

THE BARLOW FAMILY

MISSIONARIES to SLOVENIA



MONTE ✦ KRISTA ✦ NICHOLAS ✦ MICAH ✦ PHILIP

March/April 2017

Dear Pastor and Church,

We hope that God is working where you are as we continue to see Him work here. As I said in the last letter, we are facing opposition to this effort to start the first Independent Baptist church here in Slovenia. It is opposition of the physical kind but rather the spiritual kind. God has been very gracious to us though we are very grateful and encouraged by it. Yes, we are still struggling to get those people back who have recently fallen out but some who had fallen out many months ago have returned.

I think, as leaders in a work of God whether it be a missions work or Stateside church work, we can get too caught up in those that fall out or don't show up and completely miss what God is doing in those who do show up. We may have a great day, but too often we think if only this person or that person would have been here, it would have been even better. How easy it is to get in the flesh and rail against those who are not even there instead of feeding those that are there. God help us and deliver us from that.

God has been very real to us and I can only thank Him. We have been going through some very pointed material in our preparation for the charter service and have taken very great care to make sure that every one is on the same page concerning core doctrines. Having an idea of what you think a word or thought means can be very different from the true Bible definition of that word. Our intention was to help everyone be on the same page and it has been very good. We don't always make it through all of the material because of all of the discussion and explanation that is happening. I would much rather it be that way because when we arrive at the launch time, every will be unified in their understanding.

I must take a moment and give you a brief story that illustrates what God is doing here. Maša, the wife of the newest young couple that has just started coming to our studies, approached me after a meeting about a month ago. You must understand that this young couple were in drugs, then on a search for truth. That search led them to Jehovah's witnesses until they found that their teaching did not line up with the Bible. They became acquainted with one of our friends who pointed them to us and they have been devouring Bible teaching. They are hungry to learn and to serve. Maša asked me, »You should not have to do everything by yourself, is there anything that I can do to help?« Now I have a helper for translation of my weekly lessons. She is so excited to be a blessing, not only to me but to others in our group. She stayed late to talk to another lady after the meeting just this last week, simply because she wants to be a blessing.

With challenges also comes opportunities. We do not want to miss any of those. **Pray for us.**

May the Lord richly bless you as you serve Him,

The Barlows