

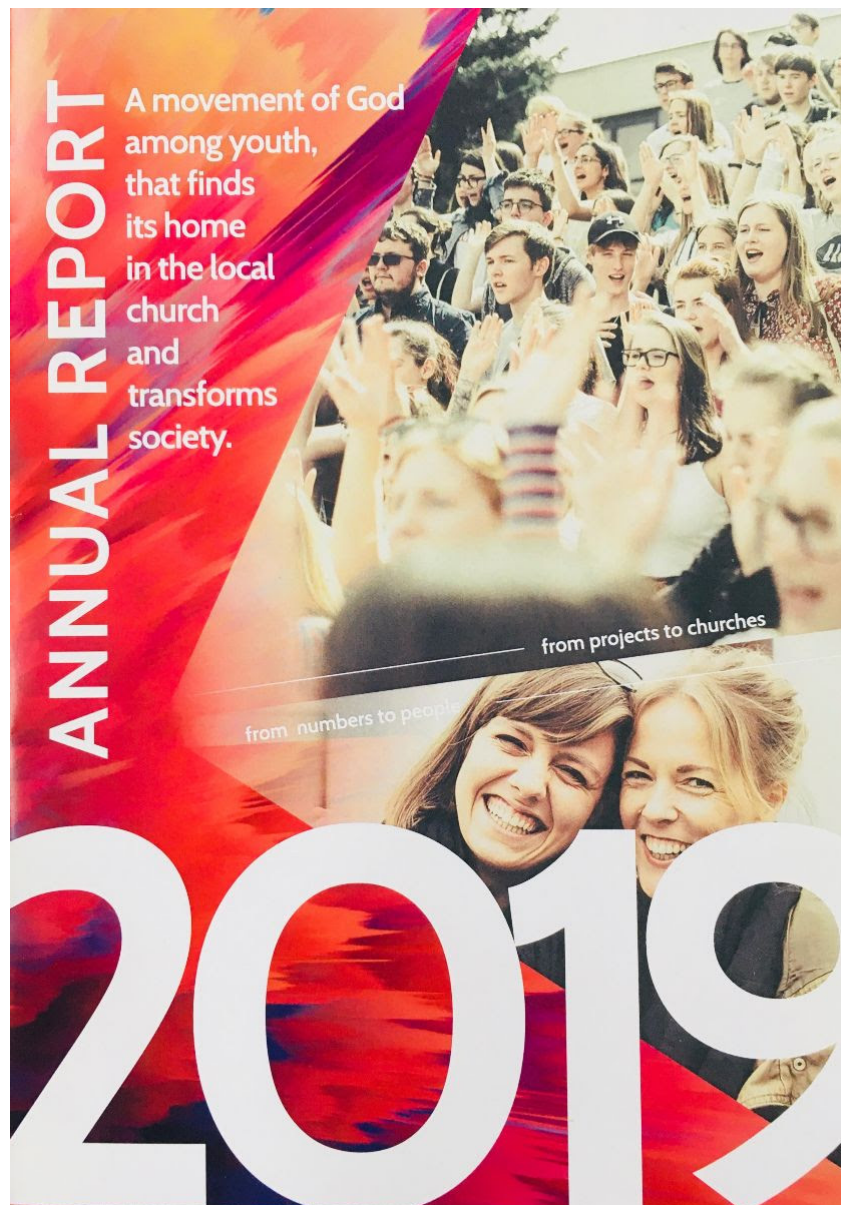
SHEPPERSONS IN SLOVAKIA

Dear Friends, It excites me to write you about all that's happened over the past months. I'm humbled to think how many years God has provided for our family through you, our loyal partners. Thank you for loving and caring for us.



New Citizens

Three dual citizens! Emili, Gwyneth and Hampton completed the requirements for Slovak citizenship in early January. After three years of paperwork and processing, it's finally done! (Remember Sam already finished his process earlier). The credit for tracking through the long process goes to Kim. She was untiring in this pursuit and has finally seen it through! In case you're wondering, they will retain US citizenship and passports because Americans are able to keep both under Slovak law. They simply wanted to take advantage of this opportunity after working so hard to live in this culture, be educated here, speak the language and appreciate these people. We congratulate them all!



2019 Annual Report

Here are a few numbers that reflect God's work across Slovakia in 2019. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the full report. These numbers are a reflection, in part, of YOUR willingness to pray, give and sacrifice for what God is doing here. Thank you!



Igor's for Christmas

I was surprised on Christmas Eve by a phone call from my friend Igor. He recently returned from prison and is trying to get re-established in normal life again. He invited me for traditional Slovak Christmas lunch with pork schnitzel and potato salad. It was an honor to spend time with he and his family. It was probably the closest I got to the Christmas experience of Jesus becoming man to love us.



Class Reunion

Twenty five of our former students came together for a reunion weekend. It was inspiring to see their faces again and know that God is using them across the country in local church youth ministries. They are passionate, faithful and capable!



Home for Christmas

It seems the longer your kids are away from home, the more precious their return. We enjoyed so many significant conversations, celebrations, fun and rest times together. Emili is now finishing her third year at Wheaton and Gwyneth her first at Calvin.



Leading Leaders

This school year, Emili was chosen to lead a group of girls who lead small groups at Wheaton. It's the thing that brings her the most enjoyment, she says. Authentic community is so central to what God desires for believers. So, for her to be leading in such a capacity is delightful to us as parents and also to the Father.



Fresh Missionaries

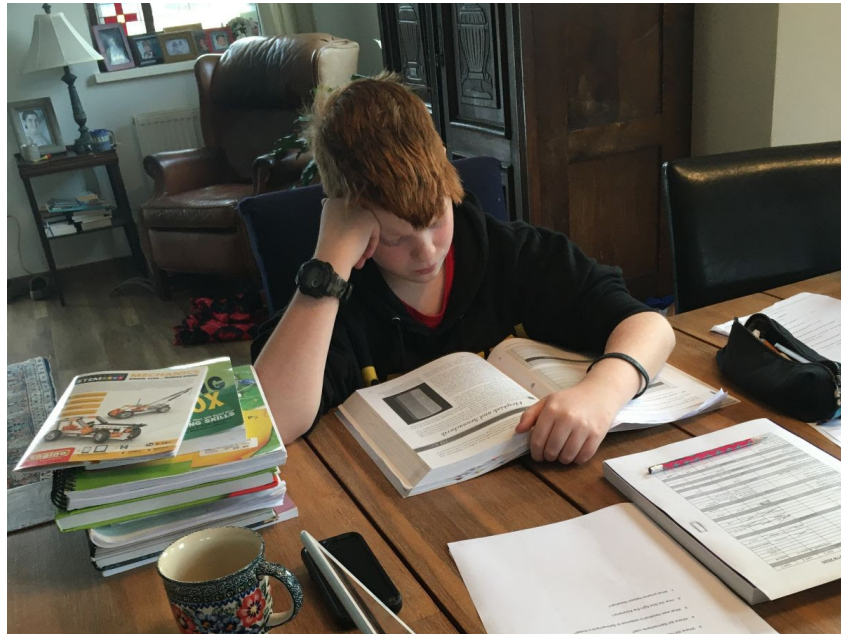
New co-workers Aaron and Megan Gibbs arrived with their three boys in our city December second. After months of intensive paperwork, fundraising, training and packing, they are on location and settling in. We are happy to have them as partners in building God's work here.



Knives

Who knows a blacksmith these days? I never knew one until I met Juraj. It's his hobby apart from his role as assistant pastor in one small church in Eastern Slovakia. He offered Sam and I a crash course in knifemaking. It took us seventeen hours to turn an old steel

car suspension spring into two functional blades. It was a father and son experience that will be impossible to forget!



Back to Public School

Hampton has been in homeschool for one and a half years. Now he's headed back to regular school. In February, he will rejoin the 7th grade. I'm sure he would appreciate prayers for his ability to learn again in the Slovak language, reconnect with his friends and be disciplined in his studies.



Banana Bread Challenge

I challenged myself to get off the couch during the holidays and do something more productive. I got up and made three loaves of banana bread. I gave one away when I made a visit to a needy family, I took one to share with our church family, and we ate one ourselves:) Now I'm challenging you to make three loaves! Lying on the couch is overrated. *"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. (Hebrews 13:16)*

Car Fund Update

I'm happy to announce that we have raised all the money we need to buy a new car. Thank you to all who gave over the last year to make this possible for us. Although we have all the funds, we have not found the right used car yet. Hopefully soon.

GALLERY





Decoration Day



Kid worship band



Christmas guests



Christmas guests

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