

[Back in Slovakia / Furlough Reflections](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

Back in Slovakia!



We arrived back in Slovakia on June 27th, our first furlough year behind us. As we reflect on our experience, several thoughts come to mind.

We enjoyed the opportunities to visit with family and friends. Although we did make one short trip back as a family for several weeks, we spent the vast majority of more than four years in Europe. So to be reunited with parents, siblings, and extended family was very special. For us, this is the hardest part about serving

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)

One year was a long time to be back in the States. This feeling hit home on a number of fronts.

First, our home is in Slovakia and to be “traveling light” for a year was a challenge at times. Admittedly, it was nice to live more simply and more “clutter-free”, but there were times when we could have used some of our things overseas. At the end of the day, while there were positives and negatives, this was a good reminder for us of the pilgrim nature of our life here on earth. We are citizens first of all of a country not called Slovakia or the United States.

Second, it was interesting to focus on a different set of goals. Within our team, ABWE Team Slovakia, our family has multiple goals that we are always working towards accomplishing. However, our work load and daily responsibilities differ substantially when we are based in the U.S. So in a sense, we felt the gears shifting. Some of our goals were placed front and center, while others were moved to the background. Of course, moving back to our home in Slovakia, we felt this shift once more.

Third, being away from the Slovak language for an extended time had its impact. In some ways, it was good to “reboot” and rest from constant studies. On the other hand, we have noticed that our abilities regressed a bit from the year away. Thankfully, in the first month, we have felt familiar words and phrases come back, but we definitely feel the need to get back into a purposeful language learning schedule.

We will adopt a more frequent furlough schedule in the future. Now that we are adjusted to the culture here, we will be able to make shorter, more frequent visits back to the States. Practically speaking, we will cut our previous furlough schedule in half - our cycle will probably become two years in Europe and then 6 months in Pennsylvania. This will enable us to do more “face-to-face” reporting and recruiting in the States. Another benefit will be the fact that we will not be away from the Slovak language or from a church planting situation for quite as long. It will also give our boys more opportunities to learn about the ins and outs of life in the States, in preparation for their return for college.

Furlough Results

- Thanks for all of your prayers for us while we were back in the States this last year!

Subscribe**Past Issues**

- We also were able to replenish our ministry fund account thanks to your generosity.
- Our church and family helped us move out of our rental home. We would appreciate your prayers as we are still trying to sell our van.

Upcoming Events

we are looking forward to these things in the next few months

Joint Team Retreat. Our ABWE Team Slovakia considers planning to be essential to what we do. This means that we regularly meet together to discuss our goals and strategies. In August, we will be meeting together again, but this will be a special joint retreat with ABWE's team in the Czech Republic. Please pray that this will be a time for renewal and encouragement as we seek God's will regarding our respective ministries.

Jason's Class. I have been invited to teach a missions class in another country. Obviously our family is practically committed to the cause of missions, but I have also studied the subject formally both in college and in graduate school. Please pray for the class preparations and my trip, that all involved will have a heartfelt desire to be committed personally to missions.

Missions Roundtable. In the past, we have mentioned this special event, which I participate in every two years. The next roundtable will be in November, this time in Moldova. Please pray for the preparations and for those of us going from Slovakia. My plan is to invite two Slovak pastors this year.

Praises

- *God enabled us to meet our furlough goals so we could return to Slovakia.*
- *The boys successfully completed their year in our church's school.*
- *We were able to serve at 2 English camps and a family*

Prayer Requests

- *We have a joint team retreat this weekend. Pray for our team as we work toward our goals.*
- *Jason will be teaching a missions class. Please pray for him as he prepares.*

Subscribe

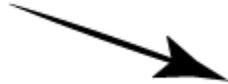
Past Issues

accepted Christ as her Savior at camp.

school.

- *The sale of our furlough vehicle.*

I prefer to download the PDF...



*** better for printing**

August 2017



Back in Slovakia!

several reflections on furlough



We arrived back in Slovakia on June 27th, our first furlough year behind us. As we reflect on our experience, several thoughts come to mind.

We enjoyed the opportunities to visit with family and friends. Although we did make one short trip back as a family for several weeks, we spent the vast majority of more than four years in Europe. So to be reunited with parents, siblings, and extended family was very special. For us, this is the hardest part about serving overseas - not being close to family and friends.

One year was a long time to be back in the States. This feeling hit home on a number of fronts. *First, our home in Slovakia and to be "traveling light" for a year was a challenge at times.* Admittedly, it was nice to live more simply and more "clutter-free", but there were times when we could have used some of our things overseas. At the end of the day, while there were positives and negatives, this was a good reminder for us of the pilgrim nature of our life here on earth. We are citizens first of all of a country not called Slovakia or the United States. *Second, it was interesting to focus on a different set of goals.* Within our team, ABWE Team Slovakia, our family has multiple goals that we are always working towards accomplishing. However, our work load and daily responsibilities differ substantially when we are based in the U.S. So in a sense, we felt

the gears shifting. Some of our goals were placed front and center, while others were moved to the background. Of course, moving back to our home in Slovakia, we felt this shift once more. *Third, being away from the Slovak language for an extended time had its impact.* In some ways, it was good to "reboot" and rest from constant studies. On the other hand, we have noticed that our abilities regressed a bit from the year away. Thankfully, in the first month, we have felt familiar words and phrases come back, but we definitely feel the need to get back into a purposeful language learning schedule.

We will adopt a more frequent furlough schedule in the future. Now that we are adjusted to the culture here, we will be able to make shorter, more frequent visits back to the States. Practically speaking, we will cut our previous furlough schedule in half - our cycle will probably become two years in Europe and then 6 months in Pennsylvania. This will enable us to do more "face-to-face" reporting and recruiting in the States. Another benefit will be the fact that we will not be away from the Slovak language or from a church planting situation for quite as long. It will also give our boys more opportunities to learn about the us and ours of life in the States, in preparation for their return for college.

[Click to download](#)

- Share
- Tweet
- Forward

Click below to contact us!



Facebook

Subscribe

Past Issues
