

Armitage Café Update

Sheldon, Anna and Mia Armitage

Serbia

Since our arrival back to Slovakia in June we've been launching into some exciting projects. Only one week after we got back, Anna and I drove down to Serbia for our third Organix Emerging Leadership Development Event. We had an incredible week of training, strategizing and learning with over 30 young leaders from all over Serbia and nationalities including Slovak, Romanian, Hungarian and Macedonian.



This year's theme was about Teamwork, Unity and Partnerships, which for this part of Europe is still a contentious issue. Ever since the break up of Yugoslavia, the crisis over Kosovo and the rise of Islam in the Balkans, Serbia has felt abandoned by the west and fractured within their own nation. This spirit of disunity has infected the church but at this Organix we had an incredible spiritual breakthrough amongst these next generation leaders who desire to see a united Body and a powerful Church working together to see Serbia saved.

It was an incredible privilege to give leadership to this event, teach at different sessions and pray and counsel individual leaders about what God is saying to them about their own Kingdom work. Please pray for the peace and unity of Serbia and that the church would start to grow in new and exciting ways. There is a new video featuring some of these young leaders on our website (www.armitagecafe.com). If you would like a copy to show at your church please let us know.

Young Adults Group

Closer to home here in Slovakia we are starting a new and exciting venture, the formation of a young adults group as part of the church plant. This is a strategic move as we are in a city with two major, national universities. Each year thousands of young adults come to Nitra to study, work and prepare for future life and leadership. We believe that now is the time to establish a missional community that will reach out to these students with the truth, words and actions of the gospel.

Anna and I will be developing, leading and empowering a team of Slovak young adults who will be the start of this missional community. We are already starting to pray, dream and brainstorm about how we will be an influential force of love, grace and power in the universities and places of connection for young adults. This will become a major area of focus for us over the next few years. We believe that thousands of young adults can be reached with the gospel of Jesus in this time.

Emerging Leaders and Pastors School

September also sees the launch of Catalyst, the young leaders and pastors training that we are starting in partnership with the network of churches we are involved with here in Slovakia. We are expecting about 20 young leaders and pastors to join us for 10 months of training in theology, self development and relevant leadership and ministry skills. We will be doing some of the teaching along with other pastors and leaders from our network of churches.

Upcoming NLI Training

In November I will be going down to Macedonia for our final Organix Emerging Leadership Event. This will mark the end of our development program there with 30 young leaders in this impoverished and struggling nation. We are believing that many of them will become the future pastors and church planters in this nation of 2 million people but only 1000 Christ followers.



In December, Anna and I will be going to Spain for our second Organix Emerging Leadership Event. We will be leading and training 150 young Spanish leaders from all over this great nation. This is our first Western European nation that we are working in and it is challenging and exciting to see the differences in church culture, leadership understanding and practices. This year we will be joined by David Harvey from Bolton, UK and Chris Weirsma from Toronto, Ontario.

Finances

We will be setting our new budget for 2008 and are looking to add 10 new churches to our shared support team. Our budget for 2008 is roughly \$64 000 which includes both living and ministry expenses. We are currently in a deficit of about \$5000 Canadian from our last two years of transitioning into the PAOC budgeting system. We need to make that up as well as raise the extra to meet our 2008 budget in order to continue building a strong church in Slovakia, reaching hundreds and thousands of young adults in Nitra and developing new generation leaders all across Europe.

We invite you and your church to partner with us to see all of these things happen. It was great to meet with you in May/June and would love to hear from you over the next few months. If you need any more specific proposals or information for your church or missions committee we will be glad to provide that.

Resources

"Picture This...Nine Ways to Look at Mission," my short book on missional living and thinking is almost a year old! We've seen a few hundred copies sold and it is now being used by Broadway Church for all their short term mission team members; Matt Janes at the STM Network is distributing it to different key leaders and pastors that he has connection with and a church in Minnesota has developed a 10 week course using this book as it's main source. We are hoping to see more books published and distributed throughout the next year and would love to make this resource available to you and your church as well. Please email us at sheldon@armitagecafe.com for more information.



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New generation global Christians serving with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and Next Level International in Slovakia and Europe.

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