



## Light on the Rails

Every second and fourth Thursday, the City Church International ladies get together to share what God is doing in our lives and pray for one another. With Christmas markets back in Bratislava this year, and the Christmas Tram scheduled to run through part of the city all month, Joy began to plan an outing for our ladies to enjoy these events together. This is part of the blessing of being in a community. Sharing not just what we are going through and our faith, but also intentionally sharing life together so we grow closer as the Lord intends for us. Fun memories do just that, so the ladies went to be with (what seemed like) everyone else in Bratislava to taste yummy food, check out all the booths, and listen to the live music in the Old Town square. In Slovakia, on all forms of public transportation, few people smile and hardly anyone talks. So the favorite part of the evening was riding the Christmas Tram, with the decorations and lights and everyone aboard smiling and talking. A very happy Christmas experience and Joy(ous) occasion with our adopted Slovak culture and CCI church community!

## Christmas Morning at City Church International

We had church service on Christmas day this year. Many Slovaks leave town, and their big celebration is on Christmas Eve, so we weren't expecting very many people in the morning. But we decided we would make it memorable for whoever came. Surprisingly, quite a few people showed up, which was a delight and a blessing. Joy made homemade cinnamon rolls with cream cheese frosting. And we wanted to give gifts to everyone who came, so Joy also found ornaments every family could put on their tree to remember the year they went to CCI on Christmas day!



We also bought and handed out small gifts to all the kids – even the teenagers. One shy little boy didn't want to look at Joy when she brought the bag over to give him a cute stuffed animal. But once he saw what was inside, his eyes got as big as his smile! A very special moment as she understood – at least a little – the feeling the Lord must have when we are truly thankful for all the blessings and gifts that He gives us!

## Being Truly Thankful

We want to have thankful hearts, and show the Lord how delighted we are with what He gives us, what He chooses for us, no matter what. We have much to be thankful for over the past year – another beautiful granddaughter, time spent with our family, every way we have been able to invest in our church community and global workers, and ... being in the right place at the right time to help ease the suffering of those in Ukraine and refugees here in Slovakia. And we are so very thankful for all of you who continue to bless us with your support and prayers. May you have a very blessed new year!

*Gary & Joy*

Gary & Joy Peiss

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