



## Just the FAQs – Part V

**What is a furlough?** Furlough, in the dictionary, is often defined as a leave of absence – a time to rest and recharge. The example of a soldier or an enlisted person is often used. Historically, this was also true for missionaries – furloughs used as an extended time of rest and recharge. A modern-day missionary furlough is similar – a time away from the normal focus of work on the mission field. But time for rest is often only a small part of the picture. For us, connecting with our family and those of you who continually and faithfully support our work, is our highest priority. We know you have many ways to stay updated on our world – on the work that we are are doing. But as we furlough, we put a high priority on getting similar updates from you – on what’s going on with you and your families ... on what’s new in your world. We love to hear about and pray for you while we sit and chat face-to-face! So Peiss Furlough 2021? Striving for a healthy balance of both connection and rest!

**What have been the best, and most challenging, parts of your 2021 furlough so far?** Connection with family has to be at the top of the “best” list. We have already spent time with our oldest son, Elliott, our youngest son and his wife, Ben and Tanja, and Gary’s sister and brother-in-law and some of their kids. We will also be with our daughter and son-in-law Emily and Chris, and our grandkids Callum and Lua, and with Joy’s brothers and their families. Like us their lives are very full, so we work to make the most of our time together while they balance their usual work and family commitments. A close second is our time with those of you who faithfully support our work. Thank you for making time for and sharing “life” with us over great coffee or food!

The most challenging has to be the “couch surfing” and continual transitions. We are so thankful for all the comfortable beds and loaned transportation. Living out of a suitcase gets old, however, and not being in your own “element” or “rhythm” for an extended period of time wears on you. Being apart from our work in Slovakia is also difficult. The Lord has blessed us with an amazing team of leaders, however, and they are managing and navigating well through some very large challenges facing Bratislava International Fellowship right now.

**Do you disconnect from your work in Europe while you’re on furlough?** No ... we are staying connected with missionaries across Europe and our team at Bratislava International Fellowship. Zoom calls with our faithful Care Cluster leaders, arranging details of guest missionary preachers at BIF (thank you Abby Edwards), and continuing to make arrangements for “Covid Care Package” deliveries as many FMI Europe missionaries are still under restrictions. BIF will transition from online to in-person Sunday services on June 20<sup>th</sup>. And at the same time, they will move out of the Istropolis facility and (temporarily) into the Bratislava City Church Ministry Center (Sreznovského). So we are helping, as we can and where needed, with each of these transitions. Thank you for your continual prayers over these teams and all those faithfully doing God’s work in Slovakia and across Europe!

Gary & Joy

**Gary & Joy Peiss**

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