

Barlows - Slovenia

Monte • Krista • Chelsea • Nicholas • Micah • Philip

November/December 2011

Dear Pastor and Church,

Holidays away from family is one of the hardest things a missionary has to deal with. Blessings from God in seeing how He is working in people around us though, make it go by a whole lot easier.

Since our last letter, some really encouraging things have happened in our first work where we live. Last year, we had a party at our house and invited all the Slovene people we knew; friends, neighbors, everyone over just for time of gratefulness in their acceptance of us. This year, we decided to do something different. We invited those people who had taken part in our 40-week study series that was focused on the major stories of the Bible from Genesis (Creation) to the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (Cross). With each week, we drew the picture of the Bible as a unity – one story of God's redemptive plan for mankind. This study series was culminated in our get-together at our house. I showed a brief film called the Last Adam which wrapped up the study succinctly but that was just one aspect of our meeting.

We also invited a British couple who are brand new believers who attend our other group in Ljubljana. Bruce was an atheist and his wife Veronica was an agnostic until about a year ago when they crossed the line of faith. I felt that their story would be especially helpful for our Slovene friends who mostly hold the same views. Bruce and Veronica each gave their testimonies and I could tell that God was working on those who had shown up. There was little verbal response after they spoke, but I just knew something was happening. Sure enough, the very next day my good friend and longtime subject of prayer requests, Joe, called me and asked me to come to his house to talk. The Holy Spirit was dealing with him in a big way. He was having trouble sleeping and wanted to know more about how to get peace. You have to understand that I have given the plan of salvation to Joe no less than 25 times as clearly as I can. Again, I shared with him how to have that peace and certainty and that he would never have that peace until he himself crossed that line of faith. In his words, "I am taking small steps, you have to understand that this is not easy for me." I do have to think how difficult it would be for me if I were to only know the view of God that the people here in Europe have. That of powerless redeemer dead on a cross; that of intellectualism that denies the Truth of God's Word. Salvation is not a process, but the removal of roadblocks to belief can be a long ordeal. Since that day, Joe and I have had many more talks about peace and I sense him to be on the verge of a breakthrough. **Please pray for Joe. Also please continue to pray for Anita as she continues to struggle with the very same issues. Joe's girlfriend Mojca P. also is still eager to learn and understand more. Mojca E. is another person that we would ask you to pray for.**

The other group that we have in the capital city is going very well, but we want to see more outreach. **Please pray that as I challenge them to be more proactive about reaching others they will catch the vision and join me in handing out tracts and invitations.** This is a huge step for some and will lead to major growth in them personally once they begin. But they must begin.

It is early January as I type this letter of the events from November and December. The time of our departure gets closer and closer. We sincerely want to close out this time before furlough with zeal and fervor and ask that you would **continue to join with us in praying for open hearts to receive God's good news that was intended for everyone – Slovenians included.**

May the Lord richly bless,

The Barlows

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