

# Women's Winter Edition

# KASKADA

## MAGAZINE



SKYPE Interview with  
Kim Thompson

RBU USA DIRECTOR

*Sharing Special Christmas Memories*



INTERNATIONAL  
CHRISTMAS RECIPES

**A Team of Love**  
**Memories & Customs**

RBU **Gift to Readers**  
CHILDREN'S Illustrated Story

**13 UNDER 10**  
THE LIL'S OF RBU







Kim Thompson  
US Director, RBU

## CUSTOMS & MEMORIES

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Welcome to the special Winter edition of RBU KASKADA ONLINE Magazine.; 'Quilting a Team of Love'. Thanks to you our first edition was a success. Well read, and enjoyed by many. As many of our Missionaries live and serve in Eastern Europe where Christmas is celebrated in early January we decided to release this Special Winter edition on January 6 for Serbian Christmas.

Christmas is all about the Incarnation –the coming of our Saviour into the world– and it is the way in which each person celebrates that glorious Good News which this Special Women's Christmas KASKADA Magazine edition is all about: Customs and Memories.

With so many nationalities represented in our mission, we thought it would be fun to send you this special glimpse into the lives of the Women in Roma Bible Union, their families and national Christmas traditions and memories.

Women's Ministry has been the focus of my personal ministry for many years and having served in several different countries it has always been amazing to see the way in which each lady brings Christmas into her own home and family.

Each one of these women of the Roma Bible Union is so very special, and each has their own Christmas Customs and Memories to share. I hope you will enjoy reading about their lives and take the opportunity to pray for each one. They are serving God where they live using their many talents and gifts.

Blessings to you as well as you celebrate the Birth of our Saviour and make your own Christmas Memories and Customs.

God Bless,

Kim Thompson,  
US Director, RBU



#### FEATURE ARTICLE

4

*Quilting a Team of Love: Women's Ministry as Member Care*

*Interview with Kim Thompson  
by Elvira Marginean*

#### FEATURE ARTICLE

16

*13 UNDER 10  
Growing a Mission  
Equation from the Inside  
Out*

*by Bob Hitching*

#### FEATURE ARTICLE

46

*God Never Sleeps  
by Andrijana Nikolic*

#### FEATURE ARTICLE

12

*Love & Wonder:  
Making New  
Christmas Memories*

*by Helen Moineau*

35

*News & Notes*

*Hey, I Went  
Hungry*

*by Nancy Hitching*

37

*Laundry Lines  
Photo Gallery*

*by Janneke Huisman*

38-45

*The RBU Lil's*

*by Their Parents*

#### FEATURE CLUSTER

19-33

*Quilting a Team of Love*

*Christmas Memories, Recipes,  
Scripture Favorites from each  
RBU Sister*

34

*2018: A New Year  
& New RBU  
Friends & Interns*

9

*A Sleeping Rage*

*by Misha Bakic*

10

*CABBAGE! What More  
Can You Say?*

*by Nancy Hitching*

11

*Double Dutch:  
I Changed the  
Challenge!*

*by Janneke Huisman*

51

*Sneak Peek  
Spring 2018 Issue*







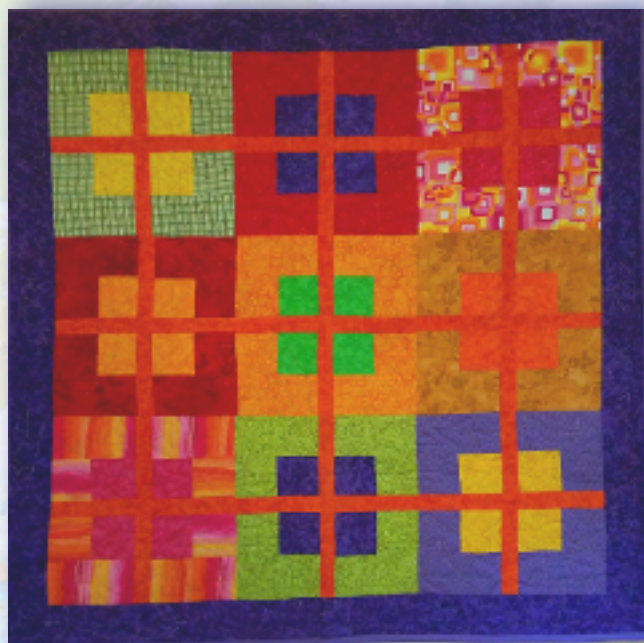
Kim Thompson

USA Director, RBU



## A Team of Love

### Women's Ministry as Member Care



work in the workplace. As missionaries for those organizations in America we had been living and working out of our Winnebago type travel home. We felt it was time to sell it. So, we bought a house. I now needed to work for income

and so I prayed and thought maybe I would just finish being a missionary and find a job as a normal person (laughing). So I then resigned from my mission organization. One day later, but it was actually the same day (as there is a 9 hour time difference) so on a Friday in America and a Saturday in Hungary, Nancy Hitching called me. She had been my friend for 15 years and knew about my ministry in Latvia having watched my ministry videos. She had been praying about RBU needing a new director, and she said, "I was praying and your name, *Kim Thompson* came into my mind". She contacted me on February 14th and said, "You wouldn't need a job, would you? We need someone to work for Roma Bible Union, would you pray about becoming our USA Director?" (laughing at the memories back then). We started to talk about it and in February I agreed to be the USA Director at the invitation of Bob and Nancy, the

founders of RBU. And so, I began as the USA Director of RBU on April 1, 2017.

E: How is your relationship with the members in RBU?

K: It's really one of the best parts of my job! Talking with the RBU 'family' (which is how we all talk about ourselves), is mostly thru emails and SKYPE. It happens that almost every day I'm talking to Europe, from America, either to Hungary, or Serbia or Croatia by email or SKYPE. So it really is amazing! Because the 'people' are the *heart* of the ministry—they are the ones that have the vision and the calling, the skills, and the gifts that God gave when he called them to do the work— and so the best part of my job is to care for, talk to, and pray with the many different members of the RBU family!

E: You were into a women's ministry in Latvia as you have mention before. Can you share with us your experience?

K: I became a Christian when I was 5 years old. My father lead me to Lord and so I grew up in a Christian home. I went to church but at the time when I reached my teenager years I didn't have very many relatives (cousins, aunts, or uncles) who lived near me and so I had the sense of needing a family around me. The natural place to turn to was the people in the church. In the church there were many caring women who loved me and I realized that I wanted to get those women together, in one place, so I started "Breakfast Club". I invited them to have breakfast together and then I realized how wonderful it is when women are gathered together. At the age of 16 I really felt that God was saying this is what I want you to do for the rest of your life.

I finished high school and I went to work for a while and then I started to look for colleges and



one of the women in the "Breakfast Club" said to me, "Kim you have many skills and talents, you really need to go to Bible school". I had the money only for one year of study so I started school and God took care of me. I went for 4 years and got my bachelor degree. My degree was in Bible with a women's ministry minor. So you can see, I was really at the beginning of this training for women's ministries as far as the college level.

I was living in Portland during that time and was still single. So after collage I began to go on short term mission trips and I kind had this love for both women's ministries and missions



Interview by  
Elvira Marginean  
RBU KASKADA Intern  
Novi Sad, Serbia



Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him. And He shall direct your paths.



## A Team of Love



*Latvia Women's Quilting Ministry*

E: As you know, our theme for our special Kaskada Magazine for Christmas edition is "Quilting a team of love", can you share your experience of quilting?

working as I was working among people of another cultures. I just kept doing that for so many years and I ended up working in my own church which is and was a very large church. They have healthy Bible studies and we share that same love for women's ministries and missions. So caring for those of other nationalities was kind of always brought together in my life and experience.

I was invited to go to Latvia to help with women's ministries and all of the sudden it became very clear, that God had planned this all along, for the whole of my life. So I went to Latvia as a single women and I worked there for 1 year. I also did language study, That was the beginning of my ministry in Latvia.

After my first year, my father became very sick

and I had to return back to America. During that time Bruce and I were attending the same church. I got up to say a few 'words' of greeting while the offering was being taken. Bruce is very tall and was sitting at the time. He saw me, but I did not realize he was there. He realized I was 'back home' and began to see me in a different way. But he never approached me about it.

Then in May 2000 we met again and this time we discussed marriage and in September of the same year we were married. I asked him, "Would you like to do something new, or to return where I was in Latvia?". And he responded, "Let's go back!" We both did what God called us to do. I worked with the Latvian Christian women in leadership in the churches there helping to develop and then start a training program for other Christian women leaders So women's ministry and the training program was most of what I did while I was serving as a missionary in Latvia.

E: You mentioned your husband earlier. Can you share who is he, and what are his ministries?

K: He is always involved with me (laughing). My husband's name is Bruce and he is a mechanic, a welder, and a truck driver. He is the kind of guy that whatever he is putting his mind in to, he can fix, build, and repair. In Latvia we lived in a farming village and so he got to know all the men in the village, including the mayor, the fire chief, the engineers, the owners of the auto services and he also made friends with the men of the

community. The grandmas found out that he can weld and fix things, so they would come to his garage where his car was and say to him, 'Hey, could you please fix my shovel? I will give you a jar of honey.' Like an exchange. He served by mentoring the men, discipling them telling them about Jesus by talking about work. I was more of a teacher, I would teach and he would do the practical things by his hands, but I was serving with him. It was a good balance. We are a good team!

E: You spend a lot of years in Latvia as you mentioned before, can you tell me about the women there?

K: We lived in a village which is far from the capital, so the women that we served, most of them were either working women who worked in a village, or worked in the nearby town to support their families. Many of them were also farmers, so they would work but they would also have a small farm to help feed their family. Many of them had cows, goats, and of course they needed to take care of their house so they had so much to do. To do something like sewing, or to go to a Bible study was something very special for them. That was the bright place in their day and in their week.

E: What actually does 'women's ministry' mean to you?

K: You know, I think that God created every woman very uniquely, and each one is loved by God, and they need to know that. To know that she is valued, and that God has a this great love for her. Also, if she knows God as her Savior, she needs to know that she has gifts and talents which can be used for God, for ministry, and for life. So, when I think about the women's ministry I think about bringing the women into her



fullest potential, first, in God, and also in her own skills, talents, and in her self-esteem. It is encouraging to see that the women can realize that they can be at the center of all that is in God's plan. First, learning to know the Bible, then learning to love their church, and finally to see life thru the eyes of serving in their various ministries. It is very important!

E: What was the reason that you got in to it, and felt so excited about it?

K: As I mentioned, I was only 16 when I first realized how powerful it is when the women are gathered together. And in America the families are not so strong in the way that they used to be. Aunts, uncles, grandparents don't live near your family so often any more. And if they do, you only see them a few times a year, because of work and the business in their life. 100 years ago, there were families that would live together on the same property so they would see each other every day, but in my case I was looking for a community of women not only to help me in my life but to guide me because I was making big decisions about who I was and where I was going. They certainly did shape my life, and as I mentioned earlier, with the encouragement from these women I went to Bible school and also went into missions. After all these years I'm still in touch with them. I mean I'm 53 now but then I was only 16 at the time, and they were interested in my life, they loved me, used God's word to help me understand the future, and the problems

Kim & Bruce  
"We are a good team!"





that God would help me to solve in my life.

E: How about our Roma Sister Place, and the Roma Sister Place which has just been started in Bor, Serbia, how do you see women's ministry growing the church?

K: The prayer that we receive by joining together with our sisters from the Roma Sisters Place is a great encouragement because we know that we are not alone. We are working all together to pray for, and to care for the needs of the Roma women and their families. So the prayer that they give us and the ministry is big encouragement. The church is so much more than just a preacher and sermon on Sunday. It's life among the believers all the other days in a week. God made women to be care-takers, and that is how He designed us to be- mothers and care-takers .

I really believe that the women are the key in the church, to take care of the needs of the church, to guide the children, to give a female perspective to the leadership. I think that women hear the Bible specially, differently from another women. Therefore a women can can apply the Word into another women's life, to help her in areas such as parenting, for example, and marriage. I really do believe that the women are the great key in helping the church to grow. And of course we are also able to raise the next generation. As a mother we need to be training our children to love our God and to bring them the Biblical principals from the Bible.

About Serbia it gives me so much joy to see them gathered together, and before we ever had the Decade of the Book in Bor this September there were so many women here in the US praying for Bor and for the church there. Then as the women had their first meeting during the Decade of the Book week the women from here in America and all over the world were praying for them. We were so excited because the seeds were planted and

now this beautiful women's ministry is coming up as a beautiful flower beginning to grow. Like the theme that you had during the Decade of the Book «Bloom There Where you are Planted».

E: Do you see the Roma Sisters Place Ladies Tea Group as a way for the Roma Bible Union to open up ministry for women in the Roma churches or villages?

K: I think that is very possible and that this is a very easy way to care about the women in the church, no matter what church it is, or gathering, or even if is not a church. Maybe a village has a group of women who wants to meet together who does not yet have a church. They can do this very simple event because women, tea, few cookies, or how it is in Serbia instead of tea having coffee, and talking that is a combination that goes together.

That is how it has been for generations, and it is so much more than just gathering together, it is putting God in the focus, in the middle. And when you put women together with God in the focus great things can happen! And that is the heart of women's ministry- women caring for women with God in the middle of it. And when we give Him the opportunity to work, watch out because God is going to do something more than you can think or imagine. So whether it is in a Roma village or a city center, or whether it is a place with no church, or a place with a church, when women gather and they do want to honor God, He is going to meet them and He is going to work to do amazing things in their life. That is the beauty.!

E: Thank you for your time and sharing it with me.

K: You're so welcome!

SKYPE Interview with Kim Thompson,  
USA RBU Director Dec. 29, 2018  
by Elvira Marginean

*Now* I must share this

because I really don't have anywhere else, in the hope that through the social network we raise awareness of sexual exploitation, pedophilia, begging...

Namely, the story is this. Last year, during the Leskovacke Rostiljijade, huge meat grilling festival each year) a whole group of beggars were present. However, the problem is even bigger, it is not the local Roma who, in such a way, are collecting for bread but the organized gang that is a business and lifestyle. I'm Rom and I know people who generally beg on the street. I'm guessing it's Romanian Roma (maybe I am wrong). I saw a pimp in the middle of the street and he was taking money from those who beg and forcing them to return to begging!



**...thoughts on motherhood  
from an angry new father**

*Misha-*

Misha Bakic is an RBU Missionary. and a member of the RBU International Board. and he is now writing for the KASKADA MAGAZINE. Misha and his wife Alika, who, is featured on page ? live with their baby daughter Mirjam in Leskovac, Serbia.







SERBIAN  
SARMA



By  
NANCY  
HITCHING  
RBU Hungary

# Cabbage!

what **more** can you say



Press for video

**P**LENTY! Living in Central Europe now for over 15 years I have migrated from indignant ingredigility to arrested astonishment, from blatant bewilderment to wide-eyed wonderment – and now after waving my weary white flag, I am content with and peacefully resigned to the 'fact' of it... CABBAGE that is, and the uncanny and almost transcendent relationship which the women over here have (and the men seem to plug into) with their beloved CABBAGE.

To me, as an East Coast raised American girl, cabbage has always been a very large tough-leafed difficult to clean, rude and nagging reminder of just how uncommitted I am to 'healthy living' and roughage. Cabbage, that

The ethno-centric self-consciousness confessions of an American missionary on the field in her fledgling first term.



## Double Dutch Janneke

\* I changed the challenge!



Netherlands



Tricia: 2017 Homemade quilt with my favorite colors!



JANNEKE HUISMAN  
RBU Missionary  
CROATIA

Enjoy more writing by JANNEKE on her regular BLOG Posts here:

Lately, there has been a 7-day challenge floating around Facebook to post photos seven days in a row—no hunans, no explanations, just Black & White pictures. It was a nice challenge. Many people shared beautiful shots and were challenged to see beauty. But, the challenge was too hard for me for three reasons:

- You would not think so, probably, but I am very bad with computers,





# Love & Wonder :Lil's Making New Christmas Memories at the Moineau House

by **Helen Moineau**  
First term Missionary with RBU

There's nothing quite like Christmas time approaching to fill a new house with warmth and mindful activity, that special something that transforms a simple "house" into so much more: a home. A recent move clearly marks new beginnings, but what's more, it can represent the shift in a family arriving further and deeper into their own story and family identity. That's what it's been for us. These past few years since Taylor and I have been married, each Christmas has been in a different place. Stability only to be found in our faith in God and in our family's love and care for each other. But now we have been blessed with a home from which we will likely not have to move for many years to come, and the prospect of putting down roots is finally before us, for the first time since we've met actually, over six years ago. I confess I am a bit unnerved by the

sensation, as we've had to wait so long for this. But slowly I feel a settling in my mind and heart, and I am seeing potentialities arising that never existed before. My heart expands with each new idea as it arises, knowing that here I can shape a real home for our small family, one full of greater stability, warmth, nourishment, acceptance and love, faith, and traditions. And that's really what I want to talk about at the moment. A new home represents the ability to implement stronger traditions surrounding our own family, but also the season and cycle of both the natural world around our new home and around the Church year of holidays, feasts, and fasts as we grow in our faith in Christ. Moving here and settling in has granted such an opportunity for moving past the haphazardness of our family life up until now. We've been in a constant state of

transition as a couple just since we first met. And we've brought two children into our family we all form together, seemingly perpetuating the chaos at times, as much as we dearly love the joy surrounding pregnancy, birth, and early infancy. So much has changed though. We are finally back in Hungary pursuing the ministry that we are dedicated to here. Our

children are both now slightly older, and a bit easier to manage and care for (read: we're getting just a tiny bit more sleep these days). And we've been blessed with a house to call our home, far into the distant future if God wills it. No more tiny apartments, boxes stored in various places, too often living out of suitcases, the inability to find things I *know* I own somewhere, but just can't locate. I feel

like I am about to become a normal adult or something. Ha..It's been a wild ride. But we moved into this home and a new chapter is beginning, and I feel a hesitant but steadily growing joy swelling up inside. Advent and the approach of Christmas are the perfect season of light and joyfulness to warm our new home at its core, dedicating it to God's glory and purpose, as we seek to live a balanced,

Cassian  
16 months

Margot 3







intentional life as a family. Practicing meaningful Advent traditions celebrating St. Nicholas Day, and preparing for Christmas as a family has been an entirely new experience this year. There's calmness, foresight, and intentionality. Things are no longer rushed and scattered. I've never quite experienced a build up to celebrating Christ's birth that has been as slow and contemplative as this year has been. It's been deeply healing for me, as I am sensing a profound shift happening in our lives. But more than anything, I sense a personal shift is beginning for myself past these raw, early days of

motherhood, and past the ragged uncertainty of these first few years of marriage and getting overseas. The process of getting to Hungary has been so difficult and a real challenge to such proportions that I could never



have anticipated fully. And in truth, I don't feel that I've ever been able to communicate it well with others. But here we are, finally settling into our new home, eager to form new memories of our own with a greater sense of permanency than we've ever experienced as a family before. Imagine the joy surrounding pulling out all of our old Christmas decorations, lights, and ornaments, with the intent of bringing the warmth and joy of this Advent season of soon celebrating Christ's birth.

All this in mind, my heart is meditating on only one thing during this Advent season: God, the giver of gifts and the God of light. Advent is a season of light, deeply symbolized by the lighting of candles each week and the awaiting of Christ, the Light of the world. The following verse from St. James has been circling through my mind and heart for some time now...

*"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."*

— James 1:17

What truth, and what beautiful imagery to convey such a profound comfort. We



will go through seasons of difficulty, long months or even years to stretch us and to grow us. But God is unchanging, and always a giver of good gifts, some big, some small. We have only to develop the eyes to see them. And for our family in this moment, it is the gift of a home of our own, some stability for the first time in several years, and the opportunity to form new memories and traditions during this season of Advent, the coming of the Lord of Lights Himself.

This is such a fun age for the children especially to begin our Christmas preparations too. Taylor and I are simply basking in all of their innocent joy and eager participation in the decorating and festivities. A one year old and a three year old's simple understanding of the world around them. Observing them really helps one to focus on the meaning at this point in the Church year. Christ Jesus. Joy in His coming. The simple celebration of light

and warmth and of knowing Him.

Earlier than in years past, I unpacked our Christmas decorations and brought them downstairs. We purchased a potted Christmas tree for the first time this year too, which I especially love. We will be able to use it for the next few years, rather than cutting down a new one each year. During the warmer months, we can have this lovely potted tree sitting on our back patio to enjoy year round as well. I so love to have plants on all sides, so this one is a double win!

As you can see from the photos throughout, the kids really loved helping with the lights and ornaments once we began decorating. Their grandma, or "Nada" as she is lovingly called, came over to help and take part in the new memories being made.

I think I can say beyond a doubt that every single one of us has very full hearts this Advent season.

**Helen Moineau**

Follow the RBU Moineau Family as they make more first term memories on the field in their ministry in Hungary you can read Helen's Blog here:



*leaves in my hair*





# 13 UNDER 10

## THE RBU LIL'S

### Growing A Mission Equation From the Inside out

Leading a Mission Team with children is, for me, one of the greatest responsibilities any leader can have. It is not so much being involved in their lives on a day to basis. Rather, it is realizing that the decisions we make as a team and also the direction that the team goes in terms of time, travel and commitment has life time consequences upon the lives of families. Putting it crudely, bad management at the team level can ruin children's lives for the whole of their lives.

Children reach an age, it differs with each child, when they are able to discern the difference between work and play time. Until they reach that point "it is all play time" and Mother and Father spend a lot of time playing with other people rather than with them.

This stage is what I call the "Play Time" stage. If we are not aware of this we start the process with the children in a negative context.

The second stage a child goes through within

the Mission family is the "Bully Stage" this often lasts from about 6 or 7 years of age up until well into Pre-teen life. The Missionary child obviously feels different when they interact with the local children. It can be in school but just as much for Home schoolers who try to make friends in their host cultures. Sometimes the rejection is overtly

cruel with all kinds of things said and texted to the Missionary child. Often, probably mostly, it is the feeling of being different, on the outside, marginalized and set apart that the child feels. To compensate for those feelings "Always" involves compromise in terms of the child acting in a way that either purposely avoids attention or purposely gains attention. Whichever route the child takes they become impostors and they take that with them into the next phase which is the "Hormones on

Fire" stage. For girls and boys it expresses itself differently but is still rooted in the same basic awareness; That is that they are sexual beings. What would have been absurd

just a few years before has suddenly become a daily reality.

If the child has felt isolated and then becomes an impostor the early teenage years can become a dreadful place to be. This stage is also the hardest period for the Missionary parent. A parent talking to their child about the child's sexuality is similar to a child hearing about their parents sexuality. It is also in this stage the most important persons in the child's life are their friends rather than their own family. Sadly, this can become the beginning of a very long road of alienation within the family.

In RBU we have youngsters and their parents who are going through all of these stages. No other issue makes them question their calling more than the issue of their children.

As I lead the work I live with a constant awareness that this is going on all around me with those I love and no other issue haunts me more than this one.

For our team they have to struggle with little real persecution in the "Catacombs" sense of

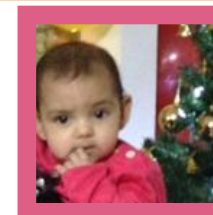
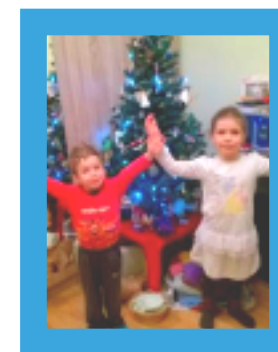
the word. At the same time, they struggle and suffer at levels that are hard to imagine.

So what do I do? What do they do? What do their prayer partners do? I think the answer is found purely in the realm of the Spirit interestingly enough. The problems I have outlined are sociological and psychological but they are rooted in the Spiritual. If The Accuser can neutralize our children he may very well neutralize our calling.

Praying over families and praying over children is a powerful weapon. That kind of prayer also causes us to be alert to the issues. That kind of prayer will help us to understand the families in our care. That kind of prayer ultimately leads to make right decisions about "Play Time".



6  
BOYS  
7  
GIRLS



by  
BOB  
HITCHING

( ) =





# RBU

## Gift to Readers

CHILDREN'S  
Illustrated Story  
A Bowl of Red  
Cherries

Written by

Nancy Hitching

Illustrated by

Laura Dreyer

**Read-aloud  
Flip-Book**



**A**ll over Central and Eastern Europe, in villages much like the one in which little Vesna and her baby brother live, Roma children in Roma families have been born, lived their lives, raised their own families and died. Their stories are colored

**a team of love**







1 John 4: 9-10  
 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.



Fish Soup, Fondant,  
 & Fond Memories

When I was a young child,

## "A Halászlé" Christmas Fish Soup



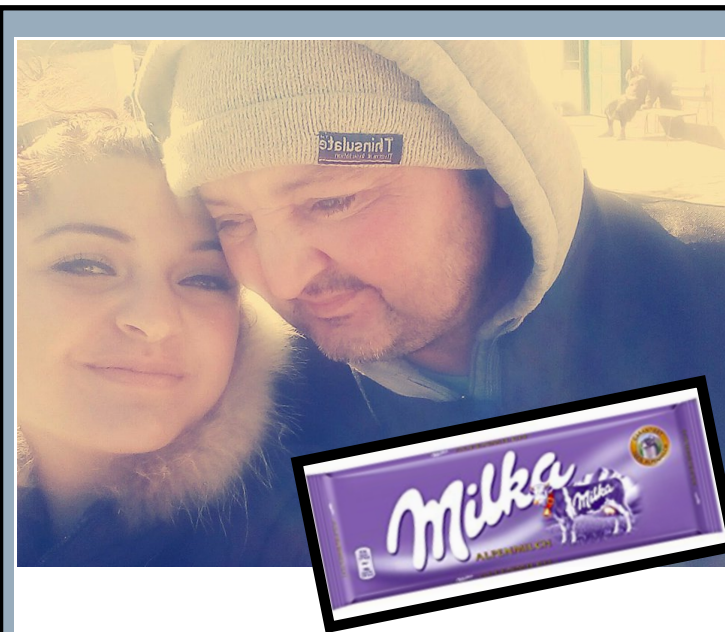
Tradition Hungarian Menu  
 for Christmas at our Family

23rd/Dec: "Mákos guba"



**Mákos guba**, a Christmas classic in Hungary, is bread pudding with poppy seeds. Poppy seed is a favorite ingredient all over Central-Europe and there are many dessert recipes in the Hungarian cuisine that call for poppy seed. In our family we love poppy seed and mákos guba has always accompanied our Christmas Eve dinner.

See Recipe Below for Mákos Guba



## My Bittersweet Christmas Memory

As my dad has been gone now for over two years this memory is a bittersweet but one I will never forget.

My favorite Christmas memory is the one I remember when I was only 6 or 7



## Chocolate balls with M&M's candies

750g ground biscuit plazma  
 1 package of M&M's candies  
 1/2 package of coconut powder  
 300g Cooking chocolate  
 6 spoons of cocoa powder  
 1/2 margarine(butter) for cakes  
 Milk 250-300ml  
 -Put in a bowl the 750 ground biscuit plazma, (can use Bisquick mix with salt and rising agent added) add the 6 spoons of the cocoa powder, add the 1/2 of the butter, and add milk. With hands mix it all together do not add the milk at once, but bit a bit, till you don't get the softness that you want. Add the 1 package of M&M's candies. Mix well. Form little balls, every ball dip it in the melted chocolate and roll







My favorite memory of Christmas is that every Christmas Eve we would have the big Christmas celebration in our church with the special talents of the little ones being on display. I would usually be involved with drama showing the birth of

*"I miss those beautiful days of pure child innocence and pure child joy of the small things."*

Alika



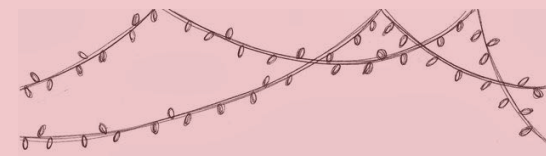
Alika is enjoying her first Christmas this year as a mommy to baby Miriam, now 5 months—and RBU's littlest Lil'.



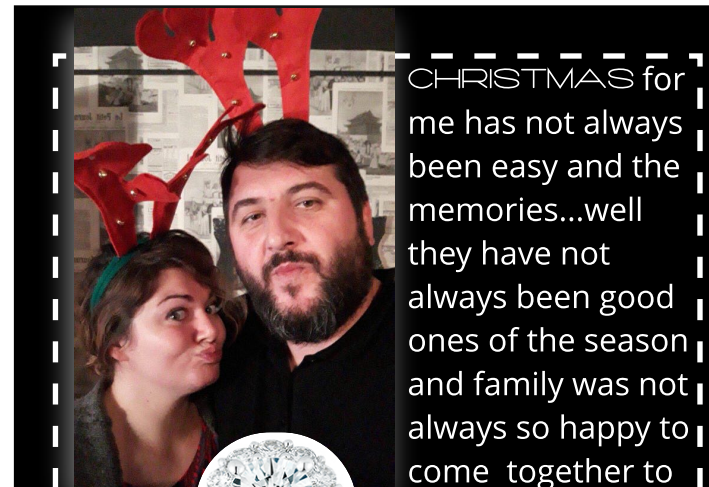
### Sour Chicken Soup

My favorite Christmas dish is called "**Bela Corba**" and it is something like a white soup. The English translation is Sour Chicken Soup and the special ingredient is "kiselo mleko" ('sour milk' may use butter milk OR thinned down yogurt, or kefir)

### Ingredients and



I Have Come  
into the world  
as *light*  
So That No One  
who believes in me  
Need Remain In The  
*dark*  
John 12:46



CHRISTMAS for me has not always been easy and the memories...well they have not always been good ones of the season and family was not always so happy to come together to



I celebrate meaning that many Christmas Seasons I did not see my family at all. Now!...that has all changed. My new husband Slobodan and I are celebrating our first Christmas as man and wife and we are excited to be opening up our home and our lives to the making of new Christmas memories and traditions. This time next year ....there will be THREE of us to make memories..That's right but Mum is the word...Mommy that is ;)

NEUNA



### YES! YUMMY! Christmas Cherry Cheesecake

THIS is Christmas dessert at its best for me....only thing is I have never made it ! I have always been fortunate enough to have been invited to Christmas meals where it was served as a dessert...so I had to ask someone to give me the recipe... Here it is... the YES! YUMMY! Christmas Cherry Cheesecake

ENJOY!...I always do.

### Cheesecake

- 1&1/4 cup (145g) honey graham cracker crumbs
- 3 tbsp (45g) melted butter
- 2-250g pkg cream cheese, room temperature
- ¾ cup (150g) granulated sugar
- 3 large eggs





## ANDREA



Andrea and Chris Malinowski live and work in Belgrad, Serbia with their five children. Andrea and Chris are ministry partners with RBU. They work as English teachers and consultants with a Serbian educational organization. They also work with the Roma



families of

Belgrade in a 'Family Center' they opened this year to bring reading and other 'helps' to Roma and their families. Andrea's heart is for education and literacy. She is now homeschooling two of her children after seeing her oldest daughter Maddie graduate and her two younger daughters, Lizzy and Gracie prepare for and enter a Christian boarding high school in Germany this school year. Her two youngest, sons Matthew 8 and Isaiah 6 are the oldest of the RBU Lils. Never a dull moment in Andrea's precious family- it is a family FULL of love and close care for each other.



## Needles & Thread



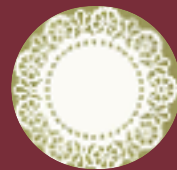
BUTTONS, buttons, buttons,  
Round as each unique,  
Circled beauty and in-sparkled,  
Women, round His table be.



Made in image of her Saviour  
varied though her gifts may be  
Baring clear His shined  
reflection  
For the world His Glory see.



## Buttons & Bows



## Agljo e olio

(Garlic and Oil)

It is a taste of Christmas  
in my house!

Spaghetti Aglio e olio (Garlic and Oil)



## DUTCH PEPERNOTEN RECIPE

Total time one hour

YIELD: 50 pepernoten

INGREDIENTS:

50g butter (1 3/4 oz)

## Janneke



## Dutch Pepernoten

DUTCH PEPERNOTEN (Pepper Nuts) are my favorite! Saint Nicholas Day (Dec. 6) is actually much more important in the Netherlands than Christmas Day on December 25... it is huge! Games, fun, poems, gifts. We grew up in a family that did not put up and

ii

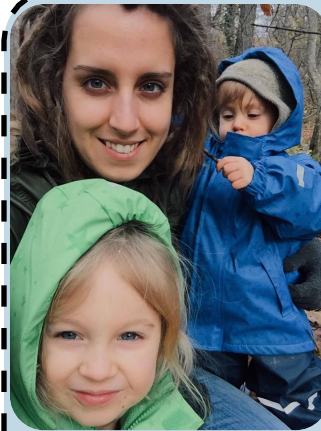


## St. Nicholas Day Decembr 6



Our Tiny Best Ever  
Christmas Party





Over the past few years I have discovered the joy and relaxation of coloring in coloring books for adults. Last Advent I colored a series of wonderful and reflective pictures while awaiting the birth of the Christ child. I now share them with you. Click on the Angel to the left. Hope you enjoy!



## HELEN

Click leaves in my hair to view Helen's personal and ongoing BLOG

leaves in my hair

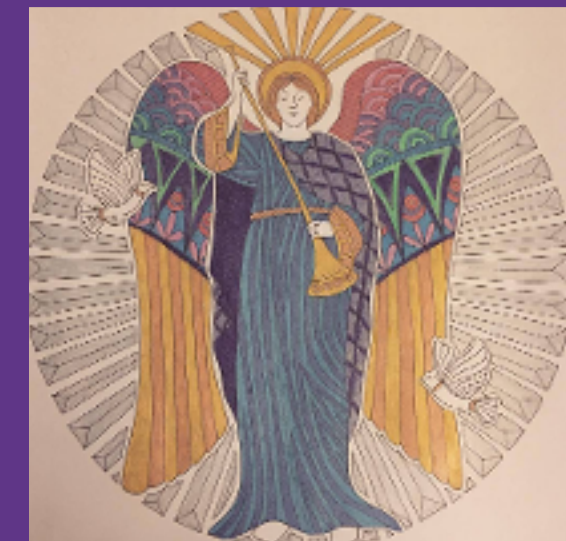
## JULIANNA



## Hungarian Christmas Pancakes



These pancakes are great with Nutella, ice-cream, marmalade etc.



## Classic Pumpkin Pie



All over the world there are variations on this theme..where there is a squash there is a pie.....Best in Hungary when you use a Sonca Orange Butternut Squash.

**Ingredients:**

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves

## Matthew 5:43-48

### Love Your Enemies

43" You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your

*Boldog Karácsonyt!*







## NUT CRESCENT COOKIES

The recipe:

PAPER BAG  
SNOWFLAKES



Link to  
How To Video  
credit CRAFTIE

credit for  
photo  
<https://www.cchobby.nl>

# Nori



## Scandinavian Almond Bars



<http://www.geniuskitchen.com/recipe/scandinavian-almond-bars-103703>

READY IN: 27 mins

SERVES: 48

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 cup margarine or 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar

<https://theviewfromgreatisland.com>  
photo credit

My Favorite Quilt  
it hangs in my home



The women in my family

# KIM



Proverbs 3:

5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own  
understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths

## Shattered Pots & Christmas Forgiveness

A Very Sharp Christmas  
Memory

Christmas Eves were often  
stressful for my family for  
some reason. And at one of  
them we were all so crossed  
with each other (my mum,  
dad, grandma, sister and me  
lived in one household) that we

YET YOU, LORD, ARE OUR FATHER.  
WE ARE THE CLAY, YOU ARE THE POTTER;  
WE ARE ALL THE WORK OF YOUR HAND.  
ISAIAH 64:8





# Biljana



## White Icing Star Shortbread Cookies

### Ingredients

- 1½ cups butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup white chocolate chips
- Colored sprinkles

## MOMMY'S LIL' KITCHEN HELPER



## Christmas Pies

## 'FRANCISKI SALATA'

Potatoe Salad  
with a "Balkan Kick"



Photo credit to  
<https://www.acanadianfoodie.com/>  
Recipe credit to Valerie Lugonja

Prep Time 1 hour

Cook Time 30 minutes Total Time 1 hour  
30 minutes

Servings 20 servings Ingredients

Ingredients:

400 grams or 2 cups ham

2 cups dill pickles

# Natasha

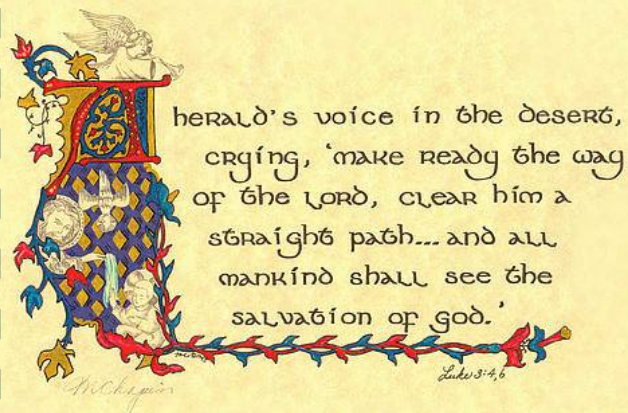


ELLI, 3



## Hearing Mom's Christmas Memories for the first time by Andrijana Nikolic

I have often wondered what life was like for my Mother



herald's voice in the desert,  
crying, 'make ready the way  
of the lord, clear him a  
straight path... and all  
mankind shall see the  
salvation of god.'

Luke 3:4,6

## BOZICINI KRUH



## CHRISTMAS SPICED & DRIED FRUIT AND NUT BREAD

credit to  
<https://www.acanadianfoodie.com/>





## The Nativity Icon

Link to  
A Readers Guide to  
Orthodox Icons:  
The Nativity Icon



## "Just How Much Do You Love Your Family"

Christmas Missionary Casserole



### VERSION ONE

1st year missionary version  
with 'stuff bought from  
"home"'

PANIC! 2nd year version  
"HOME-Stuff ALL-GONE!"

(CROATIAN ALTERNATIVE RECIPE  
SEE BELOW)

American Recipe

Ingredients: 5 (if you count the pepper)

Nancy



*Acts 17:28*  
*For in him we live,*  
*and move,*  
*and have our being;*



**Measles-Mint**  
**Christmas Memory**

## CROATIAN PITA

Apple Cake you won't  
forget soon



### Ingredients

SERVINGS:

USMETRIC

dough

40flour(dag, 0.9 lb)

1teaspoonbaking powder

1eggs

10sugar(dag, 3.5 oz, or more)

Everything  
Has Its  
Time



### Ecclesiastes 3

3To everything *there is* a season,  
A time for every purpose under  
heaven:



Andrijana





The RBU KASKADA Graphics Club  
welcomes Danijela Nikolic to RBU.

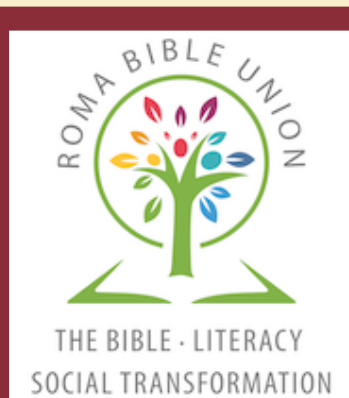
Danijela is a High School Sophomore  
with a special gifting in art and music.  
She has just begun an internship in  
graphic design and will be working  
weekly with Nancy Hitching preparing  
to assist in the design and layout work  
of the KASKADA Online Magaizine.

RBU KASKADA CLUBS welcomes  
Danijela to the RBU Family!



Danijela Nikolic  
RBU KASKADA Intern  
Graphic Art

# 2018 A New Year NEW RBU Friends & Interns



Terézia Kalányos  
RBU Partner  
Bayash Language  
Bible Translator

Julianna Randimbiarison  
RBU Hungarian Language  
Translation Team



Terézia Kalányos has recently  
moved to Pécs, Hungary after living  
for some time in Budapest while  
working for the Hungarian  
Department of Education. She is a  
native Bayash speaker who has  
completed the Advanced Level of  
Bayash at the Pecs University.  
Trrezia is currently working with the  
RBU Pécs team on a translation of  
John's Gospel into Hungarian  
Bayash. RBU welcomes Terézia to  
the team! We look forward to the  
day when the Hungarian Bayash  
Scriptures will be used in Bible  
Study and discipleship.

## Notes & Notes

P o e t r y  
& M u s i c  
f r o m t h e F i e l d

Hey, I went hungry.

BY  
NADICKA



Click for Audio

Hey, I went hungry.

Hey, I went hungry,  
so you could eat,  
counted the change,  
you got a sweet,  
licked empty plates,  
cause you asked for more,



...a mother's cry when they do not ...or can no longer...look back.



# Laundry Lines

## all crisp and white

On a walk through Bor last September I captured quite a few laundrylines. I promised to post it after I had finished my own pile of laundry.... All I can say is, that it was a real battle against nature as the sun was out when I filled my line, but soon after it started pouring with rain, day... after day...after day. Till finally, my patience was rewarded with well-washed and dry clothes.... AND this post to you!

Janneke



TO DRY *drʌɪ/ adjective* comparative adjective:drier  
1. free from moisture or liquid; not wet or moist.

DRYER *'drʌɪə/ noun*

1. a machine or device for drying something, especially the hair or laundry [in EASTERN EUROPE = SUN & AIR]



# JÓZSA'S PLAY YARD



LYDIA  
6



HANNA  
7 months



Boldog Karácsonyt!



Peter 4



CASSIAN  
18 MONTHS

## THE MOINEAU NEST



## Margot



## CASSIAN



MARGOT 3



# KOMLÓ SINÉ KIDDLES

## The Family Komlósiné

Norika, Rozsi, and Petar  
Komlósiné are the precious  
children of Nori and Petar  
Komlósiné . Mommy Nori is  
an RBU Ministry Partner and  
Daddy Petar is the



Isiah 6

NORIKA 5



PETAR  
18 months



ROSZI 3





# 'da Malinowski Bruvers

## The RBU 3 Musketeers

Matt...Laurens...and... Isaiah,

All for one and one for all...

hardly ever sighted at RBU

Family events these three fine

fellows connect like magnets,

and get lost like keys, and If

and when they ever do make

an appearance they are as

happy as clams....the RBU 3

musketeers.

Growing up 'mission' with

friends 'cross the border'.



LAURENS  
6



"TREKKER!"  
"TRACTOR!!!"  
"TRAKTOR!!!"



"Kaas!"  
"Cheese!!"  
"Sir!!!"

Laurens is the polyglot in our Lil's group, having lived in the Netherlands, the UK, Canada, and now Croatia he speaks three languages without thinking about it-or so it would appear. For those of is om the RBU family who are currently learning languages it is always a marvel to see our young children just 'pick-up" 'new languages like you would a piece of cake.

DUTCH  
ENGLISH  
cROATIAN



Matthew 8



Isaiah 6



"zusters!!!"  
"Sisters!!!"  
"Sestre!!!"



## The RBU 3 Musketeers



*Miram*  
6 months



*Elie*  
3



RBU's  
Littlest  
Little





# God Never Sleeps

This Christmas

by Andrijana Nikolic  
RBU KASKADA Journalist







I talked to a family who lost their home in a huge and sudden flash fire. They live in a small village not far from our town over the border in Serbia.

The fire was a fast spreading flash fire and the house and all of its contents was destroyed in minutes.

There were five children and a pregnant mother in the house when the fire broke out. The father of the family was working in the nearby fields digging up vegetables for the local farmer. It was chaos the mother was able to drag herself and the five children out of the room.

I went over the border into Serbia with some others and arrived to find nothing

in the house nor the house itself able to be saved.

The family were standing before us and we got some either Serbian or Roma logic. One little boy was crying saying that, "everything was gone and even my bed." One of the other brothers saw the situation differently.

"We can sell all this melted copper, lead and iron and make some money."

I was there with my parents to see if we at the



Roma Bible Union could do something to help. The family were desperate and without any hope. At times like this I get angry when I see such suffering. I have learned though that anger can create action. Within two days we had contacted all the people in the Roma Bible Union network.

Our decision: "Let's do whatever we have to do to help this family." If you look at the map of all our prayer partners in RBU they are all over the world. People began to pray. People began to give money. People began to provide for clothes and furniture. One of the boys even got an old iPhone.....The family slept on the ground outside the burnt house. The family slept but "The God that keeps Israel never slumbers nor sleeps." In two weeks enough money came in to buy a new house for about \$4,000 and then to furnish it, clothe the children, put in a simple bathroom and make it livable. It certainly is not Buckingham Palace but for this family IT was their Palace and a picture of how God works through his people.

My family and I were going to and fro to visit and just as they moved in...from the back yard. The mother looked down at the floor and realized that there was a leak of water coming from somewhere....hopefully not the roof.....then I high speed we drove her to the Hospital and partly in the hallway and partly in a room her baby arrived.

For me I was not quite sure whether the house burning down or getting the Mother to the hospital was the most traumatic.

This Christmas I talked with the mother and father, Ljubica and Boro.

Ljubica put it like this:

"When I noticed that the house started burning I started to panic and quickly gathered my kids I pulled us all out together. Suddenly, behind me was a great crashing sound as the main beam came crashing to the ground just where I had been standing. It was not minutes after I ran out. It was seconds. A few seconds and my baby would not have been born my husband would have no wife and five children would have no mother."





She paused and then continued.  
"But then to think of all these people who do not know us giving money to buy a new little house with furniture and clothes and toys even. This Christmas would have been the worst we have ever had but it has now turned into the best we have ever had."

I looked over at Boro and asked,"You were on the field when you saw all the smoke coming from your house , what was the first thing you thought about.

"When I saw the smoke I asked a man who was working with me to drive me home. I was in a crazy panic. I wanted to run to the flames of the house because I did not see my family. I was convinced

that they did not have enough time to get out from the house. Then before I could run in my neighbours grabbed me and pointed to my family. My wife, my children and the little life inside Ljubica were safe. I do not know what to say."

He shakes his head and says nothing.

What did I learn from this? God never sleeps.

*by Andrijana Nikolic*

First Christmas in the new house



Sneak Peak  
KASKADA ONLINE MAGAZINE  
Spring Edition 2018

# KASKADA

## MAGAZINE

Spring 2018

### UN-LOCKING



### the Chains of Injustice



[www.romabibleunion.org](http://www.romabibleunion.org)