

## **Monte Barlow – Missionary to Slovenia**

### **My testimony of salvation.**

*I was not raised in a Christian home. Neither of my parents were saved when I was growing up. My only view of Christianity was my grandparents. They went to a Southern Baptist church that happened to be across the road from my house. When I went I would sit with them. As I grew older, the messages brought me under conviction, though I did not go forward for salvation. It was not until I was a freshman at Oklahoma State University that I went to a youth rally where I heard the Gospel. I felt like that was going to be the last time that God would deal with me if I refused Him at that point. I went forward and received Christ as my Savior.*

### **My call to preach.**

*God began to deal with me about being a missionary in our missions conference in early 1997. We had been members at Bible Baptist Church since 1994. My pastor at that time (Bro. Dave McCracken) used to say that not everybody is called into missions but each person ought to struggle with the possibility. God dealt with me strongly but I simply could not believe that He wanted to use someone like me so I did not surrender to His call. But He was not finished with me yet. The Holy Spirit continued to deal with me and finally after about 6 months of struggling, I surrendered to preach the gospel in late 1997.*

### **My call to the mission field.**

*After serving our foreign internship in Brazil from 2001 to 2003, we came back to work in our home church at Bible Baptist Church and pray about where God would have us be missionaries. In late 2003, I made the decision that since I did not have clear direction about a mission field, that I would go off of a staff position and wait for God to reveal a field for us. In March of 2004, Missionary Mike Carney to Hungary came to our church and mentioned several countries around his country of Hungary that had absolutely no one working there. One of those countries was Slovenia. My wife and I began to pray about Slovenia and eventually took a survey trip there to see how God would burden us. During our trip, my wife and I did not want to become emotionally attached so after we returned, we waited and prayed and sought the Lord independently for about 2 months. After that time, we discussed it together and both came to the same conclusion that it was His will for us to go to Slovenia.*

### **Who I am.**

*I am an Independent, Fundamental, Separated, Bible-believing Baptist. Not by heritage, but by conviction. My conviction is that the doctrine which Baptists hold to is Biblical doctrine. My convictions to be a Baptist are based on what Scripture says concerning itself, salvation, security in Christ, local church principles, ordinances, and practices. I am proud of the Baptist heritage and of the line of churches that have held to traditional Baptist beliefs, though not necessarily called Baptists, from the church that Jesus started with His disciples. I am sad to see churches take the name Baptist off of their sign, a practice which I will never do, but think that more probably should because they are no more Baptist than Methodists or Presbyterians or Universalists.*

### **My education.**

*I graduated from Heartland Baptist Bible College in 2001 with a degree in Biblical Studies with a missions emphasis.*

## **My stand on separation.**

*James tells us that pure religion and undefiled is this that we take care of the widows and fatherless and keep ourselves unspotted from the world. My family and I feel that we ought to act and look differently than the world. That dictates where we go and do not go and how we dress.*

## **My philosophy of music:**

*I believe that music ought to bring honor and glory to God, not the performer of the music. Our church uses the old fashioned hymnbook as opposed to new love choruses. I share the standards and stands of my pastor and church as it concerns music. Any ministry that I am associated with will never use drums or popular “music of the day” rhythms to communicate worship of a holy God.*

## **My philosophy of missions:**

*I believe that missionaries should start independent, fundamental, Bible-believing Baptist churches and that they should shepherd over that church until such a time that God raises up a man to take that work over. When that man is raised up, it is the job of the missionary to train him and prove him until he finds that he willing and able to take care of the flock. When that happens, the missionary should find another place to repeat that process. My definition of a missionary does not include healthcare, aid workers or support teams. My definition of a missionary is someone who plants churches.*

## **What I believe.**

- *I believe that the church that the Bible talks about is always local and visible.*
- *I believe that the church was established when Jesus called the disciples to Himself and was not started at Pentecost.*
- *I believe that a divorced man or a man who has married a divorced woman is not fit to shepherd God’s flock.*
- *I believe that only true churches have the authority to baptize that being a Baptist church which started from a church which itself had proper authority.*
- *I will not accept into membership those immersed from a denomination other than a Baptist church of like faith and practice.*
- *I believe that God only calls men to preach the gospel and that only men should be ordained as pastors or deacons.*
- *I believe that the Lord’s Supper is reserved for members of a local church only, therefore I believe in closed communion.*
- *I believe that God’s Word for English speaking people is preserved in the King James Bible. All other English versions are corrupt because they use corrupt foundational texts.*
- *I believe in the premillennial position of Christ’s return.*
- *I believe in a literal place called Heaven and a literal place called Hell. Heaven is a place for those who have repented of their sin and trusted in Christ as Savior and Hell being a place for all those who reject God’s free offer of salvation.*
- *I believe that all who have been truly born-again by the Spirit of God are kept; they are not only eternally saved, but eternally safe, kept by His power and can never be lost again.*
- *I believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. That Jesus was both God and man. That He was sinless and that salvation is only through Him.*