

Mission Trip to Važec, Slovakia: May 30-June 8, 2019



Thank you for your interest in being part of the Holmeswood team serving in Važec (Vah-jets), Slovakia!

What: A mission trip partnering with Dianne and Shane McNary (CBF Field Personnel) in Važec, Slovakia. For the past 13 years, the McNarys have served among the Roma people and have many ministry partners throughout Slovakia and the Czech Republic. We will serve in Važec at the local school in English classes with children ages 5-14 and at Jekh Drom (translates as "One Way"), a non-profit community center, with elementary-aged children. There is a possibility of meeting with the Roma women in the evenings.

When: May 30-June 8, 2019 (That's a Thursday to the following Saturday.)

*There will be 7 mandatory team meetings before the trip. These meetings will be held on the first Sunday of the month from November 2018-May 2019. The dates are November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, and May 5. Your attendance is required and is of the utmost importance as we prepare for our experience.

Accommodations: We will stay at a house in Važec, owned by a Baptist Church in a neighboring town. Bunkbeds, neighboring sheep, and a beautiful view of the mountains!

Size of team: maximum of 12 people; you must have completed 11th grade by summer 2019.

Who are the Roma people?

The Roma are among the world's most oppressed ethnic groups. As a people, they have been enslaved and suffered the horrors of genocide by the Nazis in WWII. They have been driven from their home countries and treated as subhuman. Today, they still face extreme prejudice and discrimination in all sectors of their life- in education, housing, healthcare, and employment.

Total cost per person: \$2500

Whoa, that's a lot of money! Don't worry, Holmeswood is partnering with each of you to lower that cost. More information can be found on the "Commitment Form".

*This does not include any money you will want for personal spending, the cost of getting/renewing your passport, or any vaccinations/medicines you may need for international travel (there are no vaccinations required, but the Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended in addition to being up to date on all your normal vaccinations).

Breakdown of Cost

-International travel & supplies: \$1800
(This includes round-trip flight, medical travel insurance, trip cancellation protection, and any supplies we bring with us.)

-Housing/meals/local transportation while in Slovakia: \$700

If you have any questions, contact Anna Holladay by email (anna.holladay@holmeswood.org), phone (church: 816-942-1729, cell: 502-608-2943), or by talking to her at church.

Your spot will be reserved by turning in a \$200 deposit and the Commitment Form. Pay by cash or check made out to Holmeswood Baptist Church. Please write in the memo line "Slovakia trip payment". This deposit will serve to hold your spot and will be deducted from your total trip cost. **The deadline for turning in your deposit and Commitment Form is October 7th, 2018. To save \$200 of the total trip cost, turn in your deposit and Commitment Form by September 16th.**

Holmeswood Slovakia Mission Trip 2019

Commitment Form

Due 10/7/18

Return by 9/16/18 and

receive \$200 off!

Please answer the following questions to reflect on your desire to be on the Holmeswood mission team.

1. Why do you want to go on the Slovakia Mission Trip?
2. What gifts and skills will you bring to the team? (leading games, kitchen help, making friends/including people, having a great attitude, leading small groups, leading songs, cleaning up, helping wherever needed, flexibility, patience, etc.)
3. What are your previous mission trip and/or international travel experiences?
4. What is one of your goals for this trip?
5. What are your hopes and fears relating to the trip?

Holmeswood Slovakia Mission Trip 2019

Name: _____

Email : _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

(FOR YOUTH ONLY) Parents'/Guardians' Name(s)	Phone/Cell	Email Address
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____

(FOR ALL) Additional Emergency Contact Name	Phone/Cell	Relationship to participant
_____	_____	_____

Please list all medical conditions, allergies (food, etc.), and/or special circumstances of which sponsors and/or medical personnel need to be aware _____

I hereby commit to the *Holmeswood Slovakia Mission Trip 2019* from May 30-June 8, 2019. If for some reason I am unable to go on this trip for any reason, I understand I am still responsible for paying for the trip. The total cost for the trip is \$2500 per person, and this includes all program costs, housing, meals, transportation, and recreation. As much as I am able, I will help raise money for this trip through various fundraisers. I will prayerfully consider what I can financially contribute to this trip.

Total Trip Cost:	\$2500
Holmeswood Commitment to each participant	-\$500
Participate in Spring 2019 Fundraiser	-\$300
Register by September 16, 2018	-\$200
Taking an active role in meetings/ preparation (Discuss with Anna)	-\$250

My Financial Commitment:

\$

Explanation: Holmeswood is committing \$500 to each participant for your willingness and dedication to engage in God's work in the world! That means if you participate in the Spring 2019 fundraiser (TBA), register by September 16, 2018, and take an active role in meetings and team prep (e.g. take minutes, lead a devotion, etc.) then you will have earned support for *half of the trip cost*.

Payments are due on the 1st of each month (Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April, May), until paid in full. Checks written to *HBC* or cash, please. Thank you!

A \$_____ Deposit toward that amount is included with this form. (Minimum deposit: \$200)

Signed (participant) _____ Date _____

Signed (parent/guardian if youth participant) _____ Date _____

For Office Use Only: Deposit Paid? _____ Date: _____

10 Things To Know For



By: Anna Holladay

1. **Treat this as a pilgrimage.** For centuries, people of faith have made pilgrimages, or sacred journeys. A mission trip is focused on serving and transforming others, and a pilgrimage is focused on personal transformation and spiritual growth. These two go hand in hand. We cannot hope to transform others unless we ourselves are willing to be transformed. We cannot travel the world hoping to grow closer to God unless we take seriously Jesus' call to live sacrificially for others.
2. **Realize God has been at work long before you arrive; you are not the Savior of the world.** A mission trip is about partnering with God and the local people. Do not make the mistake of thinking you are taking God anywhere—God is everywhere, and it is God's love that has the power to save.
3. **Be uncomfortable.** Growth happens when you step outside of your comfort zone.
4. **Don't be an elephant.** Here's an excerpt from a book about poverty alleviation, *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert.

"...mission expert Miriam Adeney relates a story told to her by an African Christian friend:
Elephant and Mouse were best friends. One day Elephant said, "Mouse, let's have a party!" Animals gathered from far and near. They ate. They drank. They sang. And they danced. And nobody celebrated more and danced harder than Elephant. After the party was over, Elephant exclaimed, "Mouse, did you ever go to a better party? What a blast!" But Mouse did not answer. "Mouse, where are you?" Elephant called. He looked around for his friend, and then shrank back in horror. There at Elephant's feet lay Mouse. His little body was ground into the dirt. He had been smashed by the big feet of his exuberant friend, Elephant. "Sometimes, that is what it's like to do mission with you Americans," the African storyteller commented. "It is like dancing with an Elephant."
5. **Avoid poverty tourism.** Search your motivations. If you're going on a mission trip to have a "great experience", to help yourself feel grateful for all that you have back home, or to take photos of hurting people, please don't go.
6. **You will be ruined forever.** When I served in Romania and India, my supervisor would always say she hoped I would be ruined. Sounds pretty discouraging, right? What she meant was that once your worldview has been expanded and you have learned about discrimination and injustice, it is then your responsibility to be an advocate for the people whom society continues to marginalize. You can no longer claim ignorance or turn a blind eye.
7. **Realize that your trip is part of a larger story.** By partnering with a long-term presence, we ensure our week of work will make a difference in the lives of those we meet. We are supporting the ministry that takes place year-round. We are one thread in a beautiful tapestry that is the city.
8. **Don't love your neighbor across the world and forget to love your neighbor in your own community.** Mission work is not just something we do on trips. We must engage in local mission work in our own community. If not, we are not truly being the hands and feet of Christ.
9. **Mission should be your mindset every day of the year.** As a Christian, everything you do should testify to the transforming and liberating love of God. Mission is less about what you do 1 week out of the year, and more about your worldview the other 51 weeks.
10. **Love extravagantly.** You have the honor and privilege of sharing and receiving the unconditional love of God. Don't hold back!