

April + May 2022 Mission Challenge || Focus: The Abrman Family in Slovakia

Update from The Abrman Family on April 30, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are so grateful for Slava and Tatiana, a dear Christian couple from California who came to Slovakia to help reach Ukrainian refugees for Christ! They arrived here two weeks ago with a desire to witness about our Lord Jesus Christ to as many refugee families as possible. So far, they have ministered in several cities that are located closer to the Ukrainian border. They are praying that they will be able to find more Ukrainian speaking Christians in the States so that they may also come and help reach more men and women of the same language and culture for Jesus Christ. We expect to welcome them in our church in Trencin next weekend. We also look forward to talking with them about some other ways to reach more Ukrainian refugees for Christ while the refugee crisis continues in Slovakia.

By God's grace, we continue to provide accommodation and practical assistance to a number of refugee families in the region. In every interaction that the Lord allows us to have, we provide these people with Gospel materials as well. At the Berea Center, the number of accommodated refugees continues to fluctuate between 10 to 30 persons. Most refugees stay here only for a few days. We also continue to provide food for them as well as for the refugee center in Bratislava. One of our church members who is volunteering in the center makes sure that everyone who comes to the center gets a copy of a Gospel tract and the Gospel of John in the Ukrainian language. Hopefully soon, we will receive 30,000 Ukrainian Gospel tracts for distribution as our supplies are getting low. At this time, we are also working on providing a QR digital access to the Word of God to everyone who has a smartphone. (We found out that every refugee family has one or two smartphones on them.)

Some Statistics:

We are now in the third month since the war in our neighboring country started. During the first few weeks of the war, more than 10,000 refugees crossed the border into Slovakia daily. In April, we saw only 3,000 refugees arriving here daily. This week, there were only 2,000 persons on the average who came looking for refuge and safety here. At the same time, surprisingly, a total of 1,500 Ukrainians are now returning from Slovakia to Ukraine daily. According to the Ukrainian authorities there are about 50,000 people a day who are returning especially from the EU to their homes, despite continued shelling and warnings from local officials in cities like Kyiv urging people not to return home. Many men say they have a duty to return to fight against the Russian invasion. Many had been working in the EU in factories or as long-haul drivers before the war started. Now, they can no longer wait and watch the atrocities taking place in their homeland. Statistically speaking, as many as half a million of men who were living and working in Europe, have gone back to fight for their country. Many mothers with children are returning as well. As I wrote before, they want to be closer to their husbands, sons and their own parents. They find the loneliness and the status of being a refugee in a foreign country intolerable.

Please, pray with us that many refugees will open their hearts and minds to the Word of God while they are in this painful situation in Slovakia.

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Dear Brother and Sisters, we thank you from our hearts for all your prayers and support. This week, some of you have asked us about our needs with the refugee relief work here. At the moment, we have no urgent need for funding of our relief work unless this crisis continues to last for a long time, or a new flood of refugees takes place again soon.

May the Lord bless you richly in every way!

In Christ,

Bro. Jozef Abrman
Missionary in Slovakia