

Dear Brother pastor Timothy Shoup!
Honorable Church of Saint Paul in Bonduel!

My wholehearted greetings to you from Butin, I do wish to you the Blessed Quiet Week !
(**Note Viola**. I am late with a translation, Dusan wrote this at the beginning of the Quiet Week before the Easter.)

I am too busy to realize how quickly time is running, for a longer time I have been preparing myself to write to you; perhaps a challenge of brother pastor was causing my delay, as he has thought, it might be better if I do write it in English myself, to have it fully in my original writing. From the beginning I was considering to do so, at last I gave up this idea, asking for help of sister Violka. I hope to write myself perhaps shorter news in English myself, Lord willing.
(**Note. Viola**. So now you do have it with my original Oxford English shortcomings.)

Firstly I would like to express my deep gratitude, to each one of you, personally, in the name of my family, and in the name of the congregation, how great it is you do exist, you do think of ourselves and of our needs! It is such a nice encouragement and help to us! We do honor this highly!

Our life goes with our daily duties in the Church, at school, in our family.

Yesterday we had a **confirmation ceremony**, I am very grateful to the Lord for this celebration; since a mother of one of confirmed girls is a Rumanian, we had to do it bilingual in Slovak/Rumanian languages.

At our school I have been a class teacher for the same class for the third year; at present students are already the ninth grade, it means the first grade of the high school. We have just began a week "School not typical", it means during this week students do have other activities, not just sitting in the class room: a drama presentation, a trip, a scientific movie; creative art; of course, we do visit the Church services together; on the Green Thursday there is a confirmation ceremony in **the Church here in Nadlac**. Then from the Great Friday onwards I continue again in **Butin Church**.

Our children are students, too: Timothy in the fifth grade, Theofil in the second grade, Emanuela has been signed for the preschool preparation grade, since the coming autumn she shall begin there.

In Nadlac I continue with **the youth mission work**, in December we organized a trip to Butin, with a theme: Christmas habits and customs in Butin and in Nadlac.

The most urgent problem continues to be a Church building in Butin. We have "lost" several years, trying to get financial support from the European Union funding; it was a very large project to prepare, we did it, to the point to sign a treaty, and they refused to sign it. We have decided therefore to do this awesome task with our own resources, seeking help both of individual persons and organizations from Rumania and from abroad. We have already completed **a written project of a renovation of the Church building**, we have got an official State building permission for it, last year we accomplished already a little part of it – **a rebuilding of the damaged left wall**. For this year we have got a promise of **financial support from the Office for Slovaks who live abroad; we hope also to get some donation from the Ministry of Culture in Rumania**. For some days I have been working on the request to the Ministry of Culture, before I prepared a written project, to present it to the Gustav Adolf Werk, Germany – they promised to give a smaller amount for the renovation of Church bells. **Brothers from Silesia** helped us in the past with changes of electric wires of the parsonage and of the parish house, so I consider to ask for their kind help to do the same for the Church building. Step by step, we hope to accomplish with Lord's help, a complete renovation of the Church building in Butin, perhaps within 4 – 5 years.

I have included few photos from our activities.

All those duties, tasks, projects, etc. have caused a delay of my writing and of sending this letter to you. This has been **an overflowing program of activities**, I guess, it is the same with all of us.

Especially preparing these projects – asking finances from the GAW for the bells renovation; now this project to submit to the Ministry of culture; last week **I completed an almanac** (to it I am an Editor) for a graphic preparation before the publishing; last Sunday we had a special program, together with the **German Lutheran Church in Rumania**, I was involved in an organization of it; all this besides daily service within the congregation, at school, travelling back and forth (Nadlac-Butin and more), etc. Besides of all this, it is my privilege, to serve as a representative of our Slovak Lutheran Circuit, so at the beginning of March I took part at the installation ceremony of the **installation of brothers Bishops of the Slovak Lutheran Church in Zvolen, Slovakia. Also brother General Inspector has been appointed to his position.** At this occasion in Zvolen we met together also with our sister Violka.

May the Lord bless you during this Quiet Week and throughout the Easter, let it be with fullness of joy from Lord's resurrection!

“Peace be with you!” Luke 24,36c

**Yours Sincerely, with brotherly greetings,
Dusan Vanko**

Baptism



Church Renovation



Confirmation



Excursion Butin



Vanko Family

