

# BUILDING A CHURCH TOGETHER

**Vision: To demonstrate the love of Christ to the Roma and Serbian people.**



**Today, you can help Roma and Serbian people by donating to build an Evangelical Protestant Church adjacent to the Romani neighborhood in Leskovac, Serbia.**

Our Mission: To construct an Evangelical Protestant Church Facility in Leskovac, Serbia.

Our Vision: Demonstrate the love of Christ to Roma and Serbian people. Please help ethnic Roma and Serbian people by funding the construction of an Evangelical Protestant Church in the Roma quarter of Leskovac, Serbia.

MioLight is a United States based nonprofit dedicated to “Building a Church Together”.

Defined as: Organizations for the following purposes: religious, educational, and charitable

**MIOLIGHT is a nonprofit: 1630 SE Holly Street, Portland, Oregon 97214**  
**Oregon State Registration # 48388**  
**Federal EIN # 46-4345524**  
**501 (c) 3 designation**

Please support building an Evangelical Protestant Church for the ethnic Roma and Serbian people in Leskovac, Serbia. You may mail a check to the address above or use the website [www.miolight.org](http://www.miolight.org)



Thank you,  
Bruce Patton  
Volunteer President of the MioLight Board

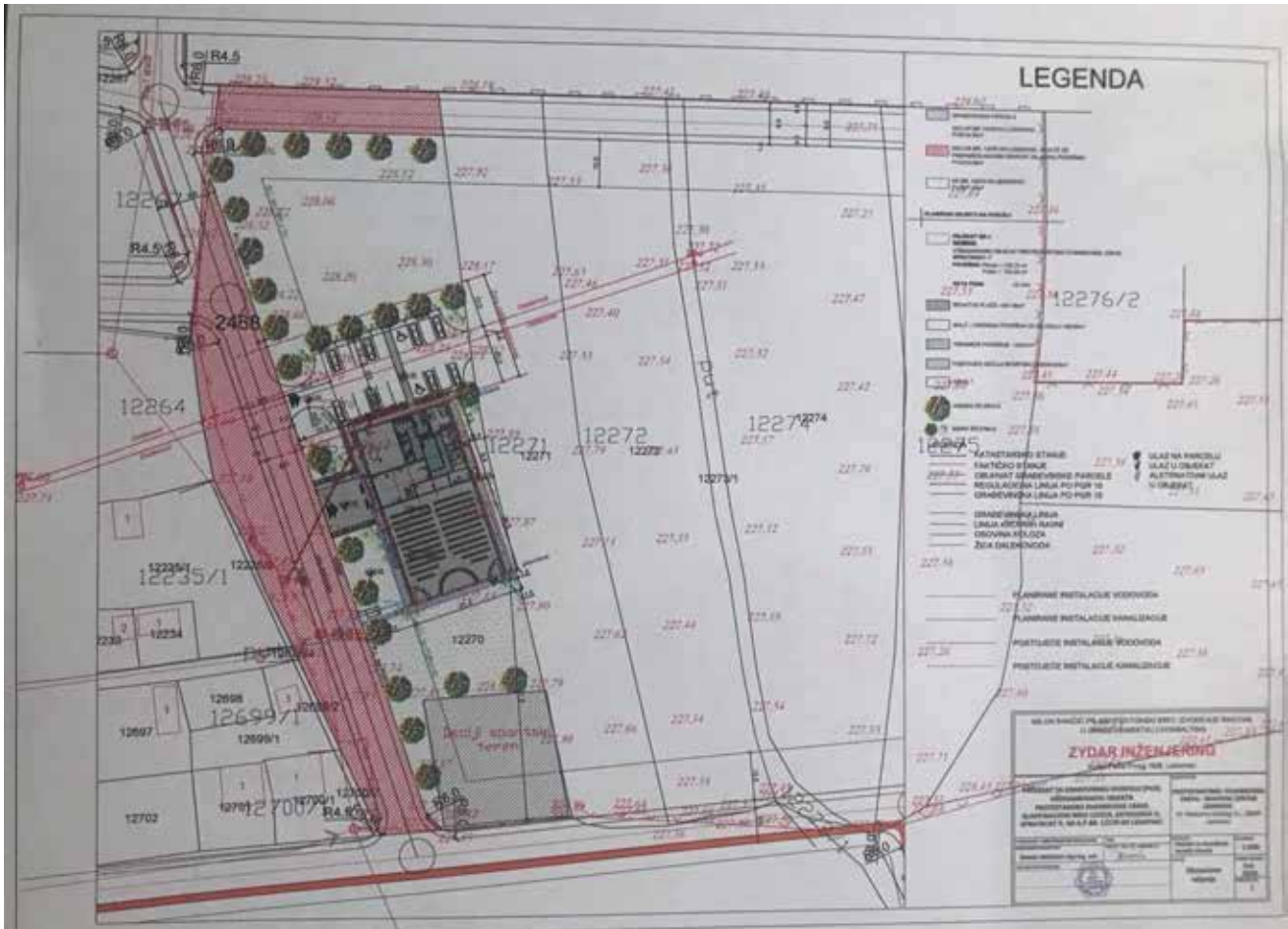
## Concept Drawings of the Church:



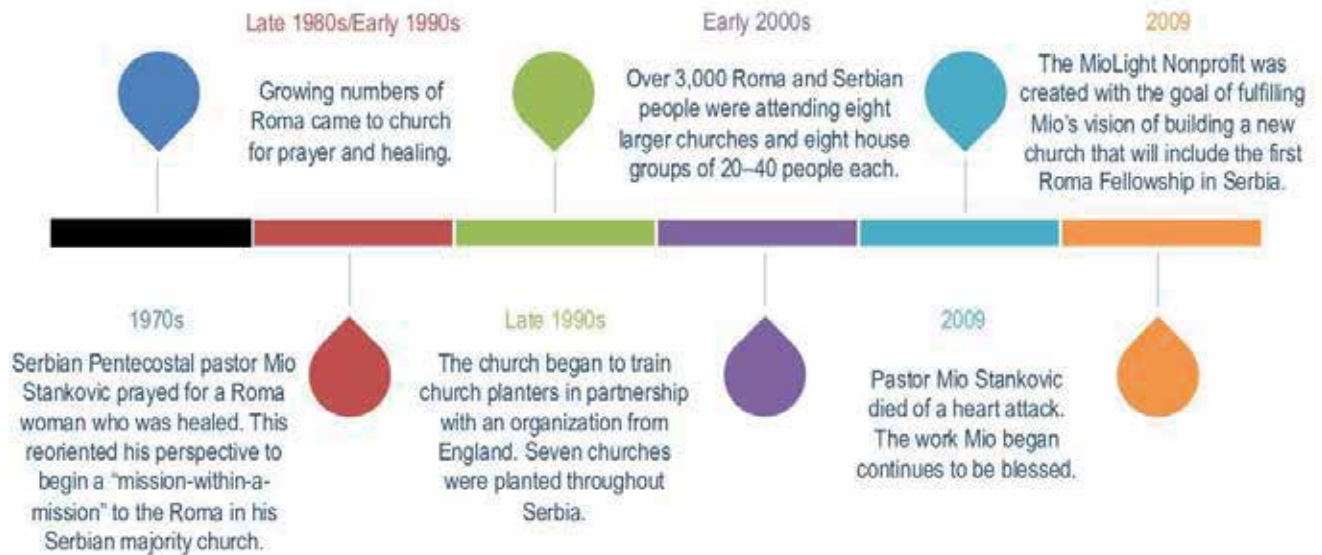
Foundation built Februar 2024



**Birdseye view of Church placement on owned land lots 12270, 12271, 12272, 12274 & 12275:**



\$314,571 is needed to finish the construction of the Church, which will be 7,610 square feet.



### Roma and Serbian Pastors and Team members: Evangelical Protestant Church in Leskovac

- Stanko Stankovic, Serbian Pastor: In-Country Project Manager who represents the project in an official capacity; negotiations, oversight, day-to-day management, single point of contact with city officials and is the signatory for documents.
- Serif Bakic, Roma Pastor: Connector of Roma community, and Roma civic leaders
- Bojan Rasimovic, Roma Pastor: Mobilizes people to help from within the Roma community.
- Misha Bakic – Project Manager
- Jasarevic Rama, Roma Elder: Trans World Radio Program Producer (Christian Radio Ministry in Roma language), staff of the Roma cultural center, follows activities of Roma community leaders and communicates with Zoran Stankovic (Roma Cultural Center)
- Kurtic Perica, Roma Elder
- Kurtic Trajce, Roma Elder
- Alimovic Ekrem, Roma Elder
- Misha Bakic, Deacon
- Sabanovic Dragan ,Deacon
- Rama Jasarevic Elder
- Laura Saitovic , Deaconess
- Alisa Tonic , Deaconess
- Naza Alimovic , Deaconess
- Teaching and Preaching: Serif Bakic, Bojan Rasimovic, Misha Bakic, Nezirovic Novica, Jasarevic Rama, Bakic Trajce, Saitovic Laura, Tonic Alisa, Alimovic Ekrem, Zoran Stankovic, Jasarevic Emanuel, Sabanovic Dragan, Bakic Vasiljka, Rasimovic Danijela, Sabanovic Martin, Kurtic Perica, Kurtic Trajce, and Tonic Brendon

## **Revival in the Roma community began in Leskovac, Serbia.**

During the 1970s, Serbian Pentecostal pastor Mio Stankovic prayed for a Roma woman who was healed. This reoriented his perspective to begin a “mission-within-a-mission” to the Roma in his Serbian majority church. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, growing numbers of Roma came to church for prayer and healing. In the late 1990s, in partnership with an organization from England, the church began to train church planters. Seven churches were planted throughout Serbia and the movement continues to grow.

When Roma pastors were ordained, Pastor Mio Stankovic said, “You will baptize more people in your lifetime than I have in mine.” In the early 2000s, there were over 3,000 Roma and Serbian people attending eight larger churches and eight house groups of 20–40 people each.

In 2009 Pastor Mio Stankovic died of a heart attack. The work Mio began has continued to be blessed.

*Mio Stankovic*

*Born: July 30, 1946, in Vranovtze, Lebane, Yugoslavia*

*Became a U.S. citizen in 2006.*

*Died: Feb. 22, 2009, in Leskovac, Serbia*

**Biography:** Mio was born into a nonobservant Serbian Orthodox family in Communist Yugoslavia during Josip Broz Tito’s rule. After school, he often visited his sister, Vera, who had become a Christian. Vera would ask Mio to read to her from the Bible while she sewed. At first, Mio rejected God. Later, Mio suffered from acute abdominal pain which medical doctors could not address. At that time his sister, Vera, prayed for him and Mio was healed. Mio Stankovic then began a lifetime committed to Jesus Christ.

In 1976, Mio became an ordained pastor of the Evangelical Protestant Church in Leskovac, Yugoslavia during Tito’s Communist regime. The church was often attacked, members and staff were degraded, and some were imprisoned. Mio Stankovic and his family were persecuted for their Christian beliefs and under constant surveillance due to American citizenship of Else, Mio’s wife. Mio welcomed everyone to the church, guided converts to become co-workers, included the Roma people in the church, ordained the first Roma pastors, and the first Roma elders.

After Mio Stankovic died in 2009, the MioLight Nonprofit was created in the United States, in Oregon, by an all-volunteer board. MioLight’s purpose is to raise funds to build the church for Roma and Serbian people on the 7.5 acres of fully owned land in the heart of Leskovac, adjacent to the Roma quarter, in Southern Serbia.

MioLight is committed to fulfilling Mio's original vision of building a new church for Roma and Serbian people. This Church is led by Pastors and Elders who are made up of ethnic Roma and Serbian people.

**Today, the Roma are still among the most oppressed people in the world.**

***Today, Leskovac government officials acknowledged that because of Pastor Mio Stankovic's 35 years of faithful work; more Roma children stay in school, crime rates among Roma have decreased dramatically, and more Roma marriages are legalized.***

**Today, you can help build a Church for Roma and Serbian people by making a donation.**

**\$314,571**

Needed to complete building

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