



# We are blessed!

October 25th

Have you ever tried to walk up an escalator going the wrong way? The effort you put leaves you tired with little progress. Don't we all try it? :)

Have you ever jumped out of the car while it's still moving? Your legs just can't keep up with the supernatural speed you are going. I love that feeling :) Or even walking on the moving sidewalks in the airport, and you are moving faster than your own effort is taking you?



If we are being faithful to what God is asking us to do for the day, God sometimes takes us at supernatural speeds. Not that we always see the "speed", but we recognize that it is beyond our ability and God steps in. And when we rely on ourself and our efforts, we are climbing backwards up an escalator, going the wrong way, and will be left tired, drained and empty.



## Youth Group

From the day Toni and Mateja moved to Kočevje to plant a church 11 years ago, it has never had a youth group. And this is why Shawn and I were invited to come join the church of Kočevje. God first called Shawn to work with the youth of Slovenia 12 years ago! Knowing more of the details now, it's truly a "God thing" that we are all here. Can you believe how God brought all this together????!!!

Mana (a Slovene) is now officially leading youth group alongside Shawn. Her faith is growing and it is our desire to see more Nationals like her leading these ministries. One of our core values is to train and make disciples that make disciples, and it is fun watching that happen. She has made a 2 year commitment and moved here from an hour away to help with our youth group. She will be heading to Arizona, California, and Portland December - January to visit friends and raise support. Pray for her, she's going alone (with God of course) and in need of finances in order to serve full time in ministry here in Kočevje.

Youth group is naturally getting into the deeper subjects about God as they learn more and more. There are a few that just come for the "party" and are huge distractions during lesson time. Please pray that they would not distract the group who want to take their relationship with God to the next level.



## FAMILY

Our family is doing so very well.

We celebrated our 10th Anniversary in September.

One of our current praise/prayer request: Zack is doing great in school as he endures a very 'old school' teacher that is abusive physically and mentally to her students. Keep praying for him and the other students as we take appropriate steps in the school towards these kids' safety. One step Christena is working on is getting permission to sit in the classroom. This would be so good in many ways.

All the kids are in school. It has changed a lot for Shawn and I. Loving it, every bit of it :) And I believe the kids are enjoying it too.



On November 11th Corban will be turning 6 years old! WOW.



We will be celebrating Thanksgiving with a lot of Americans (The Josiah Venture Team) and the kids can't wait! It will be a HUGE BLESSING as it was for our family last year.

One thing we are praying about, that you are very welcome to join us in, is we are praying that God would provide a place to build on or buy a house. We want to be wise with the finances God has given us, and feel very strong in our hearts to stop renting. We have seen this break down huge walls with other missionaries, as the Slovenes see the commitment to stay here when they buy a house. This will also be good for our family to have a place of our own. The house we are renting is for sale, so we don't know how long we will be in this house. This is not going to happen quickly, as we are still waiting for God to open this door, but feel it needs attention in prayer. Praying that God opens doors and closes them. We are desiring His will.



## Ministry

We had a big outreach event tonight. The city was invited to a concert put on by the New Hope church from California. They were fun, full of energy and presented the gospel very clearly. Our Pastor, Toni, was on the Slovene Radio Stations advertising, we had posters up, invited our neighbors, and the local newspaper put a half page add in for free. Pray for fruit and follow up.

Next week we have a big youth group party that our current youth members are really getting involved in inviting their friends. They are finally brave enough to invite their friends to this group. It is a big step!!! Evangelical Christianity is looked down on and is some people feel weird or ashamed to be a part of it. Inviting their friends is a recent step that they are taking and we are so blessed to watch them grow in confidence.

We realize that you are all Kingdom Investors and not just Supporters. Investing is an important subject in the Bible. And we see that you are not burying what the King has given you, but instead investing it in eternal Kingdom purposes! And you will be eternally rewarded :)



Some stats that we want to share with you as you were a big part of this fruit with all your investment through prayer, finances, and sending teams to make this all possible... This year so far 4,246 kids attended a Camp run by Josiah Venture. 2,437 of those kids wrote on the camp survey that they did not know Jesus personally as their Savior before camp. During camp 663 kids professed to give their lives to Jesus as the only one who saves. We are now following up with these kids and discipling them in their new walk with Jesus. Across Europe God is moving. Thank you for your prayers for this GOD-sized movement. Let us be asking Him for more. Would you join us?

## Jude 1:17-22

### A Call to Persevere

**17** But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. **18** They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." **19** These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

**20** But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, **21** keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

**22** Be merciful to those who doubt; **23** save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy.



## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- We will need strong interns and church teams that will serve with us next summer.
- Maturity in our church.
- More boys in the youth group.
- Zack and his school situation.
- Mana as she raises support in the States.
- Wisdom in finances. If the Lord wills that He would open a door for a loan to buy or build a house.

## PRAISES:

- We are doing well as a family.
- God continues to make His path very clear.
- We have had many blessings from God and great friends visiting.
- Toni, Mateja and Laura are doing so much better after coming back from a week in England for counseling about the death of their son/brother.
- Ministry has been a joy. It is a gift to serve God in this way and that our whole family gets to be a part of it :) Seeing fruit in the lives of these kids is a huge praise.

## GOODIES:

These are some things that we are really missing and can't find here. So if you would like to bless us with the comfort of some home ingredients, we wanted to make this available.

- marshmallows
- chocolate chips-pudding
- jello
- ranch dressing (Hidden Valley have packs that I can just add sour cream too)
- brown sugar
- mac and cheese

