

Are we moving??? We are curious what God wants us to do. We need your help and advice...

We are not sure yet if now is the time...

But we have been praying about this since we moved to Slovenia, and are now looking into another possible open door... literally.

For three years now, we have been living in a rented house that includes an old restaurant we use for our youth groups. This house was clearly provided by God for a time, and has worked for us so far, but the house is old and has problems including mold, expensive utilities, and it's out of town. Also, for these three years, we have now payed almost \$30,000 in rent!!!

We know God has and will continue to provide for all our needs, and we think and feel it would be wise for many reasons to sooner than later buy a house. But we are not rushing into anything and won't buy a house unless God is clearly leading us to, so we are patiently waiting on His confirmation as we look into our options.

A friend from church recently connected us with a house for sale that fits our family and ministry needs very well. This house is only 7 years old, about 2,300 sq. ft., on a double lot (about 1/4 acre), it's in the neighborhood near the schools that our kids will be attending for the next 12 years, close to the center of town, and includes a small detached guest house in the back yard (about 500 sq. ft.) for our interns every year and our many regular guests, including you when you come ;) The house is also about 90% finished. It is fully livable, but there is some finish work to complete (which I am experienced in and enjoy). Most of the work is outside, like painting the house and landscaping. And I enjoy working outside when I need to get away from my desk :) Because of all this, the price is much lower.

There are many factors in our favor right now...

One big benefit to buying a house here is that the Slovenes open up so much more to missionaries when they buy a house because it shows so much commitment to stay as a permanent part of the community. It would create deeper friendships and increase trust with the Slovenes we are here to serve and draw closer to Jesus.

Also, because the Slovene economy and housing market is very low right now, banks are not loaning and people are not buying. The owners of the house have divorced and need to sell before they lose it to the bank. The Dollar to Euro conversion rate is almost equal right now (much more in our favor than usual). And this house fits our needs well at a very good price. We are asking the Lord if now is the time and if this is the house He would like us to buy.

Our town of Kočevje is over 450 years old, so there is very little available land left to build on and a good house is very hard to find. Therefore, land and houses in Slovenia are not cheap. We have talked to a few of our Slovene friends that are experienced in the building and housing markets and they said a house like this would normally be worth much more than the owners are asking. Because of the current economy, the owners are only asking **\$195,000** and they already said they would go down in price. How much? We don't know yet. One friend told us to offer **\$140,000** to see how low they would go.

Our only hurdle is getting a home loan. **This will take a miracle!** Even though our monthly salary would normally qualify us for a loan here and in America, the Slovene banks won't give us a loan because our income is from the States, so they can't garnish our wages if we don't make our payments. The American banks won't give us a loan either because they can't repossess a house in Slovenia. This has been the struggle for many of our fellow missionaries here. The only option we know of is by personal loans.

Will you please pray with us that if God wants us to get this house (or any house in the near future), He will provide a friend that can help us with the loan we need, or a few friends to give smaller loans?

If this is not God's timing, we are content to stay longer where we are, but we see many benefits to buying a house, both for our family and ministry.

"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."
~ Proverbs 15:22

Thank you for reading this far and for your prayers as you think of us in these big plans. It means so much to us that we can talk openly with you about these things and know you are praying with us!

With lots of love,

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