



THE *Barlows*
MONTE | KRISTA | PHILIP

Dear Pastor and Church,

January/February 2025

I mentioned in the last letter that Krista and I had returned to the States for a brief trip to see my father. My brothers and I made a decision to place him in an assisted living facility because of his health. We celebrated his 94th birthday in January. His health had been deteriorating but as it happens many times, there are ups and downs. It seemed as though his health was on an upswing so after talking with my brothers and knowing the needs with the work, I returned back to Slovenia. I was there 2 days when I got the call. My father had graduated to heaven. I am so happy for him to be reunited with my mom who passed away almost 20 years to the day before. But that also meant that I had to return to the States again.

I was really conflicted about the timing since I had just returned. As I talked with the folks at the church in Slovenia on that single Sunday that I was there, I wanted to convey to them how it was not a bad outcome for my dad and how me and my brothers were not upset about it. We talked about the peace that exists for those who are believers and how we don't mourn like others who have no hope. One of the new believers, Janja, began to cry. She told me how that she had really been troubled at the thought of death for a month or so but after hearing the Truth from God's Word, it was tears of joy for answering her prayers. If returning to Slovenia for just a few days to talk about the reality of death for believers was only for Janja, it was worth it.

Our family had gathered to celebrate the day of my father's funeral, and at about 3 am in the morning we received a call from our daughter who was staying in the same hotel. She was 8 months pregnant and was feeling some strange pains. They decided to go to the hospital to check it out because it just didn't feel right. About 30 minutes after arriving, Claire Juliette Willoughby was born, on the day of my father's funeral, which also happened to be my birthday. She is 5 weeks early and needed to be transported by helicopter to a hospital better prepared for premature birth, but I can report that after spending a week at the NICU, she is already home and growing and doing so well. God was very gracious to our family through all of this and we give Him all the glory for the blessings.

SENDING CHURCH:

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With all of that, it is now time to return home to Slovenia. The work did not stop because I was back here. The folks at our church have been in constant contact and I have a list of several people who would like to meet to know more about Jesus and the peace that only He can bring. **I'm just going to mention several names but we would appreciate you praying for Roman, Klemen, Marija, Barbara, Zoja, Kaja and Andrej. All of these need salvation.**

CLEARINGHOUSE:

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Until next time, May the Lord richly bless you as you serve Him,

The Barlows