In the weeks leading up to the nj synod servant trip to bosnia-herzogovian, I will be posting “bosnia weekly” blogs with information about bosnia and the work we will be doing there. These are very lightly edited versions of the work of travel team member, wayne Olsen.

Bosnia WEEKLY**May 15, 2017**

**Biography --- Tito:**

Josep Broz (“Tito”) was leader of Yugoslavia from 1945-1980. The Kingdom of Yugoslavia had been overrun by the Nazis in 1941. Partisan groups quickly sprang up, of which Tito became a leader. He became a target of the Nazis but evaded capture. Tito’s forces helped save many Jews, two thousand of whom fought in his army. On March 7, 1945, Tito proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Yugoslavia. Although he was a committed communist, he was able to stay non-aligned. Yugoslavia never became part of the Soviet Bloc. (Stalin attempted half a dozen times to have Tito assassinated.) Although he was a dictator who ruled with an iron fist, Tito’s policies helped Yugoslavians enjoy a high standard of living and relative freedom. His rule suppressed the various nationalist groups, and by so doing, kept the country united. Upon his death, the New York Times said “Tito sought to improve life. Unlike others who rose to power on the communist wave after WWII, Tito did not long demand that his people suffer for a distant vision of a better life. After an initial Soviet-influenced bleak period, Tito moved toward radical improvement of life in the country. Yugoslavia gradually became a bright spot amid the general grayness of Eastern Europe.” The main drag in Sarajevo was renamed Tito Street.

**This Week’s Vocabulary:**

Mother: Majka, Mama Mothering: Negovanje Father: Osnivač Children: Deca Parent: Matični Virgin Mary: Bogorodica

**This Week’s Scripture:**

Jesus said "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. *---Matthew 23:37*

FOR MORE INFO, go on [www.servanttrips.org](http://www.servanttrips.org)

**Places we visit:**

**MOSTAR:**

**Situated on the Neretva River in the south, Mostar is the largest and most important city in the Hercegovina region, and the third largest city in BiH. During the war and ever since, the city has been divided between the Croats in the western part and the Bosniaks (Muslims) in the east. Mostar's most famous landmark, the Stari Most Bridge dated from the mid-sixteenth century. It was destroyed by the Croatian Defense Council on November 9, 1993. It has been lovingly reconstructed to its former grandeur and beauty. When we visit this city, we stay with our dear friends at the Mostar Orphanage. As we did last year, we will be holding two friendship camps simultaneously: one in Mujaga Komadina School ("Bosnian curriculum school") and one in the Silvike Strahimir Kranjcevic School (a "Croat curriculum" school). This will be our fourth year at Mujaga Komadina, and our second at Silvike Strahimir Kranjcevic.**s

