

News from Olga

and the Slovakian New Hope Team

February 2010

Dear Friends,

December was a very interesting and strenuous month.

Our oldest son, Thomas, began working last September to pay for his next school year at a university. After graduating from C.S. Lewis High School in Bratislava, he took one year off to make up his mind about what he wanted to study next and also to make money for this purpose. Thomas applied to four different universities, three in Scotland and one in England. In December he went to England to interview at Oxford University. One university from Scotland has already accepted his application. The other three universities will answer by March.

In January 2010 we gained a new colleague at New Hope Slovakia, Maria Garajova. Maria is now the financial steward and coordinator for MAP, our leadership training program.

In December we had more activities because of Christmas.

We prepared a program with the children from the church and their friends for seniors and parents in the audience. It was a very powerful experience for the seniors. After the program, the children had discussions with seniors who shared with them some of their experiences and what Christmas means to them. Five participants from MAP helped me with the program.

With the teenagers, we watched a movie called "The War" and followed it by a discussion (it was a very nice American movie). Seventeen teenagers were very moved by the conflict resolutions in the movie. I think one teenage girl, Dominika, is very near to making a decision for God. After the movie, I saw God help her talk about a problem in her family. Her father has been unemployed for a long time. It is a difficult situation. We then made decorations in our church with the teenagers and with two participants of MAP.

In December we also met with all the families which I have worked with in family counseling. My husband was St. Nicholas. He prepared a very nice, short program for the children. With the help of the other women, I prepared the food, and the youth prepared games for all the participants.

We went with the participants from MAP 2 to Nesvady (near Bratislava) to a Baptist church and we reflected on 2009 in our lives, in the MAP trainings, in our work and our families. Three of the stories were especially moving. One of them, Lubka (39), underwent brain surgery to remove cancer, Andrea (27) became paralyzed in one leg after childbirth last year, and the third, Matúš (Matthew, 22), broke up with his fiancée three months before the wedding. Such is life. Several other participants talked about their successes and good experiences. The prayers of the participants were very strong at the end of the



Olga Komrskova



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meeting. Thank God!

What are the lessons from last year?

1. We need more trust in God. He has our lives, possibilities, and resources in His hands.
2. We also need less work J and more prayer.

What awaits us in 2010?

- Strategic planning for the church board and workers with youth in Levice (January).
- My trip to the U.S (January 29-Feb. 10).
- The New Hope Leadership Conference (February).
- Two MAP trainings (March - pedagogy, pastoral work with family).
- Seminar with Dave Sanford (March – premarital counseling).
- Supervision of a threshold club (outreach to un-churched youth) in Nesvady (March).

In 2010 we would like to:

- Print a new book – The First Five Years of Marriage. Continue with family counseling.
- Continue with activities with teenagers (trips, using movies for work with youth, evangelism).
- Continue with summer family camp.

Organize a monthly family day in our church. (We are currently discussing this possibility with our pastor.)

I know that without God's blessings, and without your prayers and financial support, our work would not be possible.

We very much value your decision to partner with us.

Thank you!

Thank God for you!

Olga