

# The Oman Family



## To Croatia



Dear Fellow Laborers:

January 2026

Greetings from Split, Croatia! It is hard to believe we have been here for almost 4 weeks. It has been a whirlwind of events since our arrival – getting settled into our new apartment, gathering and submitting paperwork, learning how to drive a stick-shift again, and figuring out where you can and cannot park (beware the tow trucks called “spiders” that haunt these streets!) all while navigating a new language.

We have quickly discovered Croatia is not like the United States. Every new day seems to bring a new experience. While we have thoroughly enjoyed many aspects of our new home, not everything has been easy. Even small tasks can be stressful when you don’t know what you’re doing. That’s why it was such a blessing to have my sister here for a couple weeks to help us! Many times she watched the boys for us while we would go to the police station to submit paperwork or quickly run to the corner grocery store.

We are also very thankful we get to work with the Leslie family. They have been so gracious to show us the ropes of daily life here in Split and how to navigate Croatian bureaucracy. Everything would be exponentially more difficult without their help!

On our second Sunday here we held a Baby Dedication Service for a young couple and their new baby girl. About 30 of their family members attended, most of whom come from a Catholic background. The Gospel was preached plain and clear and some heard it for the first time. No professions of faith were made, but we are praying and look forward to the fruit that will come from the seeds that were planted. What an encouragement it was to see the courage of this young couple to take a stand for Christ where it is sometimes hardest – right at home!

To close, a couple prayer requests: We have officially turned in our paperwork for our visas. Please pray they will get accepted quickly. We don’t anticipate any major obstacles, but Croatian bureaucracy is famous for “missing one paper”, which can hold up the process. We have also reached out to our neighbors in our building trying to establish relationships. Not even the Croats can resist Sierra’s baking! Please pray for Luka and his family, and for Abela and her mother as we look for more ways to minister and share the Gospel.

Sierra and I are so grateful for the many texts, emails, and encouraging notes we have received since our arrival. We feel so loved and supported. Know that your efforts have made a difference!

For Christ,

*Derek Oman*

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