

THE BARLOW FAMILY

MISSIONARIES to SLOVENIA



MONTE ✦ KRISTA ✦ NICHOLAS ✦ MICAH ✦ PHILIP

January/February 2017

Dear Pastor and Church,

Since having returned to Slovenia after our brief trip back to the States, it has been a challenging time in our ministry here. As we discussed in our last letter, our intent is to start that first church work from our Bible studies that have been going on for years now. We felt like, with all those we have coming to our various works, we could integrate them and have a good basis for a church. We still believe that. The timing, however, may be a little longer than we had anticipated.

In all honesty, these last two months have been some of the most challenging times we have had here in Slovenia. Don't get me wrong, it has never been easy here. There have been times when we have set up for meetings and only our family was in attendance. Those times were tough!

What has made the last several weeks challenging is the turning away of those who were so faithful before. Some have allowed Satan to have the victory in their life and have chased other interests instead of the One who died for their very lives. We are working diligently to bring them to this understanding but it has been very difficult. **We ask that you would pray with us about this situation.** I am sure that it is all a result of the decision to start a church and that Satan is fighting hard against it. We are not ignorant of his devices and have endeavored to put this in God's hands, where it ought to be.

In spite of all of the discouraging things, in the last few weeks God has given some encouragement to us, for which we are very grateful. Vlado and Maša (pronounced Moshá) have really been growing and coming very faithfully. They are a young married couple that recently joined with us and God has clearly been working in their lives. **Please do pray for them as well as the other young couple that were mentioned in previous letters, Uroš and Polona, who are going through a difficult time in their relationship in this moment.** Young couples are going to be the life of a young, new church and we want to be everything that God wants us to be for them.

Pray also for those who continue to come who have yet to make a decision for Christ. We are thankful for their faithfulness and growth, but we want, as God does, to see them trust in Him for their salvation. **Pray also for our opportunities to share the Gospel with new people and that God would lead us to those who are seeking for hope and peace in their lives.**

May the Lord richly bless you as you serve Him,

The Barlows