



Daleville Christian Church

October 2015



From the Pastor

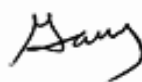
The Future?

I am much more an historian than I am a prognosticator but I read and listen to prognosticators. It is usually easy to predict the future with one phrase, "if present trends continue." What I have noticed is that present trends don't continue. This is more true now than ever. Our society works faster and harder to move everyone off of present trends. America's physical health is one trend that has been going in the wrong direction. So, now trans-fats are being eliminated. Soda drink sizes are debated or banned. School snacks and meals are changing. Restaurants are changing their menus. I happen to know it is much easier now to live gluten free (not for me, for Deb).

The future of Jesus' church in the U.S. is not trending well. I have noticed that truth does not trend! However, our Lord and Savior Jesus is all about doing NEW things--new life (Revelation 21:5). I can't predict the future but I leave you with two quotes about Jesus and Jesus' church:

"The Apostle Paul NEVER based his hope for the church on the trends of the church. He always based his hope for the church in Jesus Christ." -- John S. Dickerson

"Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave." --G.K. Chesterton

Peace, 



Update on -- Sally Barrett



This summer has been jammed pack. Between hosting a summer missions, working on language, taking a trip to America, watching teammates leave, and birthday festivities it seemed to have flown by. I have learned that summers in Ljubljana are significantly different from the rest of the year. While the city is empty of students, it is full of tourists.

One of my favorite stories from this summer involved meeting Eveline (black and white picture above). I met up with a few friends for dinner two days after I returned from America. Eveline, who is from Holland, was at the dinner as well. She was on vacation traveling through countries in former Yugoslavia. Right away I enjoyed her. She was so kind and great at initiating conversations.

She was so intrigued to find out that I worked with a Christian organization. I told her that many times when people think of Christianity they think of "Do's and Don'ts" and they miss what it is really about. Eveline followed up by asking me to share the main message of Christianity. Within two minutes of our spiritual conversation I was sharing the gospel with her.

Eveline was very attentive. She did not understand how God could be loving. Why would an all powerful God not just make us have a relationship with Him? I explained that none of us are deserving of it. And yet, through Jesus, God made a way for people to have a relationship with Him if they choose to accept it. She responded by saying, "I guess I had never thought of it like that before. You are right, that is really loving."

She continued to ask questions like "How did you come to believe this was true?", "How can I know what God wants for my life?", and "How can I know who God is?" I spent the remainder of my time sharing my testimony and helping her understand the significance of the Bible and why it is such an amazing gift given to us.

The following day Eveline left for Hungary. I am so amazed at how the Lord orchestrated my meeting with Eveline on her last night in Slovenia. Since that time I have chatted with her on Facebook and I sent her a booklet that goes through the gospel in Dutch. Moments like that remind me why I chose a job investing in people. And I continually pray for more opportunities to share the "good news" of Jesus Christ. God Bless, Sally Barrett