

sFSM's Mission Trip to Slovenia(June 30th- July 12th)



FSM will be partnering with a youth group in Koper, Slovenia to run an English Summer Camp that will help this local church continue to reach their city with the good news of Jesus!!! Slovenia is in a state of spiritual poverty, less than 1% of the population are followers of Jesus. But the gospel is changing the lives of teenagers and we get to join in the movement of God on this mission!

This is a ministry training mission trip and it not for everyone. We will be ministering to students in Slovenia, the primary age ranging from 12-19. Students and adults who participate in this mission trip must be prepared to(we will train you) :

- clearly articulate and explain the gospel
- to share their testimony in a cross-cultural context
- share basic defenses of the gospel (apologetics)
- teach basic English classes
- take initiative to relationally engage with the students at camp

This is going to be an amazing ministry opportunity with training and experiences that will better prepare our students to engage our own city with the good news of Jesus!

This packet will answer:

- Who is Josiah Venture?(mission agency connecting us with Slovenia)
- What is a JV Camp?
- Where are we going?
- Requirements to go? (Cost and Deadlines)

WHO IS JOSIAH VENTURE?

Please take a few minutes to find out more about our ministry at www.josiahventure.com.

Our Vision

A movement of God among the youth of Central and Eastern Europe that finds its home in the local church and transforms society.

Our Mission

To equip young leaders to fulfill Christ's commission through the local church.

Core Convictions

- The **local church** is the bride of Christ and everything we do must cause her to prosper.
- Leaders transformed into the image of Christ will transform the world around them.
- Both the mandate and model for ministry are found in the life of Christ.
- **Making disciples who make disciples** accomplishes the Great Commission.
- Ministry must be designed and driven by the Word of God.

Brief History

Josiah Venture has grown from three couples in 1993 to over 200 staff today in 14 countries in Central and Eastern Europe as well as a support team in North America. Today, Josiah Venture is a joint venture of organizations and staff in the countries of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech, Estonia, Hungary, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine. As a training organization, our goal is to mobilize and empower local leadership. That is why almost half of the team is made up of nationals representing the countries in which we are working. In some countries a national organization has been planted, which makes it possible to build long-term ownership and momentum.

The primary focus of Josiah Venture is training young leaders in a model of ministry based on the life of Christ. To help them apply the principles, we invest a great deal of time in coaching, as well as camps designed to invite young people to follow Jesus on the disciple making pathway and mobilize them from the harvest to the harvest.

WHAT EXACTLY IS CAMP?

Camps exist as part of healthy year-round youth ministries where young people are following Jesus on the disciple making path. Our strategy is to invite young people to follow Jesus on the disciple making pathway and mobilize them from the harvest to the harvest.

Josiah Venture camps have a two-fold vision for growth. First, and most obviously, we long to see the youth groups in local churches grow. **Camps provide an opportunity for local youth leaders to raise up a team of students to be equipped in the areas of evangelism and discipleship.** Students will be encouraged to reach out to their friends at school and invite them to the camp. They will then have the opportunity to share the hope of Christ with their friends in a safe and relational environment at camp and continue in those relationships when camp is over.

Second, we long to see you and your team and church grow! Through building relationships with national believers and unbelievers, you will have the opportunity to encourage, love, pass the message of Jesus on, and grow in confidence and passion for the lost and the world. **One of your key roles is to connect the unbelievers at camp to the local church and youth group members so that long after you leave these connections can continue.**

Our hope is that this trip would be a catalyst for growth in the local youth group, as well as yours and that the effects of this trip are felt throughout the year in this country and in your community.

A Typical Day at English Camp

- 7:15 - Leader Meeting & Prayer
 - Where leaders gather to pray & discuss the details of the day.
This meeting is led by the camp director and all members of the short-term team are expected to be in attendance.
- 7:45 - Morning Devotion
 - This is an optional devotion time that is open to anyone at camp and typically led in Slovene with some translation.
- 8:00 - Breakfast
- 9:00 - Morning Program
 - This time of camp includes any announcements that need to be made, maybe a JUST DANCE video, and then we play a short game and do warm-ups to prepare for classes.
- 9:30 - English Class
 - Campers will learn English activities and games.
- 11:15 - Break
- 11:30 - Morning Workshop

- Every camper is in two 1.5 hour long workshops.
- 13:00 – Lunch
- 14:00 - Free Time
 - Games, hang out with the students, take a nap. This is a time for students to rest or to go swimming or just hang out. One afternoon during camp, we will have a Water Olympics game time where we all gather and play fun water games together.
- 16:30 - Afternoon Workshop
- 18:00 – Dinner
- 19:15 - Evening Program
 - This time includes a quick ice breaker game (like minute to win it), the camp dance, songs with the worship band, and a time of teaching.
- 20:30 - Discussion Groups
 - These groups are led by Slovenes and in Slovene as this is the time where students can talk about deeper things and discuss the evening talk.
- 21:00 - Late Nights
 - Every night is a themed party! We have done events such as Western night, Pirate night, movie night, coffee night, Prom party, etc. Typically, the last night of camp is a Talent Night where the campers get to show off their talents.
- 22:30 - Quiet Time
 - Be in your rooms getting ready for bed!
- 23:30 - Lights Out!
 - Goodnight! Camps are high energy and tiring; we take bedtime very seriously.

Where are we going? (SLOVENIA)

Brief History

Slovenia declared independence from Yugoslavia on June 25th, 1991. For the first time in history, the Slovene people had the opportunity to govern themselves. They are now in the challenging process of deciding who they will be as a nation and as people, which is resulting in a rapid change of their values and beliefs. In 1991 more than 70% of Slovenes claimed to be Catholic. Nowadays this number has dropped to less than 50% and continues its decline. Youth are questioning the religion of their parents and great parents and are seeking the truth on their own. We have an incredible opportunity to share the Gospel and reach this nation and its youth for Christ.

Spiritual Demographics

Slovenia is a country with 2 million inhabitants and is about the size of New Jersey. Only 1,100 -1,200 people in all of Slovenia claim to be evangelical Christians. This places it among the most un-evangelized countries in the world.

Ministry Outlook

The Lord has given the Josiah Venture team in Slovenia the opportunity to partner with local churches and be a light in some dark places. After slow toiling beginnings, we are now seeing a handful of Slovene youth with a passion to share Christ with their friends and family. We are able to walk alongside these leaders as we begin to train them in how to disciple.

The Lord is also opening up new doors in cities like Radovljica that have not had an evangelical presence in over 400 years. It seems the Lord is preparing to shed His light on the nation using this next generation. The spiritual war is at hand and as we press into the darkness, Satan presses back. Please pray for these new believers and leaders to be rooted deeply in Christ so they can reach their country with the love of Christ.

We will be partnering with a youth group in Koper, Slovenia. This will be the first English Camp in this area!!!! We will work alongside David and Katarina Bordner.

Katarina grew up in Slovenia and began serving with Josiah Venture in 2001. After graduating from Multnomah Bible College in 2003, David joined the JV team in Slovenia as a one-year intern. His passion and love for the people of Slovenia quickly grew, and that internship turned into a long-term commitment. After working together for a year and a half, David and Katarina began dating and were eventually married in September of 2006. We will serve with the Bordner's home church in Koper. At this church, David serves as the youth pastor and Katarina serves with the music ministry.

Requirements for Mission Trip

Passport:

Every member of the team needs a passport. To obtain a passport you will need to go to <http://travel.state.gov/passport>. Typically, a passport takes at least 8-12 weeks for delivery. If you have a passport, please make sure that the date of expiration is not within 6 months of the time you will be departing the country.

COVID-19 VACCINE :

- At this point Slovenia is requiring the covid-19 vaccine to enter the country, proof of vaccination will be required to go on this mission trip. **Non-essential travel to Slovenia (personal/tourist):** U.S. citizens on non-essential travel are permitted only if fully vaccinated or recently recovered from Covid-19. U.S. citizens who have residency in the EU or are married to a Slovenian citizen can also be admitted with proof of a negative Covid test. See [Slovenian's page on non-essential travel](#).
- Travelers who have completed the vaccine regimen with the following vaccines are accepted for entry: BioNTech/Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, Russian Gamele (Sputnik V), Serum Institute of India AstraZeneca, and Chinese Sinovac Biotech and Sinopharm. Note the times required after vaccination for these common U.S. vaccines: seven days since the second dose of Pfizer; 14 days since the second dose of Moderna; 14 days since the first dose of Johnson & Johnson. Generally, U.S. vaccination records are accepted; see the [Slovenian Border website](#) for vaccination proof requirements. For those with prior Covid infection, you can present a certificate of a positive result of a PCR test, older than 10 days but not older than 6 months. Slovenia accepts PCR and rapid antigen tests taken within the United States, Great Britain, and the EU.

Mission Team Requirements:

- Complete Mission Team Application by January 31st
- \$100 deposit to reserve spot
- Attend all scheduled Mission Team Trainings

Financial Cost(estimate): \$2500/person

\$1700 = Roundtrip Airplane Ticket and Bus Tickets

\$800 = Josiah Venture (covers lodging, food, transportation once arrive in Slovenia)

Action Dates

We only have 20 seats reserved for this mission trip. As soon as you turn in the \$100 deposit, you will have a seat reserved for you. Below are dates where money is due:

- January \$100 per person(deposit)
- April 24th ***Last day to drop seats on the airplane***
- June 21st Final Payment Due

Fundraising Opportunities:

We will be having various fundraising opportunities for you student to earn money toward the mission trip. Below are some examples:

- 1) Ties and Tiaras
- 2) Project 100
- 3) T-Shirt Sale
- 4) Childcare Opportunities
- 5) Support Letters

- We will give you examples and help on how to raise financial support.

If you have any questions or would like to be part of this life changing mission trip please contact Benji.

In Christ,

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