

May 2021

Sebastian and Gloria Forjan, Slovenia

God is sovereign and good. He is faithful and in full control despite many COVID-19 restrictions. We have witnessed this every week as we were “meeting” with different individuals and church. We were reminded that Almighty God is on His mission and COVID-19 cannot stop this.

In February Gloria led a 7-week trauma healing course for 11 ladies. It went very well. Women were encouraged and open to bring their inner wounds before Jesus, lament and forgive. In their group there was a non-believer who was incredibly open for God's word and was asking great questions. Continue to pray for Gloria as she plans to continue leading trauma healing courses in the future for women. Pray for her preparation and for the lady that is seeking the truth.

During Easter time we have decided to distribute via post office “Why the Cross” booklets in our town. More than 5000 booklets “Why the Cross?” were given out where people could hear clear gospel maybe for the first time. We did not receive any response but let's pray that God will use the seed in many ways so that it will bear fruit.

Charlie and Miriam Anderson (ECM International)

Update on last month's requests

Praise and Prayer

1. Thank you for praying and here are some answers to encourage you.
2. Missionaries are finding ‘windows of opportunity’ for example the Boschs are making ‘Christian action songs’ for young children to find and sing along on the internet. They will be available in English, Italian, German and Croatian (we are looking for children to help with the English version.) Frank and Angelika have discovered young kids watch these again and again if they are appealing... and God's message is sinking into their lives.
3. Another family have seen 10 people come to know Christ in one area of ministry in Bulgaria. They long to see the same blessing in other areas. Pray for these new believers to be protected.
4. Our Member Care Consultation went well and there was a sense of good fellowship and ‘caring’ for one another. All our team got through their planned pieces without problems - praise God that the technology worked so well and ask God that the fruits of this may continue for some time. Pray especially into the areas of being resilient, missionary kids, and growing in facilitating good care of ourselves and others.

Prayer

Miriam – please help by praying that I will develop my knowledge and understanding of the purposes of prayer - how to listen to God, pray well and wisely into situations - so that having prayed wisely and well together in the will of God, we can rejoice in seeing Him teach and answer.

Charlie - International Leadership Meetings are coming up in May and those are meetings at which important topics are discussed and decisions taken which can have a big impact and influence within ECM. Please pray for Charlie as he participates and also his colleagues that they will know and follow the Spirit's leading in every detail of the meetings.

Until travel plans open up again we continue to timetable our zoom chats with 30+ (couples and singles). We need God's help to listen, understand, and ascertain how to pray and how to encourage our friends and colleagues.

SEE Prayer Network Requests

(Please do not repost or share these without first receiving permission. Thankyou)

Bostjan and Lidiya (Slovenia)

We are very happy to be back in Maribor after returning from Australia in January and it's good to be able to continue with the ministry to which the Lord has called us. While our church and student ministry are still online, we are able to visit one another and spend time with those who cannot join us online.

Here are our prayer points:

- Praise God for a good transition
- Life is becoming busy but please pray for us that we will experience God's power and joy in everything we do.
- for wisdom how to manage our schedule well; to work diligently but also to rest well and spend quality time as a family.
- for our elders, that we will be a good support to each other and to grow together as brothers and co-workers in the Lord.
- That we will also be a good support to our believers, especially the older members who cannot join our church services online.
- Please pray for the new women's group that our church will begin on May 7th
- That our student ministry will impact student lives and that they will shine like stars in the sky in our society.
- Praise God for new partnership with Australian organization MTS which will help us to establish and develop an apprenticeship program in Slovenia

Branko Tihojevic for The Zajecar team, Serbia

- Pray that we can soon begin distributing New Testaments and literature in the town square in Zajecar and other towns in the surrounding area. We are waiting for my (Branko's) health to improve and for the weather to get better because the beginning of spring was rainy and cold.
- People are easy to contact, because they are willing to listen and hear the Gospel in this time of insecurity with the pandemic. We made a lot of contacts and need to start revisiting these people so as to build trust and draw closer to them with the love of Christ and the message of the Gospel.
- Pray please as we are taking a step of faith forward during June, trusting the Lord that we can organize summer camps this year. We already set the dates and are planning first two camps for children with disability from 23-27 Jun and 30 June – 4 July. We prepared the campsite for these children especially wheelchair accesses to all facilities including the kitchen, bedrooms, and bathrooms with showers.
- We are also planning towards a children's camp 12 -18 July and teenager's camp 26 July – 1 August. These children will be mostly from our surrounding churches and from churches in the south of the country.

David & Samantha Gilkinson, Salou Spain

We are continuing to praise God for more young people attending the Saturday night meetings & other sport meetings during the week. Especially for the school friends that many of the young people are bringing. Pray that Override continues to thrive.

Pray especially for one of the young people whose mother is critically ill with Covid. The young person has very little other family here in Spain. She continues to attend Override on Saturday nights. Pray that the church and the youth leaders can be a good support to her.

Praise God 26 young people have signed up to attend a Word of Life summer camp. This was a really significant week for the 13 that went last year so we are excited to see what happens this July.

Marias school application is in progress. There are no places in our local schools, but we continue to wait and pray. We are planning to fly to NI on 24th May. Please pray that that can go ahead & that it will go smoothly. We will have our quarantine time, followed by lots of speaking engagements in June & some rest in the first week of July. Pray for wisdom as we plan the trip. Thank you.

Jonathan and Nicola McCracken, Claremorris

Praise

- We give thanks for the Easter leaflet that we gave out in the town and surrounding area. A few people contacted Jonathan or made contact with the church through the internet. Three people requested Bibles. It would be great to see some of these people when we return to church.
- Sarah's placement went well. It's hard to believe she is nearly finished her first year especially with the year in lockdown. We would appreciate prayer for accommodation for her for September.
- We are thankful that the church has kept connected through Zoom and we pray that churches here will soon be able to open.
- Nicola gives thanks for friendships with neighbours and even during these times of lockdown being able to meet up for a walk.

Prayer

- We pray for things to open up a little in May. Easing of restrictions with the lockdown has been slow. Pray that churches will especially be able to open.
- Pray for the vaccines here that there will not be any hold ups in the roll out.
- Pray that David will soon be able to get back to work. It seems a long time that he has been off.

Peter and Anna Crawford - Athens, Greece

Thank you for praying.

Anna now has her 5-year Biometric residence card.

We have both received our first vaccine jab.

Lockdown is beginning to ease and we are looking forward to being able to become more actively involved in ministry.

Please continue to pray for Al and Rachel McInnes and their two daughters as they begin the process of applying to come out to Greece .

We continue with language study (we need patience).

Alen and Lila Kerčmar - Slovenia

We are **thankful** for the possibility of re-telling/re-filming of Christianity Explored talks in Slovene language in a form of short 5-10 minute talks. At the minute two local TV stations are broadcasting the talks. Despite the Covid lockdowns, over half of the the 27 talks are filmed, and either finished or in postproduction stage.

Pray for people watching the talks to be open to the message and willing to ask questions like "What is Christianity all about and what does it mean for me?"

We are **thankful** for the "Why cross?" booklet being translated into Slovene. The booklets were generously provided by donors from NI. Over 2000 copies were handed out in the Pomurje region over the Easter holidays in the hospitals, nursing homes, women's shelters and homeless shelters.

Pray that the Lord would speak to people who received the booklets and that they would get in touch via the contacts provided at the back of the booklets.

The **children's ministry** is obviously very limited with regards to meetings and clubs however we continue to reach children as best we can via Facebook, YouTube, Zoom, ... Planning for the summer is quite challenging as we will probably not be able to have foreign teams coming to help.

Please **pray** for wisdom, boldness and creativity as we look forward with regard to reaching children.

Over the last couple of months Jakob and Alen were a bit under the weather with some health issues. **Jakob** recovered well after his surgery and we are **thankful** that he was well taken care of by our health workers. **Alen** on the other hand needed another surgery because the last one didn't seem to help in the way doctors hoped. He is now recovering and it is **our prayer** that he will not need any additional procedures.

Some of you might know and were also praying for **Jure, Lila's brother**, who had a bad fall weeks ago and broke his hip. He also needed surgery and after that the doctors were quite sceptical about Jure walking again. We **praise the Lord** that they were wrong. Jure is slowly building up strength and walking a few more steps every day. Obviously, he is still very weak and in pain ... but he walks. **Thank you** for your prayers and **praise the Lord** with us for his recovery.