



## Winter is Here ... Growth Season!

Christmas decorations are up in the city, Christmas Markets are open in the town squares, and snow fell in Bratislava for the first time on December 2<sup>nd</sup>! After five years of Orange County “winters”, we have been doing our best to adjust to the cold! We are also looking toward a new season of growth, which the Lord is directing and calling us to prepare for, at Bratislava International Fellowship. Gary just finished up with a teaching series on The Holy Spirit. Foundational and empowering, it gave room for great questions and lively discussions after services. Please be praying for our leadership and community of believers as our humble church begins to be stretched. And with much to be done, please pray for our core team and ministry leaders as they “stretch out their tents” and grow with BIF!

## Estonia – Small, But Mighty

That first day of snow in Bratislava is the day we left for Estonia to serve FMI Missionaries John and Anneli Kelly, and their kids Aria (7) and Levi (5). They live in the small coastal town of Haapsalu (hop-sa-loo) on the Baltic Sea. Called to reach both the youth and the elderly, we were honored to join them for their weekly outreach lunch to the seniors. When asked for prayer requests, many of those present shared they felt lonely because they lived alone after having family to live with most of their lives. It was such an honor to share a meal of bread and borsht, pray for them, and feel how much the Lord loves them all. God does not forget the elderly! In fact, one gentleman who is 82 years old, made the decision to follow Jesus just two weeks prior! By some accounts, Estonia is the country with the fewest faith-filled people in Europe. But God is on the move in a mighty way there! Please join us in praying for the Kellys, for Haapsalu, and for Estonia!



## Russell'n Up Some Serious American Thanksgiving Eats

We were so thankful to have our dear friends Gary & Joanna Russell travel from Southern California and join us for a week of exploring Bratislava, and to help us put on a true “American Thanksgiving” for our Slovak, Romanian, British, and Canadian friends! Sharing their testimony at BIF on the powerful work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and living our “missionary life” for a week, it was a huge blessing to have them!

*Gary & Joy*

**Gary & Joy Peiss**

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