

Mission to Slovenia 2009

Our recent mission trip to Slovenia confirmed what we had experienced in previous trips there—the Charismatic Renewal is growing in Slovenia. Life in the Spirit Seminars are conducted in all six dioceses and in the Celje diocese last month 500 people attended one class, and in Ljubljana they had a class of 200. During our two week visit we had the opportunity to preach at thirteen different parishes and two conferences to more than 2500 people and each night we prayed over people for two to three hours.

We were blessed in our relationships with the priests in every parish. In Ljubljana the priest responsible for the prayer group in the Franciscan church is also the head of the Theology department in the Catholic University. Fr. Mio Kekic, S.J. is a Jesuit priest and has the full-time responsibility for the Charismatic Renewal for Slovenia. Pat and I have worked with him before, but this year on the leaders' retreat I felt we became true friends. All of the priests may not be directly involved in the renewal but a good many are and the numbers are growing.

We were also interviewed for a half hour show on Catholic radio and had two TV interviews, one on a national TV station and a second on a Catholic TV station. Bishop Andrea Glaban of the Celje diocese spent an hour with Pat and I and he encouraged us to come back to his diocese next year.

It is always inspiring to hear directly from people we minister to about how God is at work in their lives.

- One older couple came to Pat very excited because one year ago we prayed over the husband for deliverance from alcohol and he has been totally free ever since.
- A young man considering the priesthood came to us for prayer asking for the courage to be able to witness about Jesus Christ. After we prayed over him he came forward and said that he actually felt courage come into his heart and for the first time was free to get up publically and share what Jesus did for him.
- During our retreat weekend for the leaders of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, our translator Leon told us about a physical healing concerning someone Pat and I prayed over earlier in the week. A man broke his arm and the doctor told him it would never heal properly and that he would be crippled in that arm permanently. He asked for prayer for three or four things and never mentioned his injured arm which was in a cast. I asked him, "Don't you want healing for your arm?" He said yes, and we prayed over him. A few days later the cast was removed and the arm x-rayed. To the doctor's surprise it was totally healed and he couldn't even see any breaks in the bone. His arm was completely healed. This same man told us that in 2008 we prayed over him in Medjugorje for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and ever since that time he has been going to church every day.
- Pat and I met a seventeen year old young man in the music ministry in the Koper diocese who was playing the trumpet during our praise and worship service. His mother told us that seven years ago we prayed over her for his immune system. At the time, when he was only ten, he was always very sick. She shared with us that



he was healed of all the symptoms he had and is now a healthy young man playing his trumpet for the Lord. We actually had the opportunity to pray over him that evening.

- Pat was struck with excruciating back pain two days into our mission trip. She couldn't move on her own. I had to help her just to get out of bed. Two other leaders and I prayed over her on our way to speak at a parish—it was the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Almost instantly she was free from the pain and was able to sit and stand for long periods of time without any pain. Previous to this trip she was in physical therapy for weeks for sciatic pain and was going home after the mission to Slovenia and return to therapy. All of the pain is gone!

