

„Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ”

(2 Corinthians 4:1,6-7, ESV)

Reflections from the team...

Dear friends,

Let my colleagues and I inform you about what happened in our ministry during the last few months.

"A hunger for God and His word". This is my summary of the summer semester of 2013 in VBH ministry. There is no other way to describe what we have experienced in our meetings with students. This semester showed us how important it is for believers not to keep the "treasure" we've received from Jesus to ourselves. Everywhere where students were open to share the Gospel, something happened. Many students heard about God thanks to their classmates. Many of them have expressed an interest in God, have a

lot of questions and some of them are joining groups. The witness of students is not only about one evangelism event per month. It is also their way of living among their classmates. This is also the way for the church. We should not be inward looking, only preserving this "treasure" in the snug and comfort of our local church, but we should also be uncovering it among the people who live around us. It is great to see that the students who are witnessing are from different Christian denominations. Nobody looked at their own "costume", but at where they have been sent by our one Lord Jesus. When I look at my weaknesses, constrains and limitations, and also when I look at all the struggles of students, I can only say that we really are witnessing God's power, and this power is being declared through students' testimony. I pray that this hunger for God would last continually and that we in our mission to students will be faithful to the ministry, despite the problems we face, through a deeper knowledge of God's glory.

Martin Mražík (VBH General Secretary)

Heledd Job

As I look back at this semester there are a lot of encouragements. My biggest highlight is how many non-believers have been in meetings where they've heard the gospel, and also how many of those non-believers have relationships with Christians in the groups. They have not just heard the gospel once, but they have also had the opportunity to discuss it and to see it lived out in the lives of Christian students every day. But in the last couple of weeks I have also been reminded how hard the battle for people's hearts is. These non-believers have heard the gospel, some have made steps towards trusting in Jesus, but it is not an easy journey, and there are things which hold people back. 2 Corinthians 4:4 is true, Satan is working, stopping people from seeing the glory of Jesus. But 2 Corinthians 4:6 is also true. God has made his light shine into our hearts, and he can do it to others. Please pray that students, and that I would continue to preach Christ, trusting that God can and will shine his light into the hearts and minds of students all across this country.



Nicholas Haydock

When I reflect upon this term, and academic year, I give thanks to God for the ways I have seen Him at work in individuals and in the groups. It has been such a privilege to partner with students in sharing the gospel and growing together. In comparison to the great things I see God doing I feel very small and rightly so. I know this work is God's own doing, a God who is all powerful yet chooses to use us. This is perhaps especially clear to me; being a language learner with obvious limitations.



It has been particularly amazing for me to witness the power of prayer. To illustrate this point, I remember that we began the year in Kosice with a group which was mainly composed of students in their last year. So we prayed persistently that God would bring students who could continue the witness of the group for years to come, with a love for His word and a passion for evangelism. The God who hears our prayers is faithful, we have seen new people come regularly to the group and lead the group in Bible studies. We also have had more opportunities to think about and do evangelism together, which has been great. I am already looking forward to the start of next term, but must constantly remind my forgetful mind, not lose sight of the centrality of God and the power of prayer.

Beata Szrejder

If I could summarize this semester into a short motto, I would say: A thirst for God's word and a desire to grasp It! When we started planning the spring semester, one of our students from the Nitra group brought an idea of coming back to doing a regular bible study. The last semester, we went through several themes, but the desire to study God's word made me very happy. We chose to look at the first letter of Peter. It was very encouraging to see the students participate in the preparations and leading of the group. The discussions in our meetings gave me even more joy. We were greatly blessed also to study the word during our weekend-trip-out; we tried to comprehend who Jesus was and what his sacrifice on the cross meant. At first everyone read and contemplated alone and afterwards we spoke about what caught our attention and was important to us. Besides the core group in Nitra, we gathered to study passages from the Old Testament, usually on a Thursday. These meetings opened up a lot of deep discussions and made space for some important questions. As well as this I had the chance to do some Bible studies via skype with students in other cities; by God's grace these went really well and we were able to go deep into some complicated texts even despite my not being able to be with them. I am absolutely sure after this semester: God's word has strongly affected our lives!



Please, pray for us!

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Winter Training Weekend 2013

During the first weekend in February (31.1-3.2.2013) we met for a weekend of training with leaders of our groups in Važec. Since there are people in the groups who prepare, lead and take responsibility, we saw that we need to take time to train these people in how to lead effectively and make the most of the opportunity for bible study and evangelism. In the training, comprised of student leaders from around Slovakia, we focussed on leading a bible group and on personal evangelism. During our bible study we looked at the Apostle Peter's life. We discussed how to organise a group, set a vision and of course we used the time together for sharing testimonies of our experiences. You can find out more about this meeting on our website: <http://www.vbh.sk/english>

Testimonies from students

Kornel (group in Martin)

As a first year student, the VBH group has given me so much. It gave me space to share about my relationship with God with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Even though we didn't know each other at all before, thanks to God I was able to experience a friendly and loving atmosphere. Very quickly the VBH group became a time I would look forward to from the morning. And once I was a part of the group, I could also invite my new class mates to come, which contributed to my evangelism. And finally, I received lots of spiritual blessings, encouragement, teaching and love. May God bless this ministry in the universities.

Radka (group in Nitra)

VBH is important to me; not only the people and the fellowship, but we also have time to think about many relevant issues together. Even if on occasion it isn't like this, it is still important to me. This semester in the group was very interesting, especially for me personally during the months of January and February. To be honest, I was trying to keep myself busy and not to think about my life, life with God. I was trying to avoid it, even though I knew that I won't move anywhere without Him or find true happiness, true love and purpose in life. When I came to VBH and we were talking about various themes, singing worship and praying, it drew me to know Him better and follow Him. When I listened to people's testimonies, I realized how great God is. It wasn't easy for me to think about, because I was trying to live life as it comes; trying to ignore what was really happening. But now I know, that He rules everything. VBH helps me come nearer to Him, know Him better and to understand what I didn't understand before. What's more, it gives me tips for great salads and recipes! (see the website for more information).

Pray and give thanks

Give thanks that God has been leading us through the year and that we have had very blessed times together.

Please pray for new leaders.

Please pray that we would be able to start a new group.

University of economy group

Give thanks for perseverance in witnessing and for willingness to keep meeting even though we haven't had a place to meet.

Faculty of philosophy

We are thankful that we can tell our classmates about Christ, through our lives and also more and more through our conversations; this has been a blessing for us also.

Give thanks that we have been able to grow to know God better through studying 1 Peter.

Please pray that we would find students in this town who can start a VBH group and who will take the gospel to their classmates.



Bea (group in Presov)

The VBH group has meant so much to me during my time in university. First, it was a place where I learnt more about the Bible. I got to know other people's opinion, I learnt not to be afraid of expressing my own. I started to view some events in the Bible from a different perspective. And I felt, there is a group I can return to every week.

Then I saw that every sentence in the Gospel was written with some purpose and even the sentences to which I ascribed no real importance started to make sense. I saw that the Gospel is written and can be read in many different ways. And that made a great influence on me. With respect many sermons I have been exposed to can be quite one-sided. I realised that Bible has so much to offer me. Then I got to know the people in the group and I realised how similar they are to me - their way of thinking, their behaviour. It meant a lot to me because I had never had such an experience before. I saw that they like me, they accept me as I am, they care about me and my opinion matters to them. I could discuss with them really everything. Everybody was a huge encouragement for me. They have raised my self-confidence. I belonged to them. It is an extremely good feeling.

For more information for prayer have a look at our website:

<http://www.vbh.sk/english>

Thank God for every way that God has blessed us so abundantly over the last academic year: for a place to meet, for the organisation of events, and more than anything what he has done in our hearts and in the hearts of our classmates.

Thank God that he looked after the group, that he brought new people when the group got really small, and so the group has continued and grown.

Give thanks that Ponorka (evangelistic project) grows in quality and that through that we have been able to meet new people and witness naturally to many of them.