the Reformation in Croatia, and the first Synod of the Reformation was held in Tordinci was held there in the 1500's.



We are beautifying the building in Osijek and installing displays about the reformation so that the many tourists can be introduced to the ministry of the Reformed Episcopal Church. It will be the only Reformation Museum in Osijek. The demolition in the courtyard is now complete and the reconstruction has begun. It will be several months until this is completed.

This afternoon we visited the mission in the farming village of Kapelna (about 40 miles from Osijek). There are now over 20 Roma children in the Sunday school. Nearly the same number of adults attend the church. We took children's Bibles to them today. Some of you may recall that several of our churches in the USA provided the funds to purchase a building in Kapelna and transform it into a Chapel. They also own a large amount of farming land. It is the dream of the parish to make this a working farm that will provide jobs for several members and income to support the ministry of the church.



On Sunday I will be preaching at the Church in Tordinci. This is the home church of Bishop Milić.

Please keep the mission pastors in Germany and Croatia in your prayers.

You can support the ministries in Europe through the website of the Board of Foreign Mission of the Reformed Episcopal Church recbfm.org. 100% of your donations go directly to these church planting efforts.

