



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Friends,

We extend our heartfelt thanks for your prayers and all the support that has made our work possible. Through your generous and ongoing contributions, we have been able to help people in need and support communities in their missionary and diaconal work throughout 2024. We are grateful to God for our 30 years of service, as detailed in the IDEA report (The Evangelical News Agency) on page 2.



**Mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina after the flood in 2024:** In early October, the Konjic/Jablanica region was severely impacted by flooding and landslides. Together with Pastor Tomislav Dobutović from Sarajevo, and a team from Konjic (from left: Stephen Onn, Fisnik Zelenaj, Manjola Zelenaj, Tomislav Dobutović), we provided initial emergency relief. Many people have lost their belongings, and there is an urgent and ongoing need for both practical support and pastoral care.

**Evangelical School/Dormitory Čakovec, Croatia:** The new school building was completed in collaboration with the Wertestarter Foundation (Haiger/Berlin), and inaugurated on May 1 in the presence of Prime Minister Andrej Plenković, Prof. Friedhelm Loh, Chairman of the Foundation's Board, and international guests. During a **building camp** with volunteers from the First Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN, USA, and from the Bruderhof in Germany/Austria, the rooms in our dormitory were freshly painted, and furniture was repaired.

In 2024, we were once again able to organize and support various **retreats and projects**, including a relief mission in the Ahrtal, the Youth Gathering in Aidlingen May 2024, youth and children's camps, a pastors' retreat at Camp Činta, and a motorcycle retreat with EC-MOT/EC Southwest. We also traveled to participate in worship services and lectures. A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers!

The celebrations for our **30th anniversary** took place in December 2023 with friends and guests from Croatia and Bosnia, and we look forward to sharing a detailed report.

**Refugees:** Thousands of people continue to travel the Balkan route between Sarajevo and Bihać, and people from Ukraine also still need our support.

The team of Hilfe Konkret wishes you and your family a blessed Christmas and extends heartfelt greetings with this year's verse as a blessing for a good and prosperous New Year 2025:  
**„Prove all things; hold fast that which is good!“ – 1 Thessalonians 5:21**

Warm regards,

Johannes Neudeck and the team of Hilfe Konkret

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IDEA Report –  IDEA – January 27, 2024  
“How Christians help specifically”

In 1993, the Christian organization „Hilfe Konkret“ was founded, and it has since been active in Bosnia and Croatia. Artemis Schech presents an overview of its work.

Thirty-three years ago, southeastern Europe entered a dark chapter: the Balkan wars (1991–2001). Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina declared independence, which sparked a war in Bosnia-Herzegovina between Bosnians, Serbs, and Croats, spreading conflict across the entire Balkan region.

The suffering of countless people led to the foundation of „Hilfe Konkret“ in 1993, a Christian organization committed to supporting those in need, especially in Bosnia and Croatia. Even after the war and the dissolution of Yugoslavia, „Hilfe Konkret“ continued its work. To date, the organization, working with local Croatian partners, has transported and distributed over 42,000 tons of relief supplies.



**Construction assistance was provided in the Croatian region of Petrinja.**

*Photo: private*

*(From the left: Marco Dummler, Hannes Schmalzhaf, Johannes Neudeck, Naphtali Grauer, Johannes Schlageter, Stefan Eißler)*

### **Aid for Refugees on the „Balkan Route“**

One of the organization’s core missions is emergency relief, which includes financial and practical support through supplies and rebuilding efforts during crises. A notable example was the earthquake in Croatia’s Petrinja region in 2020. „160,000 people were affected,“ recalls Johannes Neudeck, the organization’s chairman from Königsbach-Stein. „We immediately decided to help.“

The organization collaborates with local congregations, providing them with financial support and hands-on assistance. In Croatia and Bosnia, it primarily partners with the Baptist Union and local churches. In Petrinja, The Baptist Union/local congregations set up 29 containers as temporary shelters for those affected, and „Hilfe Konkret“ contributed approximately €200,000.

The organization has undertaken an additional project helping refugees along the „Balkan route.“ Since 2015, around 1.18 million people from the Middle East have attempted to reach Europe through the Balkans, primarily refugees and migrants traveling from the Middle East to Europe. Many arrive ill-prepared for the harsh conditions, often wearing only light clothing. From 2015 to 2023, thanks to donations and partner support, „Hilfe Konkret“ has provided emergency aid for over 300,000 people, distributing food, hygiene supplies, shoes, and clothing.

### **Supporting Young Christians**

Beyond crisis response, the organization seeks to support young Christians in Bosnia and Croatia. With the organization’s assistance, the first independent state-recognized evangelical school with a dormitory was established in Čakovec, northern Croatia in 2012.

Neudeck emphasizes the significant contribution of the Wertestarter Foundation (Berlin) to the new school building. Currently, 468 students attend the school, where worship services, spiritual programs, and mentorship instill Christian values.

For Neudeck, 62, it’s crucial that young people become involved with the organization so they can carry its mission forward. „The great thing about young people is that they are eager to learn and quickly build networks. We have volunteers who stay on-site for just a few weeks, yet in that short time, they connect with locals and maintain those relationships.“

Neudeck is convinced that the involvement of young Christians is vital so that those in need can experience God’s love in a practical way.