

Slovenia Missions



The central skyline of Ljubljana

Slovenia has 2 million citizens, but currently, there is no New Testament church. Our mission is to take the pure, unadulterated gospel to this country and to its people. Our aim is to plant a church in its capital city of Ljubljana and to grow out from there.

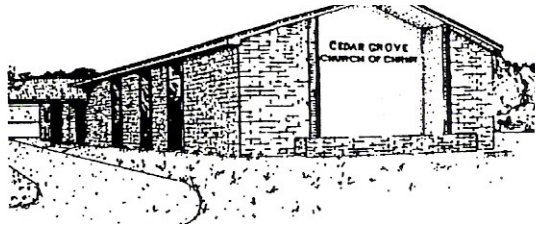
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ELDERS

Thagard Colvin
Farris Huggins
John D. Stokes
Charles Thomasson
Curtis Thomasson
Esker Thomasson

CEDAR GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST



DEACONS

Greg Bryant
Ronnie Dixon
Donald Knox
Rick Kyle
Monty Russell
Kyle Thomasson

PREACHER

David A. Paher
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April 4, 2010

Dear Elders or Missions Selection Committee:

My name is David A. Paher. Currently, I serve as the pulpit minister for the Cedar Grove Church of Christ in Andalusia, Ala. I have served in this same capacity for the past 16 years. I am writing to you to share our efforts and desire in Slovenia Missions.

Slovenia is a small country of two million people in Eastern Europe of the former Yugoslavia. There is no congregation of the Lord's church, yet. I have had an interest in this country evangelistically for 20 years. In the last ten years, I have made specific plans and preparations to evangelize Slovenia. These plans include a survey trip, several follow-up trips, language development and a ten-year commitment to move to Slovenia.

Our immediate plan, once we raise 100% of the necessary funds, is to move to Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital city and to establish a church from where gospel efforts may be centered. We project that newsletters, Bible studies, counseling, and radio will be utilized to evangelize the city. When the Ljubljana church is ready, we plan to branch out into Slovenia's other large cities. Maribor and Clize are two such cities.

Allow me to briefly tell you about myself and my family. I graduated in 2000 from the East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions. I have served in ministry full-time for 18 years. I have made several mission trips to Romania with Brother Harvey Starling, several trips to Guyana with Brother Jerry Davidson, and to Slovenia for our work.

I married Philena Johnson, a preacher's daughter, and we have been married for 19 years. We have three children. Two are in Heaven; one, Neleah, is fourteen. We are worthy of your support.

You will notice following this letter several items to help you evaluate our work. You will find our beliefs toward missions, our plan in Slovenia Missions, information about Slovenia, our budget and quarterly report, my resume and four letters of recommendation. I want to highlight especially the budget on page seven of this packet. The work fund is \$42,000, which can easily be met if seven congregations gave \$500/month.

I humbly ask that you consider partnering with us through any of the following ways: 1) Support us \$500/month for ten years; 2) provide a large one-time donation; 3) send us short-term workers; 4) pray for us; 5) receive our newsletter; and/or 6) allow me to come speak about Slovenia Missions at your congregation. You may contact me at anytime through phone (334-222-3390) or e-mail (david@paher.org).

Laboring for the Master,

David A. Paher

Our Philosophy for Missions

Slovenia Missions brings the saving message of Jesus to the Slovene people. We believe that humanity is lost and needs to hear the powerful preaching of the cross to challenge minds, convict hearts and equip hands. We do not teach that man is morally depraved from his birth. We believe, rather, that he is lost because of sin (Isaiah 59:1-2), and that only through obedience to the faith that Jesus brought can men have hope of salvation (John 14:6; Romans 16:26).

Evangelism is at the heart of Slovenia Missions. There are three motives that cause us to fulfill this important ministry globally. Each of these fundamental reasons focuses on Jesus and the Bible, which is his living word (Hebrews 4:12).

Our first motive to share the gospel globally is because of the biblical examples. God asked Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, "Where are you?" because he knew that they were in a lost condition due to sin (Genesis 3:9). Also, following the evangelistic nature of his Father, Jesus said that his earthly purpose was "to seek and to save the lost" humanity (Luke 19:10). Even Paul validated this urgent call since people cannot receive the gospel without someone to share it lovingly (Romans 10:14). James summed up this fundamental purpose when he said, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

Our second motive to share the gospel globally is because it is a command of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we must follow it. Before ascending to Heaven, Jesus commissioned his followers to "go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). We are his followers, and our duty is to make disciples of Him (Matthew 28:19) and to, in turn, equip and empower men to teach others the good news and to make disciples (2 Timothy 2:2).

Our third motive to share the gospel globally is because of our obligation. In short, Christ's sacrificial love compels us to a global outreach (2 Corinthians 5:14). Paul well said in Ephesians 3:8: "To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ" (ESV). It is no surprise, therefore, that Paul considered himself a debtor to the Roman church; he was eager to fulfill his obligation of sharing the gospel (Romans 1:14-15).

It is therefore our desire to commit to Slovenia Missions for 10 years. Souls there are lost without the gospel. There is no church. We have a strong desire to go.

Our Mission Plan

We have an interest in Slovenia Missions for two unique reasons. First, I have relatives there. My paternal grandfather immigrated to America in 1920 and joined his father who had already been living in the U.S. for ten years previous. They left behind many family members in the native homeland whose descendants remain there today.

Second, Slovenia remains one of the few countries of the world that does not have an established church of our Lord. Many countries have received the bulk of U.S. attention and evangelistic efforts, but Slovenia remains undiscovered and uncharted territory, even among Protestant denominations. Many Slovenes are awaiting the pure, unadulterated gospel.

Slovenia declared independence from Communist Yugoslavia in 1991, and they joined the European Union in 2004. National identity is still being decided currently. The Roman Catholic faith is predominant and is unequaled. The major Protestant denomination is Lutheran, mostly rooted in Calvinism. Denominations are just discovering this untouched territory, but so is the Lord's church, too.

We have spent the last eight years preparing ourselves for Slovenia Missions. And yet, we feel that we have been preparing for this new phase since our first steps into ministry in August 1998. We have visited Slovene soil on several occasions and are ready to make a 10-year commitment to Slovenia Missions. We humbly and prayerfully ask that you hold our hands as we continue this successful work in Slovenia – a forgotten acre in God's global harvest.

We have several short-term and long-term goals. We will quickly distributing newsletters to area neighbors which will introduce ourselves to the community. We will look for people who desire to study the Bible with us. Bibles will be distributed as a means to help our cause. We will begin preparations for mass communication by radio and television. We will conduct several campaigns each year to encourage the local church and to help evangelize the community.

Our overall long-term goal is to start and to mature a congregation of the Lord's people in Ljubljana. We plan to appoint elders and deacons when the church matures far enough along. Also, we plan to encourage the Ljubljana Church of Christ to evangelize other parts of Slovenia.

Demographic Study

The Slovene lands were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the latter's dissolution at the end of World War I. In 1918, the Slovenes joined the Serbs and Croats in forming a new multinational state, which was named Yugoslavia in 1929. After World War II, Slovenia became a republic of the renewed Yugoslavia, which though Communist, distanced itself from Moscow's rule. Dissatisfied with the exercise of power by the majority Serbs, the Slovenes succeeded in establishing their independence in 1991 after a short 10-day war. Historical ties to Western Europe, a strong economy, and a stable democracy have assisted in Slovenia's transformation to a modern state. Slovenia acceded to both NATO and the EU in the spring of 2004.

Countries that border Slovenia are Austria, Hungary, Croatia and Italy. Slovenia enjoys 29 miles of coastline along the Adriatic Sea. Its land size is 7,780 sq. miles, slightly smaller than New Jersey (46th rank among U.S. states). The capital city is Ljubljana, whose population is 276,000. This size is similar to Lexington, Kentucky, whose population is 282,000. Alabama residents may relate to Ljubljana's size by adding the populations of Birmingham (233,000) & Auburn (48,000), or by adding the populations of Montgomery (201,000) & Tuscaloosa (80,000). Both summations produce a combined population total of 281,000 residents.

The country's population is 2 million, smaller than New Mexico (36th rank among U.S. states). 48% of the population live in urban areas. 70% of the population is 15-64 years of age; 16.5% is 65 years and over; and 13.5% is 14 years and under. Life expectancy is similar to citizens in the US: 73.25 years for males and 80.84 for females. According to a 2002 census, Slovenia is 83.1% Slovene, 2% Serb, 1.8% Croat, 1.1% Bosniak, and 12% other or unspecified. 91.1% of the population speak Slovenian, 4.5% speak Serbo-Croatian, 4.4% speak others languages. Official languages are Slovenian, English, German and Italian. 57.8% are Catholic, 2.4% are Muslim, 2.3% are Orthodox, 0.9% are other Christian, 3.5% are unaffiliated, 23% or other or unspecified, and 10.1% have no religious affiliation. Its literacy rate is 99.7% similar to the US.

Its government is parliamentary republic. Like the US, it has three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. The President is the chief of state, and the Prime Minister is the head of government. It also has a constitution. Its GDP per capita is \$27,900, half of the US. Its labor force is 914,000 and is divided into 62.8% services, 35% industry, and 2.2% agricultural. Its natural resources are lignite coal, lead, zinc, building stone, hydropower, and forests. 12.3% of the population is below the poverty line.

Slovenia is in the Central European time zone (GMT + 1). It is 6 hours ahead of Washington DC during Standard Time and 7 hours ahead during Daylight Savings Time, which begins the last Sunday in March and ends the last Sunday in October.

Its weather is similar to Lexington, Kentucky but is slightly colder. It enjoys a Mediterranean climate on the coast, continental climate with mild to hot summers, and cold winters in the plateaus and valleys to the east.

It shares many holidays with US: New Year's, Easter, Labor Day, All Soul's Day (Halloween), Christmas, Independence Day (celebrated on Dec. 26).

Slovene society is family-oriented. Religion and culture have positively influenced marriage since the divorce rate is low. Families share land in rural areas.

Its history dates back to Roman times. Many buildings date back to the 1100s. There are some ritual and holy places. They have had the Bible translated in the Slovenian language since the time of the Reformation, but they have no New Testament church to date.

Our Budget

Salary.....	\$55,000
Work Fund (annually).....	\$42,000
Work Fund (monthly).....	\$3,500
Facilities.....	\$850
Utilities.....	\$500
Literature.....	\$500
Bibles.....	\$750
Automobile.....	\$500
Miscellaneous.....	\$400
 TOTAL SUPPORT.....	 \$97,000

Resume

David A. Paher
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www.paher.org

OBJECTIVE

My objective, as a Gospel Preacher is impact others for righteous living and to challenge people's thinking in order to become better servants in God's Kingdom for the cause of Christ.

EDUCATION

- 1998-2000 East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions, Knoxville, TN
- 1994-1996 High School Diploma, Berea Community High School, Berea, KY
- 1994 Calculus Mathematics, Summer Program for Verbally and Mathematically Precocious Youth, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY
- 1993 Pre-calculus Mathematics, Summer Program for Verbally and Mathematically Precocious Youth, WKU, Bowling Green, KY

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2002-Present Currently, I am serving as the preacher for the Cedar Grove church of Christ. In addition to the regular ministerial duties, I currently produce a weekly radio program, direct VBS and work with staff and elders.
- 2001-2002 I served as pulpit minister for the Central church of Christ on a full time basis. This work had me engaged in all aspects of a minister: preaching, teaching, visiting, evangelism, personal Bible study, etc.
- 2000-2001 Upon graduation from ETSPM, the Richmond church of Christ permitted me to serve as a part-time intern learning with the preacher and elders what the role of a preacher is as it relates to church work. This step was to enhance my application of what I learned in my training.
- 1999 I served the Central church of Christ in Sweetwater, TN in the manner of song leading, Bible class teaching, and occasional preaching. This gave me hands on experience while enrolled at ETSPM.
- 1999 During the five week summer break at ETSPM, I served as an intern at the Richmond church of Christ. This work helped me to receive some practical

experience on how a large congregation works, as it should biblically. Programs that I worked with were education (all ages, especially Lads to Leaders), evangelism, benevolence, family groups, fellowship, facilities maintenance, communication services, computer services, audio-visual services, membership involvement, etc.

- 1998-2000 While enrolled in school, I received opportunities to preach at area congregations two and three Sundays every month. This gave me practical experience in every aspect of sermon preparation and delivery.
- 1996-1997 Being a manager for the McDonald's Corporation in Kentucky has helped me to work with many other people from all different backgrounds. This experience has helped equip me with knowledge of organization skills, leadership abilities, problem solving with people, empowering people to share responsibilities, working alongside others both inferior and superior with me, sharing ideas with them and execution of plans, etc.
- 1994 I was selected as part of a group of twenty Americans from different states to be involved in a foreign exchange program in Rostov, Russia. This was an exchange program funded by the U.S. Congress. Although lasting only one month, I was able to *interact* with many people, *adapt* to the environment and *experience* a whole new world.

ACIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- 1997 The nine years it took to successfully complete the requirements for the rank of Eagle in the Boy Scouts of America, produced endurance, hard work, and patience. These qualities have been the foundation needed in being a leader to others by helping them through to their rank of Eagle and by leading community projects that put the scout troop in the eye of the public.
- 1997 By completing the Eagle rank in the BSA, the distinguished honor of Kentucky Colonel was awarded. This is the highest award for service and achievement that is given by the Governor's office in the state of Kentucky.
- 1997 The Basic Operations Course diploma was awarded to me upon completion of it for the McDonald's Corporation. Held in Dayton, Ohio, this high tech training has enabled me to fully understand communication, listening, counseling, and basic people management skills.
- 1997 While attending the Basic Operations Course in Dayton, Ohio, I received the Outstanding Contributor Award. This was earned because of outstanding leadership skills shown above and beyond other managers in the class.
- 1996 Graduating with honors, I completed high school one semester early being a member of the National Honors Society, and the National Beta Club.

*CHURCH OF CHRIST
EST. AD 33
"UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH"
(MATTHEW 16:18)*

April 27, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I would personally like to take the time to recommend David and Philena Paher to the work in Slovenia. David's experience and desire in reaching the lost has been demonstrated while he has been serving the Cedar Grove church of Christ in Andalusia, Alabama. His wife, Philena, and daughter, Neleah, have stood by his side as he has been laboring in the kingdom. David is an asset to the Lord's church and would do much good in bringing the gospel to the people of Slovenia. Thank you for considering him for this good work.

For His Cause,

Spencer Strickland
Gospel Preacher
Cape church of Christ

328 S. West End Blvd
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Opp Church of Christ

**P.O. Box 146
901 East Hart Ave.
Opp, AL 36467
(334) 493-3728
churchofchrist@oppcatv.com**

April 27, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my privilege to commend to you David Paher. I have known David for over ten years, and in that time it has been obvious to me that David is a dedicated Christian, an effective local preacher, and a missionary at heart. He is concerned about souls, and that concern shows – whether it be in his local work here in the states, or his interest in foreign fields overseas.

With that in mind, I wholeheartedly recommend David to you in his plans for the work in Slovenia. With his passion and preparation, I am confident he is worthy of the brotherhood's support.

Sincerely,

Mark Littleton

***Minister of the Word: Mark Littleton
Elders: Dennis Eiland, Gary Hall, Carl Hollinghead, Charles Willis
Deacons: Richie Bedsole, Bart Boothe, Scott Gafford, Lee Hollinghead,
Trippy McGuire, Jay Mikel, Mike Parker***

Piedmont Road *Church of Christ*

April 27, 2010

Elders

Mike Adams
770-924-1789

LeRoy Fogle
770-926-6417

Ben Golden
770-795-9715

Mark Hoelscher
770-410-9545

To Whom It May Concern:

It was my privilege to meet David Paher more than a decade ago. We were students together at the East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions in Knoxville, TN. Since that time our relationship changed from fellow students to fellow workers in the church. My most recent labor together was as President and Vice President of the Student Alumni Association of ETSPM.

Deacons

Sim Christie
Tim Feltner
John Golden
Terry Moore
Skip Slatton
Daniel Ward

David is a diligent Bible student, and outgoing Gospel preacher. He is an asset to the local church, local and world missions, and the kingdom of God at large. His love for God, the church, and the souls of men is refreshing.

Aiding David in his work is his loving wife supportive wife, Philena, and his sweet daughter, Neleah. He's a blessed man indeed.

I would recommend to you, David Paher, without reservation.

Preacher

Neil Richey
678-581-0000

With Kind Regards,

Georgia School of Preaching

And Biblical Studies
David Decker—Director
770-474-0077

Georgia School of Preaching

And Biblical Studies
—Marietta Campus
Lee Davis—Director
770-424-6611

Neil Richey
Gospel Preacher

WORLD ENGLISH INSTITUTE

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PO Box 5293 Maryville, TN 37802-5293
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E-mail: weimaryville@aol.com

April 27, 2010

Please regard this as a letter of recommendation for David A. Paher.

I was introduced to David about 2 years ago and invited to share the World English Institute mission ministry to the congregation where he preaches in Andalusia, Alabama.

David is an impressive man both personally and professionally. It's obvious that David loves the Lord and is completely committed to serving him with all of the talents in which God has blessed him. He is well respected by the elders and members of his congregation and the community as well. It's also apparent that David is a devoted Christian husband and father.

David and I recently had a long discussion at the Faulkner University Lectures. We realized that we share a passion for mission work and church planting all over the world, but particularly in Eastern Europe. I served as a missionary to Romania for 6 years and David has an extensive family history in the neighboring country of Slovenia. He shared with me an exciting vision and mission of spreading the Gospel and planting churches in that country. His recent research into this possibility revealed to me that David is very organized and deliberate in his planning and prayers to possibly one day launch this mission to Slovenia.

My prayers are with him and his family as they continue to serve the Lord and extend the borders of his Kingdom wherever they are blessed to serve.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of recommendation, please don't hesitate to contact me personally.

Sincerely,

Tom Langley

World English Institute missions ministry
Executive Vice President & Eastern U.S. director
Office: 865-983-0945
Cell: 865-803-2909
Email: weimaryville@aol.com

Slovenia Missions

Volume 1

Number 2

July - September 2018



David, Philena & Neleah Paher

Current Highlights

- Local influence & discussions with atheists
- Began full evangelism program in areas
- Slovenian Bibles distributed
- More Bible studies set up & conducted
- Preparation for radio ministry

Pray for your fellow-laborers

in the Lord's harvest

(Luke 10:2).

Dear Readers:

We are quickly settling into regular Slovenian life during this quarter. We have focused our attention primarily on people living around our apartment and the church building. People wonder why we are here, which has prompted many conversations. People who can speak English are eager to practice it. One neighbor asked if our child speaks English because she wants her little 5 year old boy to be around it. Naturally, that is fine with us. His name is **Gregor**. Pray that we have an influence on him and his family.

There are several atheists in our area. I had a long conversation with one practicing atheist, **Janko**, in an internet café simply because I approached him with a question speaking English. We have exchanged phone calls several times now. Pray for **Janko** that God will open his eyes and his heart.

Over the passed four weeks, we began leaving positive newsletters about God, faith and life at the surrounding homes. We dropped off 253 **newsletters** the first week, but now we're leaving slightly less because some didn't want to be bothered. We know from those we have talked to, however, that the newsletters are well-received. In a few more weeks, we will begin requesting Bible studies and offering prayer for anyone who desires. Pray that we are successful in our efforts.

We have set up several Bible studies. Our studies with one lady in particular, **Sveto**, have been very promising. She is receiving, however, some pressure from her Catholic family. Pray that **Sveto** will stand up to her family, an extremely difficult task in this culture, and that she will continue her studies with us.

Our preparations to secure a **radio ministry** have not been successful to date, but we anticipate that our efforts will yield positive results in the future. The local stations have been very hesitant to allow us to purchase air time. Adding a radio ministry here in Slovenia's capital city would greatly enhance our presence. Pray that we can begin a radio ministry very soon.

David & Philena



Our rented meeting house



Studies with a father & son who posed

Financial Report for June – August

Balance on June 1, 2018.....\$1,836.58

Contributions

Base Support:

Cedar Grove.....\$10,500.00

Work Fund

ABC Church.....\$750.00

DEF Church.....\$500.00

123 family.....\$150.00

GHI Church.....\$250.00

456 family.....\$800.00

JKL Church.....\$500.00

MNO Church.....\$1500.00

PQR Church.....\$300.00

STU Church.....\$250.00

WXYZ Church.....\$1,000.00

AABBCC Church.....\$150.00

789 family.....\$500.00

101112 family.....\$700.00

Total.....\$17,850.00

Expenditures

Base Support.....\$10,500.00

Work Fund

Bibles & Literature.....\$3,000.00

Church building rent

& utilities.....\$2,000.00

Travel & operating

expenses.....\$2,300.00

Total.....\$17,800.00

Balance on Oct. 1, 2018.....\$1,836.50

Slovenia Missions

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