



## A Two-Minute Read

Have you seen those tag lines – the ones that encourage you to jump into an email because it's only a "2 minute read"? Yes, the author knows the value of your time, but the tag line appeals to your sense of getting a "bite" of something, without having to commit too much of your time. We too value your time, so our newsletters are purposefully kept short, in reality taking less than 2-minutes of your time to read. But we pray that what you get, in terms of the Lord's encouragement in the testimony of what you are sowing into, far exceeds your investment of time. **Will you write us this month and let us know if you want to keep receiving our updates?** Maybe you're receiving an electronic version, but prefer a printed one – or vice versa. We'd love to know! Surprise us and reach out, letting us know what the stories being conveyed in these newsletters mean to you. Thank you!

## Family and Friends Christmas



In early December our son-in-law Chris, daughter Emily, and grandkids Callum and Lua came to visit us for a couple of weeks. It was an early Christmas present, filled with lots of playing, snuggles, walks, tram and bus rides, Christmas markets, and even snow. It was just what we needed and more. They came to our CCI service and met our church family, so everyone got to put faces to who we talk about. What a soul builder this visit was for us. Saying goodbye was hard. However, we had our CCI Christmas Eve service and a Christmas Day dinner to look forward to. We invited some of our CCI church community to come to our place for Christmas dinner as they were here in Bratislava, not at home with family, like us for the holidays. It was a lovely evening with food, games, and great conversations. We are so grateful for moments like these, for even though we are far from home, we will cherish the memories made with those we have become so close to here in Slovakia.

## Thankful for What's Behind, Praying for What's Ahead

We know the Lord dwells within us, and He will always touch those we come in contact with, serve, and pray for. As the word promises, He will give us more than we can ever ask or think ... in other words, more than in our wildest dreams! We are so very thankful for this, and we give the Lord all the glory for what He has done in 2023! Looking back reminds us how grateful we are for all of you, for your prayers, and your support in so many ways. As we pray for you and look to what the Lord has for all of us in 2024, we are relying on the scripture from Ephesians 3:14–19. Be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being! You are rooted and grounded in love. We pray you comprehend with us all the breadth and length and height and depth and know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Be filled with all the fullness of God! May your 2024 encounters with others be life-giving as Jesus is in you and wants to bring His touch to them.

*Joy*  
*Gary*

Gary & Joy Peiss

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