

„Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ... Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

(John 21: 18-19)

Dear friends,

I am sending you kind regards at the end of the summer semester 2011. This semester was successful for VBH and it seemed that this ministry is far better with two workers. After three years, I wasn't planning events on my own because we were arranging and preparing everything together with Beata Szrejder (IFES InterAction staff in VBH). When we visited students in different cities, we divided them.

Beata was responsible for students in Košice, Martin and Žilina. I was responsible for contacting and visiting students from Prešov, Trnava, Nitra, Bratislava, even more, I visited Komárno and Zvolen as well. It was a real difference, having the opportunity to share about individual students, learn together, exchange and use our experiences in practice.

I was really glad that our ministry had been gradually divided up and we would be able to visit students in Slovakia more effectively. Nevertheless, everything changed in April. Beata's mother became seriously ill and Beata had to go back to Poland. The ministry of VBH is obviously not about to finish, but we won't be able to carry out our plans in the way we had arranged.

It's not very pleasant to be again alone in this ministry, furthermore when I take into consideration that the ministry was doing very well...I realized one biblical truth hidden in the sentence which Lord Jesus said to Peter: (aforesaid in the verse John 21: 18-19). One part of our life with Lord Jesus is that we can't have everything under our control all the time. We weren't guaranteed that we would be healthy, that we would be loved by everyone, or that we would have everything what we wish etc. Our love towards Jesus has to endure regardless of what's going to meet us in our lives. This is one of the conditions of following Lord Jesus and serving Him. Whatever would happen to us or around us, nothing will change the fact that we are to love Jesus, know Him, follow Him and serve Him. Living Jesus is prepared to stay with us in every situation of our life. He has the power to break our fear from what's going on or fear from what's going to happen and come.

By the means of this letter I would like to thank Beata for the piece of good job and I believe that the Lord will give us a new opportunity and she will be able to come back to be spiritual as well as personal support for students through the ministry of VBH in Slovakia.

Martin Mražík, VBH general secretary

Winter camp VBH

This year's winter camp topic was called Meetings in the Mountains. We prepared kind of an excursion of significant meetings of biblical people with God, which had taken place in the mountains. Let's mention for instance Moses at Sinai, Elijah's pilgrimage on Carmel or Jesus in the mountain of transfiguration or on alone Golgotha. All these places represent certain symbols which mirror God's sovereignty in our lives, His demands and our reactions and expectations from God. Beata prepared some pictures from these areas and some interesting information for each topic. In this way we could travel from snowy nature and cottage in Kubínska Hoľa somewhere to the hills of the Middle East. Vital discussion and

testimonies were not missed.

Winter camps are always a good opportunity for the testimony of gospel, being spread in free and friendly atmosphere.

Meeting of group leaders

In March 4-6, 2011, there was organized the meeting of leaders and active members of VBH groups in the Christian church building in Nitra. Twelve people participated. The meeting was focused on the leadership and organization of groups. We were trying to clarify fundamentals of biblical groups and learn some practical skills in the leadership and preparation of group meetings. We observed how Lord used particular groups in biblical history, then we shared our thoughts about the function of our VBH groups. We focused on particular parts of a group and we discussed what to do to make our groups functioning in the right way. We were talking about our vision and we discussed how to define practical aims necessary for functioning of a group. Later, all participants prepared "the best group" in which we all participated. Propagation, posters, worship, prayers, Bible study and building of our relationships - nothing was missing. It was amazing to see, that all the members of the meeting live for their groups and that they have hearts for this mission ministry at universities and among their friends. On Sunday we took part in Sunday service in a Christian church and we finished the meeting by having a delicious dinner together!!!



We are looking forward to the next good VBH weekend trainings and seminars.

Life of the groups

Students had their meetings throughout this summer semester in Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Martin, Žilina, Košice and Prešov. Tamas Süll, pastor of Reformed Christian church, started to serve students in Komárno and we believe that our co-operation will continue. We are still looking for some responsible leaders who would create groups in



Banská Bystrica and Zvolen. Julka, leader of the group in Prešov with a support of some graduated students spent a lot of time by inviting people to meetings, despite, she is still alone in the group. A joyful moment was the visit of students from Košice in

Prešov, who wanted to support Julka by this in her struggle. We pray for the new semester that Julka would eventually find those, who are looking for a group and gospel. Students in Žilina (where the testimony of students used to be strong in the past) met just two times. The next semester is crucial, because it will decide whether there are some younger students who would lead the group during following years. We are also expecting new leadership of groups in Trnava and Nitra next semester. We are about to have two groups in Bratislava

next semester. A group of students from the University of Economics, who used to meet without being covered by any organization, decided to become a member of VBH. I hope that they will find support and inspiration in the fellowship of Slovak and other groups throughout the world included in IFES. There will be stable groups in Košice and Martin. We ask for prayers for us being able to find some students who would create and lead groups in towns Banská Bystrica and Zvolen. If you know any students from your country who are studying in Slovakia, please help us to get in touch with them.

Testimony from group in Košice

Our group has been blessed a lot during this year. In comparison with the previous year, we have grown a lot. We could see how God hears our prayers. He taught us humility and patience last year, because there were just three or four people who used to meet. We had been praying for new members, we have been inviting new people, but nothing seemed to change. One day of this semester 16 people came



to the meeting. It was a pleasure to see how God brings to us still more and more people and hear how they learned about the group. Only God can do such miracles. The great blessing for us was also arrival of Beata. We could learn a lot through

her way of building relationship with us. It was good that at our VBH group meetings there was also somebody older and more experienced, concretely Beata or Martin, because we managed to stick to the core meaning of the studied biblical passage and to see the essence of our faith uniting all Christians, even our group consists of people coming from various denominations. We met also in the middle of the week, on Wednesday, when prayer meetings took place. The great idea was to write all our prayer requests to the notebook and then to see how incredibly God responds to our prayers. Blessing to our group was also the fact that we met together not only at our meetings but we spent together also most of our free time. At winter, we skated together, we attended Christmas market and in hotter days we hanged out in the centre of Kosice near singing fountain, drinking kofola, eating pizza and so on. We also attended some regular youth group meetings of various denominations in which our members have been raised. The area which is seen by me as the basis for growing of our group is evangelism, as we did not manage to organize any evangelistic event for our classmates this year.

Martinka

IFES InterAction workers in the VBH

Beata Szejder

Co-operation with Beata was really excellent. Beata's 10-year-experiences at work with young students were proven at the highest degree in the preparation and leading of different events. Nevertheless, before Easter, Beata came to know sad news about serious illness of her mother and thus she had to leave Slovakia untimely due to mentioned family reasons. She has to care for her mother personally now and to solve also a lot of serious matters related to the new situation in her family and also at her work. We are keeping in touch with Beata and if it is possible, she is willing to help us at least with the organization of different events. We pray for Beata so that she managed to go through this difficult situation with faith and humility and so that God could use her again in her life role of student's missionary.



Heledd Job

From October, the team of IFES InterAction in our VBH should grow and thus there should be three people together for the work with students. Beata had to leave but thanks to God our movement does not remain to be led by one person for long time.. We will be again two people together; this year our mission will be strengthened by Heledd Job from Wales. Heledd wrote us about herself:



I'm a Welsh girl who loves making cakes, reading and spending time with friends. I had the privilege of growing up hearing about Jesus and so came to know him when I was quite young. I joined the Christian student group in my first year while I was studying Mathematics and Welsh in University, and I have been involved in student work ever since. I worked with IFES in Wales, then in Portugal and then back in Wales again for the last 5 years. During that time I have loved seeing students come to know and love Jesus more and go on to tell their friends about him. I've also seen more and more that God is the God of the whole world and that all of history is about God bringing people from all nations to know and love him. So I count it an incredible privilege to be able to come to Slovakia to join with you in God's work there. I'm finishing a Masters in Translation this summer so it would be great if you could pray that I finish that well and glorify God in my studies. Please also pray that God provides the prayer and financial support I need, and for all the practical preparations that need to be made. Lastly, as I think about moving to a new country, learning a new language and starting a new work I know that I am very weak. But I also know that God is strong and he is good and he loves to use very weak people. So please pray I'd remember that and that I would keep trusting him.

We are preparing:

From the reason that I remained alone and that at this summer the IFES World Assembly takes place in Krakow, we don't organize summer camp this year. Similarly, I need to take a rest and prepare for the next school semester when we organize:

October 21-23, 2011: 21st Conference of VBH; theme topic: I Grow and Help to Grow; the main speaker: Igors Rautmannis coming from Latvia

November 25-27, 2011: Conference of Christian Medical Workers; theme topic: Authentic Christianity in the Health Service and Social Services

Finally, let me express my thanks for your prayer and also financial support of our ministry between students at Slovak Universities. I wish you blessed summer time full of rest and presence of your relatives and mainly our Heavenly Father.

Martin Mražík

Please, pray for us!

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