



# The Norton Family

Missionaries to SLOVENIA



January/February 2018

Dear Friends and Family,

January was mild and dry, but February was quite different with over three feet falling at one time! From what we understand many of you had this and even more. The weather should have hindered our outreach but as we were out shoveling snow after each storm we found our neighbors were doing the same and this allowed for unique opportunities. The conversation started with "Is Daniel 50 this year?" After an affirmative answer she replied, "In Slovenia, we say 'Now we have seen Abraham!'" Chuckling, we then explained that Americans have a similar idiom using "as old as Methuselah." Then the eye-opener: "I do not even know who Abraham was." This is from a faithful Catholic? What ARE they teaching their people? Obviously not the Word of God! Later in the month, we had an opportunity to spend a couple of hours witnessing to a Croatian Catholic. With each happenstance we are learning more about the "failures" (if you will allow) of the Catholics to teach even basic Bible characters. One of our neighbors has children, Esther and Phillip. When we ask the little girl if she knew who the Biblical Esther was, both her and her mother said, "no." Oh, how we need Him to give us wisdom! Outwardly they SEEM to have the trappings of Christianity but when questioned they know nothing of Jesus Christ and what His Word teaches.

Already other opportunities have unexpectedly presented themselves numerous times this month. For instance, at the hardware store the man helping me asked why I was here. I was able to share with him how God had sent us to share the Gospel. Then, there was the waitress at the restaurant who was also curious. While most do not give us time to share everything we would like, each time they come face to face with the reality of God. It definitely helps us realize we must be ready at a moment's notice to give an account of the hope that lies within us.

Toward the beginning of February I attended a two-day church planting conference in Italy. It was a great occasion to meet those men who are laboring faithfully in our surrounding areas. More importantly it was a time to renew the vision of what God has sent us to do. I was very encouraged and ready to go back into the fields.

At the end of the month we had the privilege to witness a "first" in Slovenia. The very first Independent Baptist church officially opened its doors! We are very thankful that Pastor Barlow gave us the opportunity to be with him in this special time. He has faithfully labored and trusted God for over eight years for this day. We are asking God to do the same here and all across Slovenia.



Edward and Luz continue to grow in the Lord. Luz will be returning to the Philippines for several months at the beginning of April. We have not had another meeting with Mateja and Jurnej because of weather. Our Slovenian tutor has struggled through the snow as much as possible to see us and we continue to make good progress. My new language helper at the university told me this week that my reading is 100% better. Though we still struggle with the language, we are seeing improvements each passing day. Please continue to pray for the people of Slovenia.

Daniel, Christina, Abigail, Gideon, Lydia, Priscilla, and Ezekiel

"...for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few."  
1 Samuel 14:6

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Christina - Birthday April 17, 1973  
Abigail - Birthday March 27, 2003  
Gideon - Birthday April 1, 2007  
Lydia - Birthday August 11, 2009  
Priscilla - Birthday July 9, 2011  
Anniversary - July 13, 2001



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