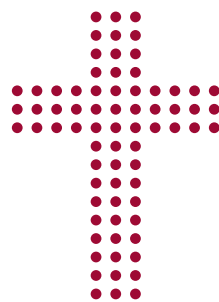
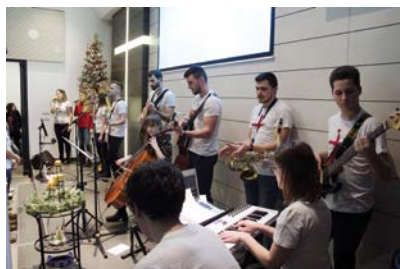
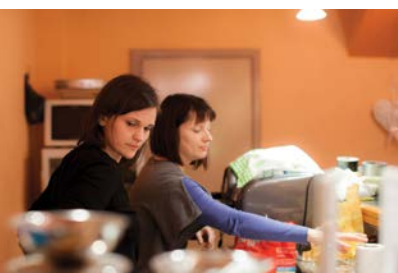


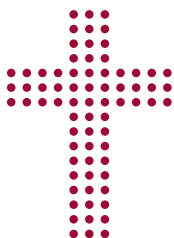
150 YEARS



150 years of Baptist Testimony in Zagreb



MILESTONES



MILESTONES

150 years of Baptist Testimony in Zagreb

This brief review highlights the milestones of the early years of Baptist testimony in the city of Zagreb, believing that the foundations were laid then for everything that followed. The purpose of this publication is three-fold: To recognize important historical moments and give thanks for them, to prompt the study of Baptist church identity through existing sources, and to encourage more dedicated collection and preservation of contemporary evidence as it emerges.

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 3:11

1863.

The First Baptist Visits Zagreb

The Englishman **Edward Millard** (1822-1906) is the first Baptist we can associate with Zagreb. He led a branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Vienna, and held religious meetings in his home until he founded the Baptist Church in Vienna in 1869. Millard came to Zagreb in August, 1863 to collaborate with the academic linguist Bogoslav Šulek (1816-1895), who was working at the time on the first edition of the Old and New Testaments (translated by Dura Daničić and Vuk Karadžić) in the Croatian language using latin script. It was then that Millard got acquainted with the cultural, linguistic and religious image of the country and the city, and the British and Foreign Bible Society gave strong support to this project.



“The BIBLE or Holy Scripture is the only authority for all Baptist teaching and belief, the organization of the church, and the life of believers. Tradition, customs and other understandings are accepted only if they do not contradict the teachings of the Holy Scriptures.”

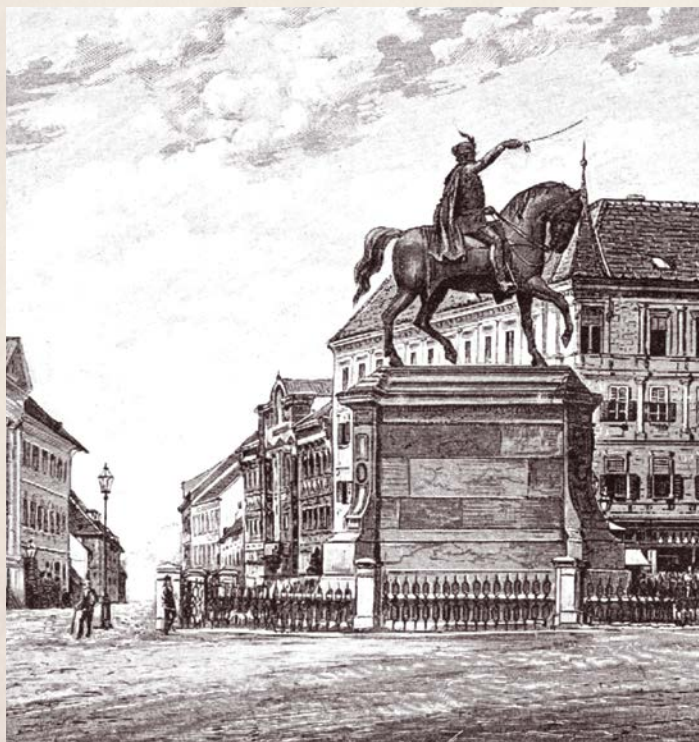
(Horak, The Baptists)

Bible editions related to Baptists in the Republic of Croatia:

The New Testament in living words **BOOK OF CHRIST**, Translators: Mirjana Lovrec, Branko Lovrec and Željko Gruić, Zagreb, Spiritual Reality, 1982.

The Bible, the Old and New Testaments without the deuterocanonical books, the Christian Present and the Union of Baptist Churches in the Republic of Croatia, 1999 and 2006.

The New Testament, translated from the Greek original by Ruben Knežević, Bible Society at the International Center for Life, Rijeka 2001.

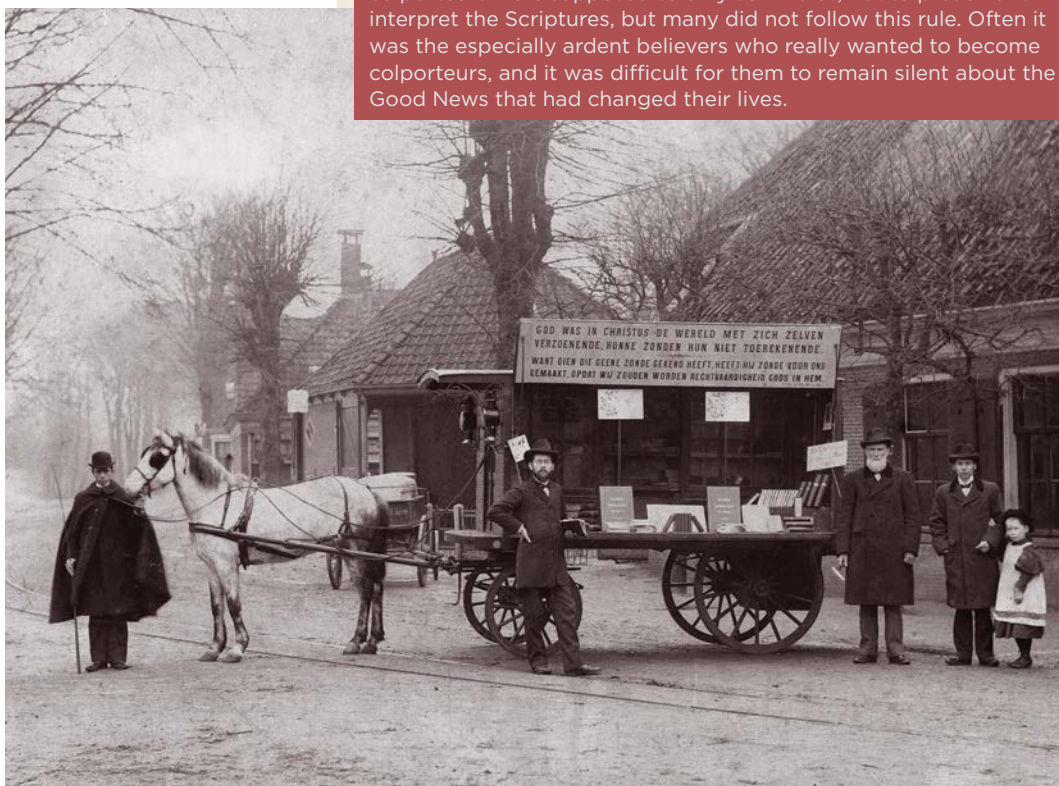


1870.

The first Baptist from Zagreb is baptized in Vienna

Christian Palmer is the first man from Zagreb for whom there is evidence that he was a member of a Baptist church. Palmer was baptized in 1870 in Vienna, in the Baptist church founded and led by Edward Millard. He acted as a Colporteur (distributor) for the British and Foreign Bible Society with the permission of the Austro-Hungarian government. Christian Palmer sold Bibles in Zagreb until 1875, and according to later data it is evident that he was active in the Evangelical Church together with his wife Anna.

Colporteur - a distributor and/or seller of newspapers, books or other goods; one who sells goods on the street or delivers them from house to house. It was once a common way of selling books, and the services of colporteurs were used by Bible societies with the special goal of making the Bible, (or at least parts of it in the local language), available to as many people as possible. Colporteurs who were employees of a Bible society received a salary for their work, and in order to be able to operate in a place, they had to get a concession from the authorities. These colporteurs were supposed to only sell Bibles, not to preach and interpret the Scriptures, but many did not follow this rule. Often it was the especially ardent believers who really wanted to become colporteurs, and it was difficult for them to remain silent about the Good News that had changed their lives.



1872.

Heinrich Meyer Comes to Zagreb

Colporteur of the British and Foreign Bible Society, a German named Heinrich Meyer (1842-1919) lived in Zagreb with his wife Mathilda from July 1872 to March 1873. At that time, Meyer was a member of the Baptist Church in Germany, and he was one of those colporteurs who did not strictly adhere to the rules. Instead, in addition to selling Bibles, he was happy to also interpret the Holy Scriptures. During his stay in Zagreb, he started holding worship meetings with German citizens in his apartment. Meyer did not stay in Zagreb for long, and later became a very successful preacher of the Baptist Church in Budapest. Nevertheless, many conversions of Baptist believers who have appeared over time in the city of Zagreb could be tied to Meyer, either directly or indirectly.



“At the entrance lived a tailor named Lauschin. The man was reasonable and seemed to understand what I wanted. One day he said to me: “Mr. Meyer, it just doesn’t work like that here, people don’t understand it. They’re only coming to your place for a chat”. The thing was, namely, that no one in Zagreb could understand that someone could pray in an apartment. That’s what a church was for. Likewise, it was unheard of and impossible for a man not wearing a priestly vestment to be able to read from the Bible. The people who were coming to me thought the same, but I didn’t know it at the time. That’s why I just talked to people. After a few Sundays, Mr. Lauschin said to me: “Mr. Meyer, some time could you read us something from the Bible?” Then we talked about the Bible. After a few Sundays, he said again, “Mr. Meyer, we don’t need to waste so much time. Let’s get into the Bible right away.” A few Sundays passed again, and he said, “Mr. Meyer, could you pray with us as well?” And that is how what I had really wanted came to be...

(From Meyer’s autobiography, taken from Knežević, An Overview of the History of Baptism)



Today, the question of the status of religious communities in the Republic of Croatia is regulated by the Law on the Legal Status of Religious Communities (Official Gazette 83/2002). Religious communities are registered in the Registry of Religious Communities maintained by the competent Ministry. Existing religious communities, i.e. religious communities that operated as legal entities in the Republic of Croatia on the date of entry into force of the Law, are registered in the Register, based on the applications submitted. This also applies to the Union of Baptist Churches in the Republic of Croatia and to all Baptist churches that are members of it.



Union of Baptist Churches in Croatia

1891.

The First Attempt at Official Registration of the Baptist Church

In one preserved copy of the hymn book *Songs for the Kingdom of God as an encouragement and promotion of the Christian life*, there is an imprint of the seal of the Baptist church in Zagreb with the text: “FIRST CROATIAN TRUE CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS MUNICIPALITY IN ZAGREB. ESTABLISHED 1891” This seal is the earliest reliable evidence of the existence of a community of Baptist believers in Zagreb. An attempt to register a Baptist church in Zagreb in 1891 failed, but the community continued to gather. Until the beginning of the First World War, this community was connected with Baptists in Vienna and in Budapest, but these connections were not particularly strong or effective. The Zagreb Baptists survived relatively independently of other Baptists in Croatia, and during the First World War this small group was further weakened by the departure of a few members to America, and several individuals died.

1905.

1905 Legal Recognition of the Baptist Religion in Croatia

This law only applied to the parts of Croatia that were part of the Hungarian Monarchy at that time.

“This seemingly secondary fact proved to be extremely important for the legal recognition of the Baptist religion in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, Slovenes (SCS)/Yugoslavia. Based on its constitutions (1921 and 1931), which recognized the fact that every religion that had been legally recognized in any part of the territory that constituted the Kingdom of SCS in 1918 would be adopted, the Baptist creed was counted among the adopted religions of what was then the Kingdom of SCS/Yugoslavia.”

(Knežević, An Overview of the History of Baptism)

1921.

The First Baptist Municipality of Zagreb is Founded

Apart from Zagreb, in Croatia there were already groups of Baptists in Medimurje, Hrvatska Zagorje, Banovina, around Daruvar and elsewhere, but the ties between them were weak. In March 1921, the first Baptist conference was held in Daruvar, which brought together representatives of various Baptist groups in the Kingdom of SCS (Serbs, Croats, Slovenes), mostly from Croatia. At that conference, it was decided that the first Baptist municipality should be founded in Zagreb from the existing members, to which Baptists from the surrounding towns should be joined. This officially established the Zagreb Baptist Church, which became the seat of Baptist activities in Croatia. Ivan Zrinščak was chosen as the BC Zagreb elder, and Tomislav Vincetić and Josip Baluban were chosen as deacons. Ivan Zrinščak was elected traveling preacher for all Baptist churches in Croatia. At the conference, it was also decided to invite brother Vinko Vacek, who was then in America, to come and “lead the work of God”.

All this time, Zagreb Baptists did not have a permanent place for worship, but rather gathered in the homes of believers in different locations.





The First Recorded Baptism in the Sava River in Zagreb

Although there are some indications that even before that time there were individual baptisms in Zagreb, it is reliably known that in 1921 Ivan Zrinščak conducted baptisms in Zagreb in the Sava river. Furthermore, there are records of several other baptisms in the Sava in the period from 1926 to 1938.

The word baptist comes from the Greek word *'baptistes'* which describes John the Baptist and is related to the verb *'baptizo'* which means 'baptize, wash, immerse'. The first Baptists got their name precisely because of the method of baptism by immersion in water and the belief that the act of baptism should be preceded by a personal confession of faith of the one being baptized.

"By baptism, the believer is united with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection to a new life. Baptism is closely related to faith. It is an act of obedience to Christ and his commands, an act of complete surrender to God in a new life, and a testimony of belonging to Christ. Baptism is not only a symbolic act but has a deep spiritual meaning." (Horak, The Baptists)

Because of the method of baptism by immersion, in the early years Baptists regularly organized baptisms in rivers until the first baptisteries were built in churches. The baptistery wasn't built on the premises of the church at Radićeva 30 until 1984.



1922.

Vinko Vacek and His Family Arrive in Zagreb From America

Vinko Vacek (1882–1939) was converted and baptized in America, where he was ordained as a preacher, and after a short theological education, he was chosen to return to his country, the then Kingdom of SCS (Serbs, Croats, Slovenes), as a ‘domestic missionary’. The original plan was for the Vaceks to settle in Zagreb and for Vinko to take care of the Baptist community that gathered there. However, this was not feasible for practical reasons, so Vacek did not immediately become the preacher of BC Zagreb, but he regularly visited this community and took care of it.



A group of Baptists from Zagreb met them at the train station. After spending about two weeks in the temporary accommodation of the Red Cross at the Zagreb station, the Vacek family temporarily settled with the Zrinščak couple in an apartment that had only one room and a kitchen. The Zrinščaks slept in the kitchen on an ottoman, and the nine Vaceks slept on their bed and on the floor. For five weeks, the Vaceks searched in vain for more suitable accommodation in Zagreb, but since they could not find it, they moved to Staro Petrovo Selo, and then to Daruvar, where they all lived until 1927.

During his stay in Daruvar, Vacek started the magazine *'Voice of the Gospel'*. *Voice of the Gospel* was published until the beginning of the Second World War in 1941. The magazine did not resume publication immediately in the post-war period, likely influenced by the great shortage of paper, the consumption of which was strictly controlled by the authorities. From time to time, so-called *Circulars* were printed with important information, until 1959 when the new magazine the *Herald*, started by Franjo Klem in Rijeka, began to be published. In 1964, the editing of the magazine was taken over by Branko Lovrec, and in 1967, the old name *Voice of the Gospel* returned, and the magazine was published under that name until 1997. After that, in the same year 1997, the *Voice of the Church* began to be published, which is still published as the official newsletter of the SBC (Union of Baptist Churches) in the Republic of Croatia.

1923.

The Magazine Voice of the Gospel (Glas Evandelja) Began to be Published

In the editorial of the first issue, Vinko Vacek wrote that it would be “a periodical that will not entertain anything else except to glorify God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - this will remove many evils between peoples, extinguish the greatest sins, correct wrong teachings; it will bring the light of truth, build peace, and reveal the way of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.” Although the magazine did not originate in Zagreb, it is a magazine that guided and educated the new generations of believers of that time, and many Zagreb Baptists wrote for it during the years of its publication.

The First Baptist Wedding Ceremony Is Held in Zagreb

The first wedding ceremony according to the Baptist tradition was held in Zagreb on December 4, 1923. Baptist believers Janja Dobutović and Josip Baluban got married, and the wedding ceremony was performed by Vinko Vacek.

In Baptist theology, marriage is not a holy sacrament, but a wedding is a solemn and important act in which the newlyweds pledge their lifelong fidelity to each other before God and witnesses. For many years, the believers of the Baptist church had two acts of marriage - one civil and one religious. Since 2003, a marriage concluded in a religious form before an authorized official of a Baptist church has the effects of a civil marriage before the authorities, a right that is exercised based on the Agreement on issues of common interest between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Union of Baptist Churches in the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette 196/2003).



Over time, BC Zagreb had some of its own internal newsletters - BBC (Bulletin of the Baptist Church), then New Leaf, then Image, and for a short time an internal magazine for young people, Challenge, was also published. In recent times, BC Zagreb's website, various social networks and the YouTube channel of BC Zagreb have served as 'internal newsletters'.



BC Zagreb
YouTube
Channel

1925.

The First Official Assembly of All BC Zagreb Members Is Held

At the assembly, “church officials” (the board) were elected, and Josip Baluban was elected president. He was responsible for the service of the Word in BC Zagreb and preached regularly.

“The organization and administration of the local church, a religious community, results from the principle of voluntary association of free individuals who, out of respect for Christ, join the community in order to fulfill the purpose of its existence. Each member of the church is obliged to give his share in the activities of the church, according to his abilities and skills, but again voluntarily.” (Horak, The Baptists)

BC Zagreb cherishes the tradition of regular gatherings of the church Assembly, made up of all church members, at which decisions are made on all important issues for the operation of the local church.

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

1 Peter 2:9



“At the end of 1925, Lanc offered a space for the harmonium in the room in his apartment where the community met. The community approved 8,000 dinars for this and authorized Lotz to buy a harmonium, which he did.”

(Minutes of BC Zagreb, taken from Peterlin D, Early Years)



The First Instrument for the Needs of the Church Was Bought

It is not known whether the faithful of BC Zagreb sang a capella or accompanied by another instrument, but reports from that time mention singing both by single melody and multi-part choral singing.

Songs and music are an important part of Baptist worship, and from the earliest days, BC Zagreb believers have invested their talents, their creativity and even their finances in the purchase of instruments and other equipment for this part of worship. In different periods of the church's existence until today, choirs, tambura orchestras, and various other musical and vocal ensembles have been active in BC Zagreb. Nowadays, the singing of the whole community at church services is led by worship teams made up of many different musicians and singers.

1927.

Vinko Vacek Is Preacher at BC Zagreb

Vinko Vacek's versatile work contributed both to the qualitative and quantitative growth of the church. All generations of Baptist believers are indebted to him for his pastoral and writing work, but also for his missionary and church-organizational activities. Vinko Vacek died suddenly in 1939 as a result of poisoning from impure drinking water, which he consumed at one of the stations in Znik during his last mission trip.

"During his activities in the Kingdom of SCS (Serbs, Croats, Slovenes) and later Yugoslavia, V. Vacek was intensively engaged in many kinds of work - evangelical, missional, organizational, theological and literary, as well as his work for the Baptist church. From 1924 to 1939, he was the president of the Yugoslav Baptist Union (which then operated under the official names: Union of Baptists in Yugoslavia, Union of Baptist Churches in SCS (Yugoslavia); Union of Baptist Church Municipalities, and various federal committees. He also represented the Croatian and Yugoslav Baptists in the European and World Baptist con-



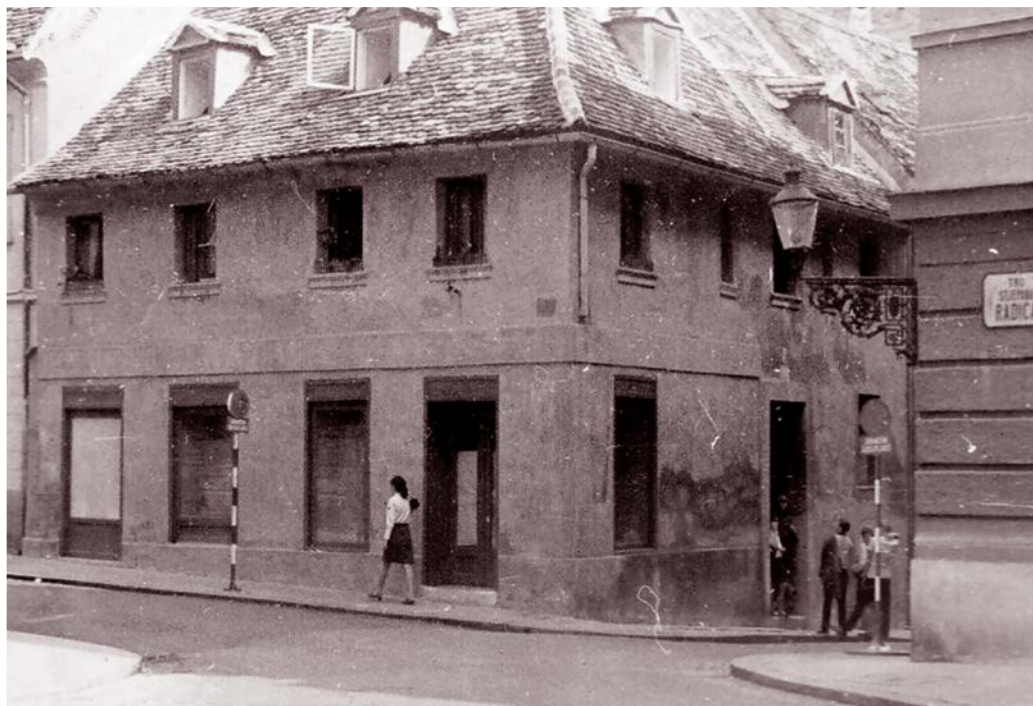
ferences. Due to his exceptional role in organizing and leading local Baptist work in the interwar period, especially in Croatia, V. Vacek is rightly considered one of the main Croatian Baptist pioneers who organized and connected the local Baptist communities, and greatly contributed to the rapid construction of their church-faith, and theological identities.

(Ruben Knežević)

1928.

The Church Gathers at the Address Županiska 8

Even though this time it was in a private house where the preacher Vacek's family lived, the community could now gather in a space specially arranged for the needs of the church. Today, in that same house, at Basaričekova 2, is the headquarters of the Christian publishing company "Spiritual Reality" (Duhovna Stvarnost).





1928.

The Baptist Youth Association (BOU) Is Founded

The newly founded Baptist Youth Association of the Union of Churches in SCS had its branches in local churches as well as in Zagreb. The purpose of the BOU was to raise young people in the knowledge of the Gospel of Christ and a morally clean life, and to spread Christian literature. Members could be as young as 12 years old on upwards, and they received special cards, with which they were entitled to a discount on the railway for organized trips to youth gatherings. The first youth conference in Zagreb was held in 1932, and it was followed by many others.



We don't have exact data for when the Zagreb Baptist Church started organized work with children at a young age, but it is evident that care for children in the community was a very important part of the mission of this church from the earliest days. Although the term 'Sunday School' was also used for lessons that were organized for different age groups, for many years this name was specifically used for working with children. Sunday school teachers are regularly mentioned by name in historical records as important persons in the life of the church.

BOU was only one part of the work with young people in BC Zagreb, because in this community young people have always had a special place and care. The work of young people and work with young people has developed in accordance with the time, circumstances, opportunities and gifts of the people who have taken responsibility for working with young people, continuing to today. The tradition of holding Baptist youth conferences in Zagreb, which started long ago, has continued to the present. Since 2014, a youth meeting called *Ziherica* has been held in Zagreb at the end of the year.

The term 'Sunday school', which refers to a systematic form of work with children in Baptist churches, was used until 1991, when the term "religious education" (vjeronauk) began to be used. Since the introduction of confessional religious education as an optional subject in primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Croatia, the Baptist Church has exercised the right to hold religious education classes on its own premises. In BC Zagreb, elementary and high school religious education is conducted, and special work with children of preschool age is also organized.



Ziherica
(Kompas)

1933.

BC Zagreb Initiates the Collection of Funds for Missions Needs



Cijela je sjednica oduševljeno prihvatila prijedlog, da se osnuje dragovoljno sakupljanje za pogansku misiju. Uređeno je na slijedeći način. Svaka je obitelj dobila jednu drvenu kutijicu (kasicu) u koju će svaki dan nešto ubaciti, a iz koje se ne može izvaditi, dok se dno ne izbije. Na Novu godinu sve će kutijice biti otvorene, a novac poslan na određeno mjesto. Dosad je takovih 10 komada kutijica razdijeljeno među braću i sestre, koje nam je dragovoljno napravio naš mili brat Djuro Šnajder iz Ivanić grada. Potrebno nam je još 10 pa molimo našu braću stolarskog zanata, da nam to načine, i to će biti jedan djelatnik dobrovoljnog prinosa za djelo Božje — uvjereni smo, da će se naskoro nekoji naš drvodjelja javiti i kutijice poslati.

Uz to se mole braća i sestre naših crkvenih općina, da i oni o toj stvari ozbiljno misle i Gospoda mole za poznanje Riječi koju je kazao Gospod govoreći:

»Nego ćete primiti silu kad sidje Duh sveti na vas, bićete Mi svjedoci i u Jerusalemu, i po svoj Judeji i Samariji i tja do kraja zemlje«. Dj. 1:8.

We don't have exact data on how long this initiative lasted or how much money was collected, but we can read how Zagreb Baptists have continued to help missionary work and missionary efforts in different ways and in different areas. There are written records that the Zagreb Baptists collected money for orphans in Croatia, for the Peace House in Novi Sad, to help victims of the fire in Mačkovec... Funds were also collected to help with the construction of certain churches.

This good practice of encouraging the collection of financial resources for mission efforts and helping people in need is still present in BC Zagreb today.



Donations for victims of the earthquake, Ukraine...

“The entire assembly enthusiastically accepted the proposal to establish a voluntary collection for the mission. Each family received a wooden box (piggy bank) into which they will put something every day, and from which nothing cannot be taken out, until the bottom is knocked out. On New Year's Day, all the boxes will be opened, and the money will be sent to a certain place.”

Voice of the Gospel #1 (1933)

“On Sunday, April 28, we had the opening of the prayer house at 30 Radićeva Street, where we rented a beautiful hall. It is much more comfortable for us there because it is spacious and light and on a busy street so that many more listeners come to hear God’s Word.”

Voice of the Gospel #5 (1935)

“Zagreb residents walking on Pavlo Radić (Radićeva) street (on what used to be called “Long Street”) can stop in front of house no. 30, where the First Croatian Savings Bank used to be, and observe - an interesting novelty. Above the ground floor rooms there is a large inscription “Baptist House of Prayer” Above the entrance door there is an inscription: “My house shall be called a house of prayer.” Several books of the Holy Scriptures are displayed in the windows.”

(Daily newspaper Novosti, March 7, 1936)

“Radićeva 30” exists as a kind of synonym for the Baptist church, because the believers of BC Zagreb still gather at that address today. Over time, the space has undergone several expansions and renovations - religious education classrooms and basement rooms have been renovated, and the main hall has also been remodeled several times. Until recently, this space has been suitable for the needs of the community. However, today this space is not large enough or adequate for the needs of the growing community, especially when considering the age of the entire building and the problems caused by the recent earthquakes. The believers of BC Zagreb are once again faced with the challenge of thinking about and praying for a new space.

1935. House of Prayer Opened at Radićeva 30



1937.

The Association of BC Zagreb Sisters “Tabita” Is Founded



The first regular meeting was held on August 17, 1937. At that meeting, sisters prayed, sang songs, and sister Janja Baluban preached based on texts from Mat. 20:1-16 and 1 Cor. 13:4-8. She spoke about a pure personal life, giving a comparison of the “little garden of the heart” that needs to be carefully nurtured. In addition to the regular meetings of the Association, which were held once a month, special prayer meetings and evangelistic meetings were held. At its meetings, the Association also mediated conflicts between women in the church as needed.

(Based on the article “*Tabita*”: *First Baptist Association of Sisters in Zagreb*, D. Peterlin)



For many years in BC Zagreb, there has been an organized work of Baptist women called *sister meetings* that brought women together of different ages mostly around joint prayer, song, the study of God's Word and joint projects. Women have always played an important role in the organization of all important events in the church and also by providing practical help. Today, women in BC Zagreb are involved in various services - work with children and young people, worship, technical support, social charity work, church leadership, administration, teaching, welcoming, preaching, interior maintenance and design, and support for mothers.



1940. – 1942.

Vaclav Zbořil Is Preacher at BC Zagreb

After the sudden death of Vinko Vacek, BC Zagreb was briefly left without a preacher, and in 1940 Vaclav Zbořil (1903 – 1981) took over the preaching responsibilities. Zbořil was at the same time in charge of the Baptist community in Daruvar, so he was often traveling on the road between the two cities. Due to difficulties in obtaining a travel permit caused by wartime circumstances, Zbořil moved to Daruvar in 1942, where he stayed until 1947, when he emigrated to Czechoslovakia.



1945. – 1947.

Franjo Klem Is Preacher at BC Zagreb

Franjo Klem (1916 – 2006) immigrated to Zagreb as a young man, where he was converted, baptized and became a member of BC Zagreb. He worked for a short time as a mission worker from the Zagreb Church to Slovenia, and then studied at the *Baptist Theological Seminary* in Budapest. After Zagreb, Klem was a preacher in Daruvar, Sisak and Rijeka. He was engaged as a teacher at the Baptist Theological Seminary, and later became the director of the Baptist Theological School in Novi Sad. For many years, Klem held leading positions in the *Union of Baptist Churches in Yugoslavia* (youth secretary, secretary, and general secretary), and he was a member of the working bodies of the *European Baptist Federation*. During his ministry, he published numerous works, translations and texts in domestic and foreign Baptist periodicals, and cooperated with the secular press. He also provided several textbooks and tutorials for the needs of Baptist students of theology. Klem is significant as the initiator and leader of numerous church programs and initiatives of a broader nature among Croatian and Yugoslav Baptists.

During the Second World War, the church premises at Radićeva 30 were confiscated by the German army and turned into a warehouse, and the faithful had to gather in their houses again.





Post-war Period

The period after the Second World War was marked by unfavorable social circumstances that in many ways slowed down the development of the community. One of the drastic examples was the impossibility of realizing the rights to one's own space. Despite this, the Baptist community in Zagreb thrived, and actively cared for its members who were striving to live and be a witness to their faith in a socio-political system that opposed religion. In addition to regular worship services, special efforts were made to work with children and young people, as well as various activities that included music. During that time, there was a better networking of Baptist churches in what was then Yugoslavia. Believers visited each other, young people went on trips together, and federal youth conferences were also organized. A large number of Baptist believers from other places immigrated to Zagreb for employment, and in this way BC Zagreb grew in numbers.



1947. – 1984.

Josip Horak Is Preacher of the Church

Until the beginning of the Second World War (1937-1940), Josip Horak was the secretary for youth at the Union of Baptist Churches of Yugoslavia. and later he was elected president of the Union of Baptist Churches of Yugoslavia (1957-1986). He was also involved in the work of the European Baptist Federation (EBF), the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, and was (1985-1990) vice-president of the Baptist World Association (BWA).



1952.

The Building at Ilica 152 Was Purchased

This building was supposed to house the Zagreb Baptist Church, apartments for religious officials, the Baptist Theological School and the school's dormitory. Although the building was fully paid for and a building permit was obtained for the renovation of the worship space, the Baptists never took possession of the building because it was nationalized by the authorities at that time. Despite the long legal battle and the resolutions that were obtained, it has never been possible to take possession of that space. In 1963, instead of the confiscated building at Ilica 152, the authorities decided to allocate a much smaller space at Radićeva 30 to the Baptists. This great injustice done to the Baptists has not been corrected to this day.



1961.

The Beginning of the Broadcasting of Christian Radio Shows in the Croatian Language

Trans World Radio (Monte Carlo) and Evangeliumsrundfunk (Germany) broadcasted Christian radio shows in the Croatian language, which, starting in 1961, were designed and produced for many years by Josip Horak (1912 - 1999). During his nearly forty years of work, he was a part of, and recorded, several thousand broadcasts, which, even in the midst of the communist system of the time, reached a large number of listeners in the country as well as those displaced around the world. This type of



service has been continued over the years by other members of BC Zagreb, among whom Nela Mayer Williams, Josip Mikulić and Đuro Samac stand out.



In addition to publishing books, and the magazine *Voice of the Gospel*, since 1989 *Spiritual Reality* has been publishing the popular daily reading *Our Daily Bread*, which is published every four months. Although this daily reading has been available online since 2014, it is still printed in 5,000 copies and mailed to readers throughout Croatia and 15 other countries around the world.

1965.

The Beginning of Contemporary Christian Publishing

Branko Lovrec (1932 – 2012) personally published translations of O. Hallesby's books *Why I Became a Christian* and *Prayer*, with quality equipment and with covers in color. This was the beginning of modern Christian publishing, and in the early seventies, the publishing house *Spiritual Reality* (*Duhovna Stvarnost*) was founded. This house became a respectable publisher of general religious and Christian works, especially in the 1970s and 1980s, and its reach exceeded local and denominational boundaries.



1967.

Billy Graham Visits Zagreb

SFR Yugoslavia was the first communist country that the well-known American evangelist Billy Graham visited. A press conference was held at the Esplanade Hotel, a worship service was held in the Evangelical Church, along with two evangelistic gatherings in front of several thousand people, in the area next to the church of the Episcopal Boys' Seminary in Šalata.

During his stay in Zagreb, Billy Graham also visited BC Zagreb. Later, he fondly mentioned it and talked about that tiniest of spaces, with the most people packed in, in which he had ever spoken.



"What has begun in many souls should be continued. Many raised their hands, about 1,500 at all three meetings, as a sign that they wanted to surrender their lives to Christ or dedicate themselves even more to His service. Such a response is one of the largest of any of Billy Graham's evangelistic meetings, when compared to the multitude and number of his meetings. Even without an express invitation from the pulpit, about five hundred listeners submitted their addresses for further literature."

Voice of the Gospel, # 7-8 (1967)

"It was on the eve of Billy Graham's big evangelistic meeting in Zagreb. As was customary, prayer meetings were held every evening in the Baptist church at Radićeva 30, where Christians gathered for prayer. That day Billy Graham was already in Zagreb. The church was full of people. There was a choir of 100 singers from all over Yugoslavia. There were also many ushers who came a little earlier to divide up their duties, and others who had already arrived in Zagreb to join the people of Zagreb in prayer. It was the last joint prayer meeting. And then we found out that Billy Graham would be coming to that meeting with his entourage... Billy Graham spoke to the faithful, sincere and devoted Christians, who in a prayerful struggle had begged God for this meeting. He turned to burning faces, burning hearts, which were on fire and burning for their Lord, Jesus Christ! And now we will all pray, and cry together to Almighty God, and He will hear us!"

Voice of the Gospel, #7-8 (1967)



Audio recording of Billy Graham's Speech

1968.

Cliff Richard Concert in Zagreb



After his conversion, this very popular pop-rock singer from Great Britain introduced 'Gospel songs' - songs about the Gospel (as they translated it at the time) into his repertoire. The concert in Zagreb was part of his European tour called *Good News*, and the singer came to Yugoslavia with his band at the invitation of Josip Horak. The lyrics of Richards' new songs, through which he directly testified about Jesus, were unusual for the young people, his current fans in Yugoslavia, while the musical style was unusual for the Christians of that time. Despite the announcement of an unusual repertoire, there was great interest in this concert and the tickets were sold out three weeks in advance. The concert was also recorded by TV cameras, but that recording was banned precisely because of the choice of songs of a spiritual nature and was not broadcast until thirty years later on Croatian television.

1970.

Live Broadcast of Billy Graham's Evangelization from Dortmund

The EURO 70 evangelistic event took place in Dortmund, Germany, with a live broadcast organized for the first time using a closed circuit television network. In Zagreb, a multi-day broadcast was organized in the *Dvorana bl. Marko Križevčanin*, the only suitable space that the organizers were able to get. In addition to BC Zagreb, the *Christ Church brothers* and the *Pentecostal Church* were involved in the organization of this project.

"Modern technology has not failed in the service of the Gospel. It has convinced people of the possibility of perfect image and sound transmission over long distances. God has used what man invented to glorify His Son, Jesus Christ, and has also enabled people by these means to be acquainted with the truth of the Gospel."

Voice of the Gospel, # 2 (1970)



For the people of Zagreb, it was a unique event, which they will not easily forget. For many, those days were a turning point in their lives, and many encountered the Gospel for the first time. And for many, those days were happy birthdays, because they were born spiritually for the first time. That eight-day broadcast of Christian truths, of the Good News of Salvation, was addressed to the lost and sinful people of Europe, of Zagreb."

Voice of the Gospel, # 2 (1970).



“More than four hundred years ago, our compatriot and great scientist, Matija Vlačić, dreamed of founding a small university, a Protestant theological faculty, which would primarily serve Croats, Slovenes, as well as some other peoples of central and southern Europe, so that they could receive theological education. He saw a great need in our region when he declared: ‘My thoughts are with the fields of grain of the East and the South... They are ripe for harvest, and the workers are so few -’. Even though centuries have passed, these words still speak very strongly to us, and his dream has only now come true. The first Protestant theological faculty has been founded in Zagreb.”

Horak, Voice of the Gospel, # 6 (1976)

1976.

The Protestant Faculty of Theology Matija Vlačić Ilirik Is Founded

The faculty, which was founded jointly by the Evangelical Church and the Union of Baptist Churches, was officially opened on October 31, 1976, on Reformation Day. The leading people of the faculty were Dr. Josip Horak, president of the SBC in Yugoslavia, and Dr. Vladimir Deutsch, Senior of the Evangelical Church in Croatia.

The establishment of this faculty was another step in the mutual cooperation of Christian churches during the time of socialism. The cooperation, which began with the loan of their own church spaces for special or regular gatherings to other communities when needed, continued with joint publishing projects and later with ecumenical prayer gatherings.



In 2017, the Matija Vlačić Ilirik Faculty of Theology became the Matija Vlačić Ilirik University Center for Protestant Theology within the University of Zagreb.



Theological Faculty Matija Vlačić Ilirik



1984.

The Church Assembly Elects the Elders Who Lead the Church

After the retirement of the previous preacher of the church, Josip Horak, from active service, the church assembly elected the Board and elders of the church. The elders, consisting of Josip Ceh, Danijel Grujić, Josip Mikulic, Branko Lovrec and Vinko Peterlin, led the church in all areas of its life and activities until the election of a pastor in 1993. In addition to all other activities in BC Zagreb, this eldership also took care of the Baptist Church in Sarajevo.



First baptism on BC Zagreb premises

“Zagreb, September 23, 1984. For the first time in the history of this church, a baptism was held on the premises of the church. Until then, new members who joined the Baptist church in Zagreb were baptized in other cities, where baptisteries had been built within the church. Before the war, the Baptists in Zagreb baptized their believers in the Sava river. For this purpose, a special pool has been built as a baptistery.”

Voice of the Gospel #5 (1984)

“The Baptist Church in Zagreb is preparing a special evangelization program in its church for the duration of the summer Universiade in its city. For this special program, lectures are being prepared - about Christianity, about Baptists, about faith in God and many other interesting topics. The entire program will be interwoven with Christian music, the showing of films and slides, and there will also be sermons and lectures in some European languages for foreign visitors, who would want to attend such gatherings. Baptists from Zagreb are spiritually preparing for this great undertaking and are asking all other believers to help them in this.”

Voice of the Gospel, # 4 (1987)



1987.

Musical Group Stijena Is Founded

In the desire to put their musical and singing talents at God's disposal and thus spread the good news about Jesus Christ to young enthusiasts, the vocal-instrumental band "Stijena" (stone/rock) was founded. This band operated under the leadership of Ivica Horvat, and during its eight years of existence, fifteen excellent musicians and singers participated in it. Some of them came to the rehearsals from other places, and they held concerts all over Croatia and beyond. They gladly responded to the invitations of various churches and groups that organized evangelizations, concerts and evenings of Christian poetry. However, they were particularly pleased with concerts on open stages and in public spaces where they had the opportunity to openly testify about Jesus Christ to people who would not dare to come to church.



During the Universiade, BC Zagreb opened its doors wide to locals and foreigners, offering visitors a warm welcome and various special programs that were exceptionally well attended. The church premises were open throughout the day, and someone was always there to host - ready to offer refreshments or simply talk to interested visitors. In this way, a special atmosphere was created in which many Zagreb residents dared to enter the premises of the Baptist Church for the first time. For the Zagreb Baptist community of that time, this was one of the most important steps forward into society.



Evangelization program during the Universiade

The Summer Universiade in 1987 was the largest sports event ever held in the history of Zagreb, with the participation of more than 6,000 athletes from 122 countries around the world. The official slogan of the Universiade, "A world of youth for a world of peace" could be used as a remarkable starting point for conveying the Christian message of peace brought by Jesus Christ.

1991.

Humanitarian Action and New Steps for the Church

After democratic changes, the outbreak of war, and the arrival of exiles and refugees, the church got a new face. Stepping into society was allowed, space was opened up, and it was only a matter of the willingness to fill it. During the Homeland War and immediately after it, many believers volunteered to help the needy, which was particularly evident through the activities of the humanitarian associations “My Neighbor” (Josip Mikulić and colleagues), “Spiritual Reality” (Branko Lovrec, Ivan Vacek and colleagues) and “Encounter” (Mihal Kreko and colleagues). In this way, Christian love and mercy were expressed, and hope was given to many in war-torn Croatia, and even in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to humanitarian and various other practical help, the people cared for also received free Christian literature, words of comfort, and prayer.

At the same time, some Baptist believers from Zagreb were involved in the restoration of the Baptist churches in Banovina (Đuro and Mira Samac), and in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Branko Lovrec, Mihal Kreko).

In the coming years, the faithful of BC Zagreb would continue to take care of people in need in different ways, whether they were part of the community, in its immediate surroundings, or beyond. Financial resources were collected regularly and various initiatives were launched to respond to current needs. Among other things, for years the church had a Goodness Cupboard, which believers regularly filled with non-perishable food containers that were then distributed to those in need.



Donations for victims of the earthquake, Ukraine...



Since 2021, the faithful of BC Zagreb have been actively involved in the “Služimo Zajedno” (Let’s serve together) initiative launched by the SBC (Union of Baptist Churches) in the Republic of Croatia as a response to the growing humanitarian needs caused by the devastating earthquake in the area of Sisak-Moslavina County. In addition to collecting financial resources and sending material aid, BC Zagreb continuously sends teams of volunteers who participate in clearing and rebuilding the area affected by the earthquake.



i.



1991.

Steps in the Creation of BC Zagreb-Malešnica

1991. – 1994.

At the beginning of the nineties, a group of Baptist believers gathered in the western part of the city of Zagreb under the leadership of Mihal Kreko. They founded the association “Encounter”, which became a platform for humanitarian, social and spiritual activities. The first team was created, and working with people led to the first conversions and baptisms.



1995. – 2000.

The nascent church gathered in various rented spaces in the western part of the city, and then bought its own space in Malešnica, which was officially opened on June 7, 1998. The now officially established Baptist church became a member of the SBC (Union of Baptist Churches) in the Republic of Croatia.





2001. – 2003.

Mihal Kreko and his family went to study in the USA - Bethel University MN, and the church was led by missionaries John and Lynn Lehn, and Stephen and Tabita Bell during that time.

2004. -2014.

Mihal Kreko was ordained as a pastor and began his full-time ministry as pastor of BC Zagreb Malešnica. The first deacons and elders were also ordained in the church. During this period, various services aimed at children, young people and women were developed, as well as steps towards the local community. They were also trying to solve the problem of more adequate space by purchasing land in Novi Zagreb Zapad, and designing the Mosaic 21 project.



2015. – 2021.

BC Zagreb Malešnica has actively worked and helped the needy in various humanitarian crises such as floods, earthquakes, and the arrival of refugees and migrants. By recognizing this activity in the wider social community, BCZM was given the use of a building of the former police station in Gajnice, which needed to be renovated. The *House of Hope* was opened in the renovated building in 2021, and now organizes programs of justice, mercy and hope for marginalized and vulnerable social groups in the western part of the city of Zagreb.



BC Zagreb -
Malešnica (Fb)



BC Zagreb
- Malešnica
(Youtube)



House of Hope



1993. – 1994.

Davorin Peterlin Is Preacher at BC Zagreb

Davorin Peterlin (1959-2010) together with Peter MacKenzie shared the pastoral ministry at BC Zagreb in the period from 1993 - 1994, after which he became the academic dean at the Evangelical Theological Faculty in Osijek. Peterlin received his bachelor's and master's degrees in theology from Regent College in Vancouver, and his doctorate from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. From 1992 to 1993, he worked as a pastor of the Baptist Church in Rijeka, and from 1995 to 1999, he was vice president of the SBC (Union of Baptist Churches) in the Republic of Croatia. He continued his academic career at various international theological institutions. After returning to Croatia, he regularly taught at the "Matija Vlačić Ilirik" Faculty of Theology, the Evangelical Theological Faculty in Osijek, the "Society of Jesus" Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, and other contemporary theological institutions. He was intensively engaged in theology, translation, and literary work.



1994. - 2007.

Peter MacKenzie Pastor of BC Zagreb

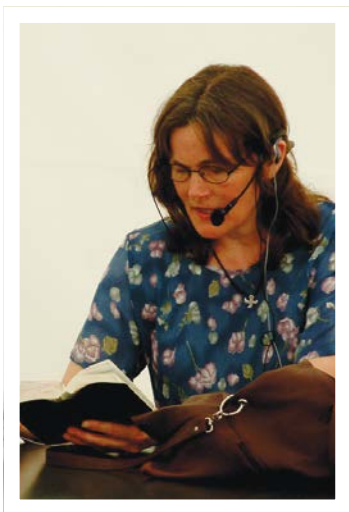
Peter MacKenzie (1942-2007) was born and raised in Great Britain, and Croatia became his second homeland. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in theology from the Scottish St. Andrews University, and his zeal for preaching the gospel brought him to the former Yugoslavia, where he spent years doing missionary work and distributing Bibles. Apart from Zagreb, he was pastor of BC Rijeka for a short time. He taught at Protestant theological faculties (Zagreb, Osijek), and was also a prolific theological writer. He was particularly involved in the areas of practical theology, Christian apologetics, and the relationship between Christianity and the New-age movement. As the pastor of BC Zagreb, Peter MacKenzie showed great openness to people of different profiles and different types of spirituality, because for him belonging to God's kingdom was much more important than belonging to a certain denomination.



1994.

An International Service Is Started at BC Zagreb

In a time of democratic changes, more and more people from different countries were coming to Croatia, especially to the city of Zagreb. Their common language was English, and among them were those who were looking for a community of other Christians. At the instigation of Pastor MacKenzie, BC Zagreb started an international service in 1994 and organized a second Sunday service where English was the primary language, and native English speakers were also involved in the service. Over time, equipment for simultaneous translation was acquired so that BC Zagreb offered translation into English even at times when no special international religious services were organized. The international service was restarted as a separate worship service in the spring of 2023.



International
Service
BC Zagreb

1999.

The Nebo Choir Is Founded

The Nebo (heavens) mixed choir was founded on the initiative of several Christian communities in Zagreb with the aim of encouraging listeners through music to think about spiritual values. The choir had its initial expression under the direction of Kristina Bjelopavlović, and it was based in BC Zagreb. From the very beginning, Nebo was conceived in order to challenge listeners towards practical acts of love, so that the concerts often had a humanitarian character.

Over the years, the composition of the choir changed and the number of members varied, but the choir always fostered openness towards new people, regardless of their church affiliation. In 2004, Petra Horvat took over the director's baton, and led the choir for the next ten years. The choir continued to spread the message of the gospel and held concerts in Zagreb and throughout Croatia, participated in various events and manifestations, and cooperated with various institutions and organizations of a humanitarian nature. In the period from 2015 to 2016, the choir was led by Lidija Perutka Burjan, and after that the Nebo choir retired.





2001.

The First Meeting of Croatian Baptists Is Held

The first meeting of the Baptists of Croatia was held in Zagreb on September 7-9, 2001, in the hall of the Zagreb Student Center. An impressive number of Baptist believers and their friends gathered from all over Croatia and beyond. The meeting was called *Heaven is Open*, and the main speaker was Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Association (BWA). In addition to a rich program, the participants of the meeting had the opportunity to learn about the activities of the various services of the Union of Baptist Churches and various Christian associations, and were able to acquire the latest editions in the field of spiritual literature. As part of this Meeting, a concert of contemporary Christian music was organized on Cvjetni Trg, which was especially aimed at young people. This meeting was also used as an opportunity to present the activities of Baptists in Croatia to the media, and representatives of the SBC in the Republic of Croatia and the World Baptist Association held meetings with the highest representatives of the government in the Republic of Croatia.



Union of
Baptist
Churches
in Croatia

2004.

Steps in the Creation of BC Dubrava Zagreb

The long-standing need to establish a Baptist church in the eastern part of the city prompted the believers of BC Zagreb to take concrete steps in 2004. The leadership of the church, together with missionaries John and Lynn Lehn and Stephen and Tabitha Bell were planning the first steps: prayer, fasting, evangelistic groups, home groups, and creating conditions for worship meetings. The backbone of the future church was made up of believers living in the eastern part of the city, and one of the leading roles on behalf of the leadership of BC Zagreb was played by elder Josip Čeh.

In **2005**, a space was rented at Međugorska 61, where regular Sunday worship services soon began, and the emerging community also started some other activities. The first leadership of the community was formed, consisting of: Josip Čeh, John Lehn, Stephen Bell, and a little later Tihomir Vekić joined them. The church was becoming more and more independent in its activities, and in **2008**, BC Dubrava Zagreb became a full member of the SBC in the Republic of Croatia.





2011.

BC Dubrava buys its own space, which the faithful restore sacrificially, mostly with their own work. The space was already ready for use in the same year, and the ceremonial opening was on October 30, 2011. In addition to the needs of the church, this space soon began to be happily used for various events (exhibitions, seminars, SBC assemblies in the Republic of Croatia, various meetings) both due to its availability and because of the hospitality of the hosts.

2013.

Missionary activities began in Dugo Selo, and missionary Emanuel dos Santos from Brazil joined the work. Regular worship services were started in the rented space, and later Kostya Bakanov from Ukraine joined the team. In **2017**, a Bible study group was started in Vrbovac.



BC Dubrava
Zagreb
(Fb)



BC Dubrava
Zagreb
(Youtube)

2019.

BC Dubrava elects its first full-time pastor, Teofil Mršić, who took up the ministry on October 1, 2019. By the decision of the church during the induction of pastor Mršić, Danijel Časni, the former elder of BC Dubrava, was ordained as a pastor, and became the assistant pastor of BC Dubrava.

In addition to numerous regular activities, the church is dedicated to serving people in the eastern part of the city in many ways.



2007.

Christival

135 Years of Baptist Testimony Marked in Zagreb

For the Feast of All Souls in 2007, a four-day 'festival' was held under the name *Christival - Unity in Diversity*, with the aim that different people of different generations could together celebrate Jesus Christ, who unites them. In accordance with these differences, various events were offered - festive performances, a creative program for young people, a family day, a worship service, a music concert, and also the renovation of a children's playground. All three Baptist churches in the city of Zagreb participated in the organization and implementation of this event - BC Zagreb, BC Dubrava Zagreb and BC Zagreb Malešnica.





2008. – 2015.

Zdenko Horvat, Pastor of BC Zagreb

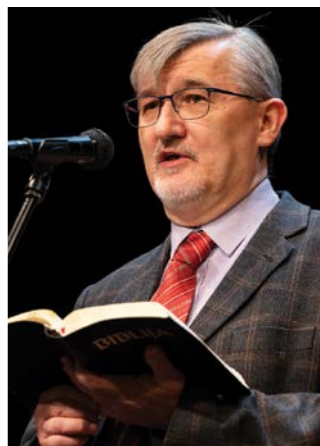
Zdenko Horvat (1957 - 2016), very soon after his conversion, felt God's call to serve - both in the church, through teaching young people and preaching, and in Christian associations such as Christians, and then *Hope and Life* (today called *Fokus*). With the *Jesus Film*, Zdenko traveled over a large part of Croatia, fervently spreading the gospel, and also worked in Bosnia and Herzegovina. BC Zagreb recognized God's call to Zdenko and his readiness to serve, so that in 1997 he was first ordained to the service of deacon, then in 2000 he became an elder of the church, and in 2005 he started working full-time as an assistant pastor. In 2008, Zdenko Horvat became the pastor of BC Zagreb, and in response to God's call, he faithfully performed the service entrusted to him, until a serious illness prevented him from doing so at the end of October 2015. Pastor Zdenko will be remembered as a man of prayer and a caregiver of souls with warm words and a big heart.



2015. – 2017.

Željko Mraz, Pastor of BC Zagreb

Zeljko Mraz (1965) has served as a deacon of BC Zagreb since 1999 and then as an elder since 2002. He was ordained as a pastor of the Union of Baptist Churches in the Republic of Croatia in 2003. He became the pastor of BC Zagreb in November 2015, at the moment when the previous pastor Zdenko Horvat had to retire due to a serious illness, and he served until the election of a new pastor in 2017. Željko Mraz has been the general secretary of the SBC in the Republic of Croatia since 1995.



2017. – 2021.

Ivica Horvat, pastor of BC Zagreb

Ivica Horvat (1966) has been working as a deacon of BC Zagreb since 1996, and in 2006 he became an elder of the church. Over the years, he has been involved in various ministries such as youth work, worship, preaching, and pastoral care. Ivica Horvat became the pastor of BC Zagreb in 2017, and the ordination ceremony was held on February 25, 2018. In 2019, Ivica Horvat became the president of the SBC in the Republic of Croatia.





BC Zagreb
YouTube
Channel



BC Zagreb
WhatsApp
group



The Bible App



Free Materials
for Bible Study
and Prayer



2019.

The beginning of the organization of online worship services

When the whole world was affected by the pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus, there was a period in which, due to special epidemic measures, it was not possible to hold services in the hall of the Zagreb Baptist Church. This situation prompted BC Zagreb to launch an online worship service so that believers could have fellowship around the Word of God in real time, even though everyone was in their own home. Other communication with believers was maintained through social networks, phone calls and messages, and when possible, home visits. In the meantime, investments were made in new recording and streaming equipment to raise the quality of the service, and live streaming of Sunday services via the church's YouTube channel continued. The greatest value of this project are the testimonies of people who, in search of spiritual meaning, began to follow the services of BC Zagreb and opened their hearts to God through them.



2021.

Filip Grujić Becomes Pastor of BC Zagreb

Filip Grujić (1988) worked as the head of youth work in BC Zagreb from 2010-2018, and was ordained as a deacon of the church in 2015. He was ordained as a pastor of the SBC in the Republic of Croatia on June 17, 2018, when he became an assistant pastor at BC Zagreb. Filip Grujić earned a master's degree in theology at the International Baptist Theological Faculty in Amsterdam under the University of Manchester program, and in November 2021, he became the full-time pastor of BC Zagreb.

Our mission

To live every day with Christ and for Christ in our families, workplaces, city and society.

We want to be a socially present church that invites conversion to Christ and brings the influence and atmosphere of Christ's kingdom to our city every day.

In doing so, we recognize: the freedom of choice of each individual, true communion among believers, and openness to different forms of Christian spirituality as fundamental values according to which we act.

Freedom

We want to follow Christ's call to change the society in which we live and proclaim Christ through prayer, word and deed, while accepting that God has given each person the freedom to choose their own worldview.

We invite you to a personal encounter with Christ and a response to God's call to repentance and conversion.

We baptize people who accept Christ knowingly and without coercion on the basis of the testimonies of their faith.

Fellowship

True fellowship is a reflection of Christ's character. We recognize each other as parts of the body of Christ in which the Holy Spirit dwells.

We are responsible to encourage, encourage, warn each other and to build and promote the Kingdom of God together.

We make the most important decisions together by following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that is, by accepting theocracy - God's rule.

Openness

We accept all who belong to Christ as sisters and brothers despite our differences, while striving for the complete truth of God.

We encourage our members to testify to the love that transcends differences in initiatives and actions with other Christians.

We recognize different forms of Christian spirituality as means of getting closer to Christ and we strive to be filled with his presence, in order to make Him visible in our city and society.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28: 18-20



Only some milestones are indicated and described in this material, and there were certainly many more. Many more different events could and should be described - evangelizations, concerts, christenings, solemn devotions, other programs, humanitarian activities, visits, conferences, excursions, camps, and care for the needy. One could and should mention a lot more people who dedicatedly served and those who are now serving in different services and in different projects. It could and should be done, but this material has its limitations.

That's why we invite all of you who are reading this to get to know people and events personally, to praise efforts and to praise people. Let's all find inspiration and motivation together in the lives of Christ's saints - those we remember but also those we live with today.

In gratitude for the history that has shaped us, let us approach the present in which we live with open eyes, while our hearts are directed towards the glorious future into which Jesus Christ himself leads us. We believe that the words written in Philippians 1:6 also apply to all of us Baptists in Zagreb:

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

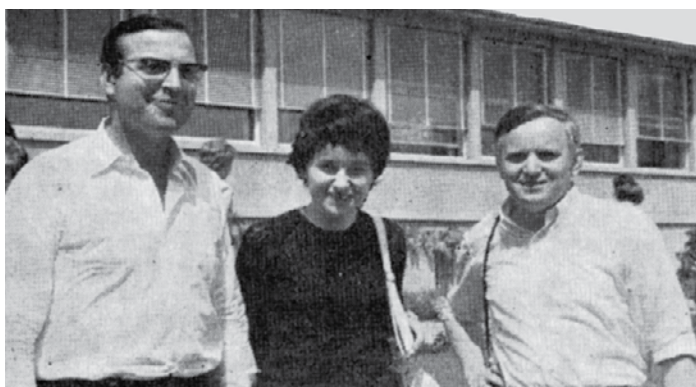
Philippians 1:6





An extensive monograph of the Zagreb Baptist Church entitled “*We are not from yesterday*” is being prepared. We are still collecting documents, testimonies, memories, photos... If you have any of these, please contact us at: info@bczagreb.hr

You can read the true stories from people from Zagreb, about the personal experience of Jesus Christ in their lives on our website www.bczagreb.hr



Our Stories

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Most of the photos are from private collections of church members and from the archive of BC Zagreb.

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Photo of Heinrich Meyer - source: Historisches Lexikon des Bundes Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden

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