Dear Friends and Family,

SENDING CHURCH Shenandoah Baptist Church 138 Osment Rd. SE Cleveland, TN 37323 423.339.0103 www.sbcministries.com

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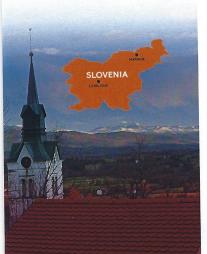
Daniel July 11, 1968 Christina April 17, 1973 Abigail March 27, 2003 Gideon April 1, 2007 Lydia August 11, 2009 Priscilla July 9, 2011 Ezekiel November 29, 2014

Anniversary July 13, 2001



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"...For there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few." I Samuel 14:6



Since mid-October we have been locked down in Slovenia. What does this mean? Only stores selling food items are open with other "nonessential items" cordoned off, children are schooled online at home, public transit is cancelled, when outside your vehicle you must wear a mask, you must carry a permission form if you venture outside your county and no one can meet together even outside. I know that many of you find yourselves in a similar position. Just because our direct contact with people has been limited, it does not mean we have no opportunity to speak with other people. In fact, it has focused our spiritual glasses to acutely see, take and be thankful for each opportunity God affords... online classmates,

postal and delivery men, utility-meter readers, doctors and nurses, lost friends texting of

warm wishes, and sometimes the cashier behind a mask just to name a few.

Like many of you, we have ventured into the online world of streaming. We are constantly learning through trial and error and my thirteen-year-old son will be an expert soundman before long. We are streaming services twice a week and each week we improve a little more. Now is not the time to give up but to go forward.

I want to thank you for praying for my back recovery. I am doing well and moving without pain. It is still uncomfortable to sit for a long period of time and I have not tried to drive. However, with us unable to travel further than a few miles in any direction it is not a problem. Christina and the children are well and we are thankful for the Christmas break from school. With the lockdown we have been pushing hard to complete as much school as possible before spring, when we hope that some of the restrictions might be lifted and we might be able to be out and about again.

This Christmas we were unable to make our normal Christmas-caroling visits but we did pass out jam, cookies, and Bibles to our neighbors who directly surround us. It is hard to imagine that since we have moved to our new house last winter, we have been under restrictions for almost the entire year! This also means we have been unable to visit our fellow believers in Trieste (except for a few weeks when the restrictions were eased during the summer) and have now resorted to online services. However, it is encouraging to hear of their continued efforts to reach their coworkers, friends, and family despite the difficulties.

On Thursdays we have been studying about intercessory prayer. In my own life one of my uncles has recently accepted the Lord after years of scorn and misunderstanding (Praise the LORD!). How quick we give up on people! Just how much is a soul worth to us? I know all the correct answers, but what is the reality of my prayer life? The other day I went for a walk; it is good for the body, soul, and spirit. I was praying for the lost and for direction. I came upon a man unloading old, clay roofing tiles into a muddy wagon track and I immediately remembered visiting Pastor Isaiah Hill in Maine and the last-ditched effort to get his neighbor's hay in before it rained. So, I stopped and helped a new friend empty his wagon load into the mud. I have a new opportunity, another soul to pray for by name, and another soul to whom to share the Gospel.

Thank the LORD for the opportunities He gives us.

Daniel Norton