

Bosnia & Croatia, EUROPE

Short background: long term commitment in building a native Bosnian Christian church

First Church involvement: For years, Bosnians have been nominal Muslims at best. The lasting effects of the Ottoman Empire and recent communism have left these people without any particular spiritual compass at all. With the recent wars, the Bosnians could not be more despondent and lost, and in need of Good News. One of the very few blessings, which came out of the highly destructive wars in Bosnia earlier in this decade, was the emergence of new Christian witnesses. The Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osijek, Croatia started a humanitarian aid program called Agape. Students at the seminary spent nearly all their free time driving to Bosnia and offering help in the form of food, clothing and medical care in some often very dangerous situations. Those Bosnians who were fortunate enough to have survived the war, and who as well became recipients of Agape's ministry, were overwhelmed with a sense of fortune and gratitude. As a result, some of the Agape students are now full-time missionaries living in Bosnia and starting new churches. The funds that First Church provided last year are being used to provide a worship space for a budding congregation in the town of Banja Luka, a successful Bosnian missionary, Nikola Skrinjaric, is starting his third new church. Our partner in this mission is Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship. Our point of contact: Rev. Dan McNerney, Associate Director, , 958 Pine St., Winnetka, IL, 60093, #847-446-1019, email: PFFDMcN@aol.com (ECO#-040051).

Service opportunities: A mission trip is usually planned and led each year by Dan McNerney.

Map and pictures:



Churches are rebuilt, congregations pray in a bombed-out ruin. New house churches are being started.

Links to Presbyterian Church (USA): <http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/croatia/>
World Factbook on Bosnia: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/bk.html>