



## Shutdown in Slovakia

Life in Slovakia since March 13<sup>th</sup> has changed drastically in an effort to “flatten the curve” of Covid-19 cases. We are allowed to go outside for a walk but need to wear a facemask whenever we leave our home. Grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations and other essential services are open, but everything else has been shut down. The normally bustling areas of Old Town Bratislava are virtually empty. But, we are having church and our weekly bible study, The Truth Project, online! Zoom meetings and Facetime calls to pray for and catch up with our missionaries are now the norm. We are dealing with many of the same challenges all of you are facing, as individuals, families and churches. We are praying protection, wisdom and provision over all of you!

## Hosting and Visiting

Back in February, we were privileged to host a group of FMI Europe Ministry leaders here in Bratislava. It was a fruitful time of team building and strategizing for the next year! In the beginning of March, we still had open borders, so our FMI missionaries, Ken and Linda Stapleton from Liberec, Czech Republic arrived for a week-long getaway, which we all enjoyed. The following week we drove to Krakow, Poland to spend some time with the Mielonen family, also FMI missionaries. But our trip was curtailed by learning of Slovakia closing its



borders on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Long story short, we had to drive the long way (but quickest route to the border) home, in the dark of night. Made it back in before the border closed, but it was still quite the dramatic escape! Okay, we actually just wanted to get across before we had to be quarantined for 14 days. The adventures of life as a missionary!

## Postponements

So many events postponed in all our lives ... weddings, graduations, conferences. The Fellowship of European Foursquare churches gathering in April was cancelled. We were scheduled to be in Bielefeld, Germany to assist FMI missionary Anna Marie Mazzone with a short-term team that was coming to minister there. This has also been postponed. One thing that won't be postponed is the birth of our granddaughter and 4<sup>th</sup> grandchild in Berlin in April. At this point it doesn't look like we will be able to get there. We are trusting in the Lord for His will to be done.

## Prayer Requests

Please pray for a smooth and safe birth of our granddaughter, and that we will be able to visit soon. Also, for our son Elliott who was let go from work, that he finds a good job to sustain him. Please let us know how you are doing; we'd love to hear from you and pray for you!

*Gary & Joy*

**Gary & Joy Peiss**

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