

## SHEPPERSONS IN SLOVAKIA

Hi Friends! What a challenging four months we have all experienced! Who could have imagined such a worldwide crisis? We've tried to report below a bit of our lives during these past months. Please write back and share your thoughts and stories. We're so glad you're standing with us!



### Home for Summer

After much consideration, Emili decided to come back home to Slovakia for the summer. This is our second week of quarantine (for the whole family) since her arrival. And so far, no virus! We are so thankful for God's help, so she could be home for this time. Gwyneth is still living in Houston with her Aunt, Uncle and cousins. She plans to stay there and work for the rest of the summer. We are very thankful to God for our extended family who is willing to take care of her needs. Both girls plan to return to university in the Fall pending virus restrictions.



### Summer Camp Plans

Decisions about summer camps had to be made while in the middle of quarantine, in order to give American church teams time to prepare. But at that time (about one month ago) there was still much uncertainty about predicting the COVID curve. So, classic camps with American church team participation as we usually know it, were canceled. However, our capable camps team has put together a number of summer event possibilities that accommodate our COVID limitations. So, there will be at least two normal English evangelistic camps even without American teams. Of course, our family plans to help in these camps in the English teaching capacity. And there are a variety of other "in person" and online summer event options for local Slovak churches to choose from. Help us pray to our God of the harvest, that many teenagers would find new life in Jesus this summer.



### Igor Update

Just a word about my Gypsy friend Igor and his family. He's been out of prison since last year and has been holding a job all throughout the quarantine season. He's promised to return to church when it's open again. Please help us pray for his success as a husband, father, employer and citizen. And that his eyes would be open to the value of the gospel. We also need prayer for the will to love and help him in various situations.



### Taco Tuesday Next Steps

During the quarantine time, Kim started an online English conversation class with the Taco Tuesday group (Sam's high school classmates). Now we are praying for a strategic transition with these same students to a summer evangelistic camp event. Help us pray for the their open hearts and calendars for the summer.



### Local COVID situation

We are around 12 weeks into quarantine. Just last week, Slovakia entered the fourth stage of restrictions being reduced. Now restaurants and stores are open and all borders are open. So, we are almost restriction free except for facemasks and some large group restrictions. Since Emili returned however, our whole family had to observe a full home quarantine for two weeks because it's mandatory for her. But after five days, she got an "all clear" COVID test. So we were sprung from that home quarantine early! Everyone was happy about that!



### Electronic but Deep

Starting in March, I (Zac) have had a number of online mentoring and counseling opportunities. I've been so encouraged by this unique opportunity, when everything is otherwise shut down. Online relationships like this have so many strengths and advantages. I hope these connections will continue to arise, even as life slowly returns to normal. Deeper online communication seems to be one of the current seismic shifts in helping, inspiring and training during the virus confinement.



### Modified Training

The annual Kompas leader's conference (KPM) was transformed into an online format in March. Although it was a hybrid of the normal conference, it still included Bible teaching, worship, mentoring and other online features. Over the past year, God had already prepared an amazing in house tech team to manage such an online challenge.



### Zoom Church

Our church chose the zoom format for our weekly meetings as soon as COVID 19 quarantine began in March. We don't like not being together in person, but the online format offers a number of advantages. You don't have to travel or dress up. You don't need to worry about bad breath or finding a seat. Plus, it enables a number of out of town church members to participate. We are so thankful for this electronic platform during this crisis.



### Kim's COVID Kitchen

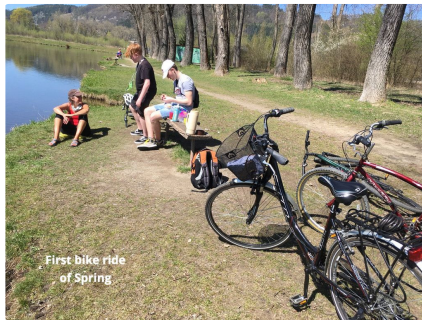
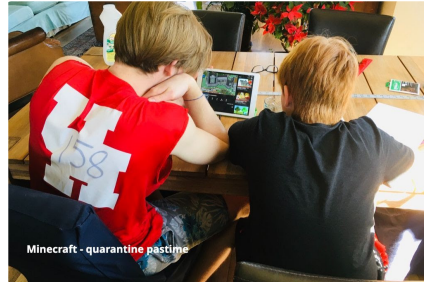
Guess what Kim started during quarantine? Sourdough Bread! It seems like an easy enough undertaking, but it's not easy to get the process right – flour, dough and starter everywhere! But she has persisted and become quite the baker. She now regularly supplies our family and others with delicious fresh bread, English muffins, bagels, pancakes and waffles. Her skills never seem to end!



## Slovakia in the News

To date Slovakia has been able to keep it's COVID numbers the lowest in Europe. Very early on, the government required borders, schools, social events and stores to close. And masks were immediately mandatory. Some theories for the low numbers center around the universal TB vaccine which was required until 2001. Others attribute it to the fast and strict actions of the government and citizens. Regardless of the reason, we are thankful for the less severe virus spread.

## GALLERY





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