



• • CROATIA • •



Transformative Leadership

Dobro Dan, Everyone!

I am so excited to tell you all about the opportunity I had to go to Croatia this last month and all of the incredible things God did while I was there.

I was invited to come and help serve at the International Economics, Diplomacy and Integrity Forum in Croatia. This forum “is an initiative designed to support the development of professionals and students in the areas of economics, business and politics with integrity based on the life and teachings of Jesus.” (Economic Diplomacy and Integrity 2017)

Economic,
Diplomacy and
Integrity Forum

The conference, however, is not just aimed at Christians. It is open to people of all different faiths and world-views to come and learn from the principles of Jesus. This forum and the work of the whole EDI Team is making such a huge impact in the lives of so many people from nations around the world traumatized by conflict. Most of the participants came from post-conflict and post-communism countries such as: Albania, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, and South Africa.

Christ's Power is made perfect in our...

I was invited to help provide and facilitate the music for the EDI 2017 conference. A friend of mine who I met in Belfast, Zachary Schmidt, told me about the conference and asked me to come and help him serve as the main music coordinator. I was excited not only for the opportunity to serve through music but also for the opportunity to learn as much as I could from this incredible conference.

A few weeks after Zac invited me to come help him with the music, Zac developed a severe pain in his shoulder which also caused his fingers to go numb. This severely limited his ability to play music. We decided that it would be best if I lead most of the music and anything that he lead I would help support him on guitar or piano.

Even though this situation was obviously not ideal, both Zac and I were so encouraged by the reminder that Christ's power is made perfect in our weakness. We all come from different situations and we each have our own unique challenges and struggles, but this in no way excludes us from working with Christ to impact our world. In fact, it is often through our weaknesses that His power is displayed more brilliantly to those around us as we lean and depend on Him more. This truth became kind of a theme for the entire conference. I'm so thankful I got to work together with Zac and see God encourage people through music everyday.

Artists for Integrity

I was also able to connect with Zac and his wife Sonia about the project they are starting in Spain called Artists for Integrity. The vision behind this initiative is to help connect and encourage a network of artists around the world that are interested in using their skills as artists to transform their communities. Zac and I have made plans to continue working together on this project and we hope to see it grow into an international movement of artists.

Believe



One of the songs we played almost every morning for the conference was a song I had written called "Believe." This song is an encouragement to people who want to change the world through peace. By the end of the conference everyone was singing along.

In Summary :)

As is often the case I went to Croatia to serve others and found that I received ten times what I gave. The tools and skills that I gained from the conference itself were remarkable and I know I will use them to impact the world for peace wherever I am. Zac and I are already planning a concert in Belfast to connect artists who are encouraging peace and reconciliation through their music here in Northern Ireland. I was able to meet and form relationships with so many brilliant people from around the world who want to see the world transformed through implementing the principles of Christ in their organizations and businesses. I am so thankful for this short time I got to spend in Croatia, and I feel so privileged that I was able to be a part of the incredible work that God is doing through EDI.

Bonus Videos!

Just for fun, I thought I would share with you a couple of videos from the conference. You can click on the pictures below and it will send you to a YouTube video link online so you can watch. Hope you enjoy!



Salai, a participant from Myanmar, asked me one night to sing a song with him called “The Prayer” for one of our evening sessions. It was so hard to learn but so worth it!



On Sunday we had a little informal Church service with the participants. They asked me if I knew any worship music and if I could lead it... my response was, “Yes I do.”

Ministry of Music



This is just one of the many songs that Zac and I sang together over the course of the conference.