



## Twelve Stones

September 29, 2011

There is a river valley with several small towns an hour away. For several years we went each month with pastor Drago to work with a Dutch couple who live there part of the year. We visited people and helped with various outreach projects including the New Hope music group from Modesto in 2001 and 2002 and with other outreaches with CEF and teams from the Netherlands. From 2003-2007 a Bible study group met, incorporating people from nearby Catholic churches who had an interest in studying the Bible. A lady from the Netherlands visited the group and had a “vision” of a Slovene hayrack with the hay blowing off of it. She felt the Lord saying we needed to

pray for the group or it would disappear. I, Todd, was one of twelve prayer supporters for the group who were given a stone with that image painted on it (picture on left). The stone has been on my desk since then.

Sadly, because of various issues, the group stopped meeting about 4 years ago. The stone stayed on my desk and I would pray periodically for the folks out there. This year the Dutch couple encouraged the handful of believers to start the group again, and they have been meeting now for several months. I visited the group this week and brought the stone with me. There are only 3-4 Slovene believers there. PLEASE PRAY: for the group as the Dutch couple leaves for the winter; for those who used to come; for contacts with those who came to evangelistic events in past years; for one lady whose husband doesn't want her to attend; for the two guys who teach to be led by the Lord as they prepare.

### PRAYING WITH US IN OUR FALL “ROUTINE”:

Do you prefer routine or variety? Last summer between English camp, the English camp follow-up events, vacation with the nephews, Arts Camp and Arts Camp follow-up events – combined with two nephews and other teams living with us over three months – there was no routine, and we were quite “fried” after running so hard for so long. We're back in the saddle and getting back to our ongoing goals and projects; never really a routine here, but more “normal” life:

- Arts Camp becomes Pala: Arts Camp was incredible and many from camp joined the weekly arts group Pala. This week several of them were part of a radio interview on national radio (I joined the interview by phone; I help with productions but am not there weekly). Pray for Katka, Tilen, Andrea and others as they lead each week. Pray for preparations for upcoming performances. Pray also for the group to truly become a community, and for spiritual interest among those who don't yet know Christ.
- English Camp becomes Solid Rock youth group: We've had a great start to the school year with our local youth group; put the group on your prayer list for each Friday. We will have a big, fun event on the “First Friday” of the month and a smaller program focusing on building community with discussion of deeper issues the other Fridays. It's going very well! Saturday a student Bible study will start. Pray for us to be able to stay in touch with the broader group, to move forward in community with a smaller group on Fridays, and for spiritual growth for those who come on Saturdays. \*Pray also as Joel, the guy from Oregon who started the youth group, comes back for a first visit since they left two years ago; pray for healing, pray for good contacts with some who don't come any more.
- Church planter encouragement: Together with Terry from Josiah Venture and teammate Ben we're planning a church planter round table on November 11– something we did many times in our first 7 years here but haven't done in a while. It's a new generation of church planters, so it's time to get them together to talk, pray, share and encourage.
- Nick Vujicic followup: Nick's book is out in Slovene, though sales are slower than imagined; pray for interest to grow. Pray for neighbors we have given it to. Pray for local churches to stay in touch with people they had contact with in April through the events and the follow-up study. I've written a similar small group study about the Slovene reformer Trubar; pray many would want to go through that in October (October 31 is Reformation Day).
- Other Publishing: Pray for teammate Ben as he publishes a linguistic modernization of the Gospel of John (from the first Slovene Bible translation, 1584) this month, a first step toward doing the whole Bible. Pray for us and the International Church as we work with the Vrelec publisher to put out CS Lewis' “Mere Christianity” by the end of the year. Pray for wisdom and the Lord's leading in other books we want to publish. Pray for skill for the translators as they capture these amazing concepts in Slovene and pray the books would impact lives.

*Todd, Sarah & Lili*

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