



# MISSIONARIES TO SLOVENIA the Norton family

May/June 2021

Dear Friends and Family,

We have just finished our week long English class for children in Postojna. This is the third year that we have conducted these classes. This year was the best year we have had yet. We averaged eighteen children each day. As a result we were able to share the gospel with two different families and also with two single people who were involved with the other summer programs. We have an open door to continue these classes in the fall and plan on doing so starting in September. We have learned that the best way to make friendships and earn the Slovenians' trust is to get involved. I do not think this is any different in America. The only difference is that in America there is still much more trust in church. Here in Slovenia a church is one of the least trusted organizations in the country. We are not pushing religion but a relationship with Jesus Christ. However, most people see us as being religious and so put up their guard against us immediately. It is only the power of the Holy Spirit which slowly opens their eyes to the truth. As they realize that we are not trying to get them to join a religion but instead to learn and understand what the Bible truly says about salvation and thus come to the knowledge of Christ, then they will join with us in a truly "called out assembly."

Especially since the first of June, as most the restrictions have been lifted (inside mask and 2 meter mandates remain), we have had many opportunities to share the Gospel. Everyone is so excited to be free and able to visit their friends and neighbors. At the beginning of the month we met one of our neighbors across the street. Sandra and her family moved to our village about the same time as we did right at the beginning of the "pandemic," so we have not had much contact with them until now. We invited them over for a barbecue, but only Sandra and her only child were able to come. He is the same age as our youngest and had a great time digging in the dirt with Ezekiel while Christina and I visited with her. She was very open and we were able to share the gospel and answer questions. Like every other Slovenian we have known, it is similar to peeling an onion one layer at a time. Since then we have met Zoran, her husband. Even today she and her son are coming over for an hour to play with our children. Please pray that God would open her and Zoran's eyes to the truth and that they will accept Christ.

Erika our language helper is another example of this slow process of sharing the gospel consistently to the Slovenian people. She has now been helping us with language study for four years. When she first started helping us she told us she was not sure there was a God. Over the years we have developed a close friendship with her. She has helped us with the translation of many of our gospel messages and Bible study material. The last project was a tract that Christina was translating for children. Not only did they translate the tract but Christina was able to ask questions about Erika's beliefs about God and answer Erika's questions. See, even though Slovenians say that they distrust religious people they are just as religious as all the people around the world. Their religion, just like religion everywhere, distorts the message of God's Word and makes it difficult for them to see the truth. Please pray for Erika and her family that God would open her eyes, not to our words, but God's Word. We cannot do this work; only God can.

I wanted to leave you with this final thought. Several Sundays ago, after we finished our morning service, our doorbell rang. When we went to the door we were completely surprised with who was there. It was Tony, our neighbor from Smihel pod Nanosom. We spoke to Tony almost every day when we lived in Smihel. Tony lives alone and is retired. He does not speak any English except a few words we taught him. So he was one of our first language helpers and friends in Smihel and Slovenia. He had ridden over to see us on his very old Tomas moped. He had brought us some lettuce from his little garden and just wanted to visit. We sat down in the backyard and talked with him for about two hours. I know that many may doubt that God can change the hearts of the Slovenians, but I cannot get the verse out of my heart that says: "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9

Thank you for your prayers for my family and the Slovenian people,

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

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Daniel July 11, 1968  
Christina April 17, 1973  
Abigail March 27, 2003  
Gideon April 1, 2007  
Lydia August 11, 2009  
Priscilla July 9, 2011  
Ezekiel November 29, 2014

Anniversary July 13, 2001



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**"...For there is no restraint  
to the Lord to save  
by many or by few."  
I Samuel 14:6**

