



*2Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

October-November 2025

Dear Churches, Family, and Friends.

Hello once again! We trust you are all doing well. God is good and worthy of our trust.

We had a wonderful and rewarding trip to Slovenia. Several of the prayer requests were answered. Some of you may have already read about it on our Facebook page. We met with the Barlows, the only independent Baptist missionaries in Slovenia. They have been in Slovenia for 15 years. They were a big help and blessing. We hope to be able to return it in the not-too-distant future. They gave us a copy of the newly translated Slovenian Bible. We were able to introduce ourselves and have a question-and-answer time with the Slovene believers during the Sunday service.

We traveled by bus and train to seven of the 12 administrative districts in Slovenia, visiting the largest cities, or Urban Municipalities, in those seven districts. We did not use taxis. Public transportation is very convenient, affordable and stations are centrally located. But we will need our own car if we are to reach into more remote areas and be free from having to meet a bus schedule. Parking can be somewhat difficult, and a permit is often required.

We believe we have direction to a city that will be well suited for us while learning the language and culture. All the cities we visited are more than adequate and need the gospel. They will remain as options, but we believe God is directing us to the city of Kranj. We have a lot of time before we get to Slovenia so we will remain flexible and see how things go in the days ahead.

The cost of living is going to be higher than we anticipated. In the US we can cut corners and find ways to save and make extra money. But that will not be the case for us in Slovenia, at least not initially. Health care, dentistry, etc may be more affordable, but things like household items, bedding, linens, clothing, shoes, are higher than what we are used to. Groceries are the same to a little higher.

We did not make many contacts or connections. We talked with several people, but mostly those connected with tourism, transportation, hotel, and real estate industry. People were friendly and would receive tracts. But we did not meet many who would take time to discuss the gospel or the things of God. In that way people are more private.

One lady has been angry at God for many years. Her mother was a good Catholic and kind to many people but died of cancer. I tried to explain that sin was the cause of sickness and suffering, not God, and Jesus came to break the power of sin and death. Even in my own life, I hated God when I was young because he did not heal my father when he was dying. She said she had no idea why she shared those private feelings with us. We pray that something we shared will help her. Through our conversations, we did see that building sincere, trusted relationships will be key.

We did not expect Slovenia to have such a high suicide rate. They have shops promoting astrology, witchcraft, new age, drugs, eastern religions, paganism, etc. The historic, medieval Catholic church buildings are mostly empty and serve as ancient landmarks. Singles seek for relationships to fill the emptiness, but it often leaves them even emptier. What is there when one's whole purpose seems to be eat, drink, be merry, sleep, and repeat. Alcohol abuse and self-harm are often the options without Christ.

We will need to make materials readily available & easy to find in print, online, & in person. Everyone is on social media. We will need to use all those tools effectively. There are also open markets, festivals, & squares where people tend to congregate. We even saw a Slovene street preacher at on the public squares, something the Barlows have never seen.

But first we need to get there. Margie and I had a wonderful time together seeing what the Lord might have in store for us.

Joel is finishing school. Ariana is currently in Uzhhorod Ukraine. Margie and I are getting rid of things. We have projects to finish at BBTI. Nathanael is engaged to a wonderful young lady, Liza King. So, we have a very important event this summer.

**We are available and scheduling meetings. Contact us and we will come.**

Thank You all for your prayers and help. May you know God's goodness and grace.

*The Schnell Family. Steve, Margaret & Joel*

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