

## IN MEMORIAM



A bibliography of Dr. Mihael Kuzmic, you can find at

[http://www.evtos.hr/Michael\\_Kuzmic.html](http://www.evtos.hr/Michael_Kuzmic.html)

**prof. dr. sc. Mihael Kuzmič**  
(22. 9. 1942. Vadarci - 29. 8. 2005. Ljubljana)

Naš dragi profesor i dekan dr. Mihael Kuzmič preminuo je u ponedjeljak 29. kolovoza 2005. godine u svojem domu u Ljubljani. Njegova iznenadna smrt duboko je ražalostila djelatnike i studente Evandeoskoga teološka fakulteta.

Pokop dragoga nam kolege i profesora održat će se 2. rujna 2005. (petak) u 12 sati na gradskome groblju «Žale» u Ljubljani.

Dr. Mihael Kuzmič rođen je 22. rujna 1942. godine u selu Vadarcima u Prekomurju (Slovenija). Osnovnu školu završio je u mjestu Kupšincima, a gimnaziju u Murskoj Soboti. Nakon Pedagoške akademiju u Ljubljani, studirao je teologiju na Teološkom fakultetu «Matija Vlačić Ilirik» u Zagrebu te na Evandeoskom teološkom fakultetu u Osijeku na kojemu je i diplomirao te poslije i magistrirao. Doktorirao je na Sveučilištu u Ljubljani.

Živio je i radio u Ljubljani, gdje je bio pastor Evandeoske crkve te predavao na ljubljanskome Sveučilištu. U dva mandata, sve do kraja svojega života, obavljao je funkciju dekana Evandeoskog teološkog fakulteta u Osijeku na kojem je ujedno predavao i povijest Crkve te praktičnu teologiju.

Dr. Kuzmič napisao je nekoliko knjiga, mnogo znanstvenih rasprava, referata i članaka, a mnoge je znanstvene radove preveo s engleskoga jezika. Njegovo glavno područje znanstvenoga djelovanja bilo je istraživanje povijesti protestantizma u Srednjoj i Istočnoj

Europi (posebice prostor bivše Jugoslavije) te proučavanje slovenskih migracija i slovenskoga iseljništva u svijetu.

Odlaskom dr. Kuzmiča izgubili smo dragoga prijatelja, brižnoga pastora i dobrog profesora i znanstvenika. No, radujemo se našem ponovnome susretu u Kraljevstvu Nebeskome.

*Dalibor Kraljik, student EvTF-a*

### **In Memoriam of Dr. Mihael Kuzmic**

By Yordan Kalev Zhekov

This sad and painful news of the death of Dr. Mihael Kuzmic struck us with the enormous loss of our leader, brother, and friend and placed us to the position of reflecting on who the person of Mihael Kuzmic was for us. Dr. Mihael Kuzmic epitomized the Christian ideal of a holistic person. His professionalism in work, devotion and sacrificial love in ministry, and genuine friendship with his fellows points only to his model, the Lord Jesus Christ. Dr. Kuzmic was the example of the perfect Christian leader in his work, ministry and personal life. He will be irreplaceable as an Academic Dean at the Evangelical Theological Seminary. A wonderful colleague with excellent cooperative skills, he never ceased to encourage his fellow colleagues. For him it was natural and easy to combine in his colossal personality the erudition of the scholar, the leadership of the Academic Dean, the Christian brotherly attitude, and wholehearted friendship to faculty members, students and friends. The essence of his character may be easily summarized with one word – “love.” His love for writing and academic work led him to produce more than 596 bibliographical references. His love for his work as Academic Dean at ETS advanced enormously this academic institution. His love for his pastoral ministry at the Evangelical Pentecostal Church of Ljubljana brought many to Christ and helped many to serve their Savior better. His love for his family, relatives, colleagues, students, and friends refreshed the hearts of many and gave them a stronger desire for life with a purpose. The depth and breadth of this love may be only understood in the light of Christ’ love, his Redeemer and Savior, which he accepted, perceived, and embodied in his life. Dr. Mihael Kuzmic has impacted the life of his colleagues, students and friends with his love, professionalism and practical help such that his image will be forever etched in our minds and our hearts.

**From:** [Dr. Jack Davis](#)  
**To:** [Peter Kuzmic](#)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2005 6:11 AM  
**Subject:** Re: SAD NEWS and regrets

Peter, I was so saddened by the news of the very unexpected death of your academic dean; my prayers are with you as you preach the funeral; may God speak through you to give the family the hope and comfort of the gospel and the resurrection faith - greetings also from David Wells and Paul Lim

Jack

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**From:** [Barry Corey](#)  
**To:** [Peter Kuzmic](#)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2005 8:37 PM  
**Subject:** RE: SAD NEWS and regrets

Dear Peter,

This is terribly sad news indeed. I will pass this onto the faculty as I know they will stand with you and your school in prayer.

With love,

Barry

Barry H. Corey

Vice President for Education and Academic Dean

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

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**From:** [Mary Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Antal Balog](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 05, 2005 3:11 AM  
**Subject:** Mihael

Dear Antal, I appreciated your letting me know about Mihael's death. I was saddened to hear of it. He was a very fine man, I really liked him. So gentle and kind, and knowledgeable. I know he will be missed. I know that he was not in great health, and now he has joined his wife. I did send an e-mail to the family.

Mary

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**From:** [ENETE@aol.com](mailto:ENETE@aol.com)

**To:** [abalog@evtos.hr](mailto:abalog@evtos.hr)



The European Evangelical Accrediting Association  
A Network for Theological Education

Dr. Peter Kuzmic, President  
Evangelical Theological Faculty  
Osijek, CROATIA

Dear Peter, dear brothers and sisters at ETF in Osijek,

I just learned of the decease of your beloved Academic Dean, Dr. Michael Kuzmic, and want to communicate my deepest condolences in behalf of the European Evangelical Accrediting Association and its Council members.

Please accept our heartfelt sympathy, knowing how words are so inadequate at such a time.

May the God of all comfort console your hearts, may He meet all your needs, and may He multiply the heritage of this dear brother who is now enjoying the presence of the Lord: "Well done, good and faithful servant - enter into the joy of your Master".

Yours most sincerely in Christ, the Resurrection and the Life,  
Paul

Paul Sanders, PhD  
Docteur de l'Université de Paris-Sorbonne  
Chairman, European Evangelical Accrediting Association  
[www.eeaa.org](http://www.eeaa.org)

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Dear Antal:

I learned about the death of Mihael Kuzmic from the web

(<http://www.evtos.hr/>) and I'm certain this is a great loss for his family, friends, and the Theological Seminary.

Please extend my condolences to the Kuzmic family and be assured: you are in my prayers during this time of sorrow.

"The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want.... Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with

me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (Ps. 23)

The peace of Christ be with you all!

Burkhard Paetzold

PC(USA), WMD,

Liaison for Central and Eastern Europe and

Consultant for Roma Projects

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**From:** [Steve Farina](#)

**To:** [Antal Balog](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2005 4:09 PM

**Subject:** RE: Mihael Kuzmic

Antal,

Thank you for sending this announcement.

Please extend my condolences to the Kuzmic family and to the ETS family at Osijek. We have lost an elder statesman, an articulate preacher and teacher of the gospel. Sadly, Slovenia and the entire region of the former Yugoslav republics will suffer his loss. However our loss is Our Savior Jesus' great gain! Praise Him for the time he gave us a friend and mentor like Mihael Kuzmic.

Steve Farina

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**From:** [Mike Bettaney](#)

**To:** [Antal Balog](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2005 6:21 PM

**Subject:** Sad news

Dear Antal,

Greetings in Jesus name,

It is indeed sad news regarding the death of Brother Mihael Kuzmic. Please would you convey my love, greetings and sympathy to his family. I would liked to been been able to fly out for the funeral to show my support but it would not be possible to secure a flight at short notice.

With kind regards

Mike Bettaney

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Subject: condolences  
From: "Steven Kurtz" <[stevenkurtz@stevendkurtz.org](mailto:stevenkurtz@stevendkurtz.org)>  
Date: Thu, September 1, 2005 9:07 pm  
To: [abalog@evtos.hr](mailto:abalog@evtos.hr)

Dear Antal,

We were saddened to hear of the loss of Mihael. Please pass along this condolence:

Our hearts are saddened by the loss of our dear brother in Christ, our Dean, and our friend, Mihael Kuzmic. We will always remember his deep faith, his pastoral sensitivity to both the staff and students of ETF, and his quest for academic excellence. Mihael worked long hours, often late into the night, and yet never had a negative word to say. He was always encouraging, forgiving, and hopeful despite enormous difficulties and challenges. He was deeply loved and will be sorely missed.

In Christ,  
Steven and Michelle Kurtz

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Subject: Moje posljednje pismo prijatelju (za obitelj Kuzmic)  
From: "Mario" <[mario.stromar@zg.t-com.hr](mailto:mario.stromar@zg.t-com.hr)>  
Date: Thu, September 1, 2005 7:28 pm  
To: "Antal Balog" <[abalog@evtos.hr](mailto:abalog@evtos.hr)>

Ljubljeni prijatelju i brate u Kristu Isusu,

kad sam primio sms o Vašem odlasku s ovog svijeta i prelasku u onaj bolji, ljepši vječni svijet gdje nema više boli ni tuge, razočaranja, kušnji, patnji, napornog rada... stegnulo me u grudima i kriknuh NE! Ostatak dana sam proveo u boli koju osjećam i sad dok Vam pišem svoje posljednje pismo sa suzama u očima koje teku poput potoka. Volim Vas, prijatelju i nedostajete mi strašno! Nedostaju mi naši ne toliko česti ali zato sjajni razgovori na fakultetu; nedostajat će mi sad još i više... Vidite, toliko sam Vas u posljednje vrijeme htio vidjeti, zagrliti, kazati Vam hvala na svemu što ste za mene učinili, koliko Vas volim. Znate, ja sad to više nikad neću moći učiniti, a toliko sam htio... Oprostite mi, ali ja sutra nisam u mogućnosti doći, a toliko sam htio; previše toga se ispriječilo. Znajte jedno, otkad smo se upoznali dio mog srca je kucao i za Vas, tako će i biti dok i ja ne pođem našem Gospodinu u naručje.

U Kristu vječno Vaš,  
Mario

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Dear Monica Zhekov,

We are very sad to hear that our friend and brother in Christ Mihael Kuzmic has died. We are grieving about him with all our brothers and sisters around the world. But we are sure that he is rejoicing in presence of God now. He has fulfilled his earth path in faithfulness to his Lord. He will remain in our hearts and memories as a man of God and hard worker on His field. We are praying about God's comfort for his close friends. We wish blessing to the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osijek.

With respect and prayers,

Faculty and staff of the Moscow Theological Seminary

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Dragi moji profesori i administracija ETF-a,

Primate iskrene rijeci sucuti povodom smrti naseg dragog dekana Mihaela Kuzmica. Uistinu smo izgubili dragog covjeka, ali smo ga dobili za vjecnost.

Neka vas Bog blagoslovi i neka vam pomogne u ovim trenutcima kada trebate donijeti nove odluke.

Marino Mojtic sa obitelji

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Dear Beloved in Christ,

The passing away of Mihael Kuzmic is a great pain and sorrow for all of us. Not only that he served as the Academic Dean, he lived on earth a godly life. His diligent service, words of encouragement, and lovingly smile are among many things he has done that we will all miss. He was a humble servant and who did all he could in his duties to serve the Lord at ETS. He was a father of many "nations" who came to ETS to be trained and serve the Lord in their prospective calling and ministries.

During the difficult period of his life (his illness, wife's illness and her death) he tirelessly traveled from Slovenia to Osijek, Croatia (ETS) to serve and administer God's words. In my desire to know how he was overcoming all of the above difficult period as my MTh Thesis supervisor in his office, he told me, "Christian suffering and death means Heaven and happiness." Truly, those who are prepared to suffer and die in the Lord are prepared to live in eternity.

Please extend our condolence to his family, Peter Kuzmic, staff and students.

God bless you

Elijah and LaWanda Teh-Teh

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Dear Faculty and Students at ETS,

We have learned of the death of Professor Mihael Kuzmic with deep shock. Yet the comfort is that the brother has been ushered in the very presence of God where there is no sickness, sorrow and death. We pray that the family, relatives and friends who have remained behind will be comforted by the Lord. Please relay our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family of the deceased.

With Christian Love and comfort,  
Helen, Sante and Misheck Fefulo - Zambia

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Dear Monica,

May I ask you to pass my condolences to the family and friends of the departed brother. I did meet him at my visit to Osijek several years ago.

May the Lord grant him the eternal peace.

+Malkhaz

Bishop Malkhaz Songulashvili TSSF  
Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia

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Dear Monica Zhekov,

We send our condolences regarding the passing of Mihael Kuzmic, Academic Dean. He is now with the Lord and how glorious for him. We pray for blessings of peace and comfort on his family.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rhonda K. Hash  
Programs Team Assistant  
Overseas Council International  
on behalf of  
Manfred W. Kohl, Th.D.  
Vice President of International Development  
and Interim Vice President for Programs

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Cijenjeni prijatelji, kolege i braco u Kristu.

Povodom iznenadne smrti dragog nam covjeka dekana ETF-A, brata u Kristu Dr. Mihael Kuzmica izrazavam o vasem cijelom kolektivu duboku sucut uz nadu da cemo se s nasim bratom Mihaelom sresti pri uskrsnucu mrtvih o skorom Kristovom dolasku. Neka dbori Bog utjesi vasa ozaloscena srca.

Vasi prijatelji i braca u Kristu s Adventistickog Teoloskog Fakulteta, Mr. Tihomir Sabo Vd. Dekan Dr. Draagutin Matak, prof. I ostali djelatnici.

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Primitu našu iskrenu sućutu povodom gubitka vašega brata i divnoga profesora.

Obitelj Tijardović

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U povodu smrti cijenjenog gospodina Mihaela Kuzmice, primitu iskrene sućuti.

Djelatnici Grafike, Osijek

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Primitu našu iskrenu sućutu povodom smrti vašeg brata cijenjenog Mihaela Kuzmice.

Profesori zaposlenici i studenti ekonomskog fakulteta u Osijeku.