



A Smooth Return

Our return trip from the US was amazingly easy! Not very many people are flying right now, so there were short lines, lots of empty seats and less stress than normal. When we arrived home, we had to quarantine for 5 days, then we took our very first Covid-19 test, getting our negative results within a day. We were very thankful to have it all done and get back into our daily lives. Gary was busy with sermon preparations and finalizing Missionary care groups for FMI Europe, while Joy was able to spend some time mentoring a few ladies in our BIF community. She was also blessed to bring chocolate chip cookies and a meal to a large family that live up the hill from us. There is more to this story, so let's find out a little more about this family.

Slovak Missionaries to the USA

Wait, the family who lives up the hill are Slovak missionaries to the US? Well, yes and no. They were called to be missionaries to the Lakota tribe in South Dakota, and served for almost 7 years. Their ministry was going well but the US government chose not to renew their visas. The older children miss the US, so receiving the cookies and spaghetti with meat sauce from an American was a huge treat for them! Currently mom and dad are helping mobilize other Slovaks – assisting in getting them to where God has called them. They (Slovak missionaries) are able to go where western missionaries cannot, so it's an amazing blessing to help them in any way we can. Please pray that we continue have more opportunities to work with and bless them!

Lockdown 2.0

October brought a lot of changes to Slovakia. Brisk fall evenings, leaves changing colors, and new restrictions because of the rising numbers of Covid-19 cases. BIF's Sunday services had to shift back online, but we were initially still able to gather in groups of six. So we began to



organize BIF host home watch gatherings. And just as the groups got set, the Slovak government announced a nationwide lockdown, similar to the one implemented in the spring. With plans to do Covid tests on everyone in Slovakia (over the age of 10 and under the age of 65) over two weekends, the lockdown was the only way to make this work. So, home gatherings have been put on hold until the restrictions ease, and it's back to wearing masks (even outside) and shopping only at essential stores (groceries, pharmacy, etc.) Restaurants are once again restricted to serving food on outdoor terraces or for takeaway. Pray for Slovakia during this time – for leaders to make wise and thoughtful decisions.

Joy
Gary

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