



Good afternoon, Friends,
Soon, twenty years will
have passed since the
Lord first brought Pastor
Vanko into our lives.
(See him in the back of
this photo with his wife,
Vlasta, the photo from
her birthday party, and
their oldest child, I think,
seated facing out.) Back
then, a former seminary
professor emailed and

asked, "Hey... Shoup, might your congregation need a missions

project?" "Sure.." I replied and he proceeded with details. He explained that a parsonage in a little Romanian town was damaged by an earth quake ten years earlier. The people have no means to repair it. The pastor was a student of mine, Dr. Kolb explained. We will put you in touch with him, and perhaps your congregation can help. When I asked how we would communicate with Dusan Vanko, Dr. Kolb said "Viola will help you." And who is she, I wondered. We soon found out. Viola was a part of the underground church during communist days, speaks 7 (as in SEVEN) languages, and is much involved with assisting the Church over there. She remains our interpreter with Pastor Vanko, translated the letter from him that I received yesterday, and is currently working on another volume of her book of biographies of pastors who were persecuted. (Please take a look at her most recent letter to us, posted on our web page.) Back to Romania... our congregation was indeed blessed to be asked to help our new friends in Romania and Slovakia. Back in the early 2000's, we sent, if I recall, \$40,000 - \$50,000 to Pastor Vanko over a couple two or three year period to allow them to make major renovations to that earthquake-damaged house. Since then, we have been sending offerings to Pastor Vanko (and to Viola) to supplement the mild income he receives over there so that he can provide for his family. He and his wife, Vlasta, remain grateful. My respect and appreciation for Pastor Vanko and Viola can hardly be exceeded. They are extremely devoted to the Lord and to helping people learn of Him, and, they are so content and humble. Copied below is yesterday's letter.

Enjoy reading, and I look forward to seeing you tomorrow for worship, JONAH Part 3 !

God's peace to you on a windy but beautiful fall day.

Pastor Shoup

P. S. And why shouldn't we maybe send another additional offering to assist with their church restoration project?

Milý brat Tim!

Dear Brother Timothy!

Best wishes from Butin and Nadlac to you, to your dear family, also to the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bonduel!

Time is running so quickly! Again here is the autumn, the weather getting colder; what is more sad, those darker perspectives regarding the covid virus from the last year have been renewing. Virus infections are multiplying again, in our country we do not have enough free places at the intensive care units, medical offices have begun to move the patients in a critical state to the Hungary hospitals.

Since February this year myself and my colleague, senior pastor L. Bobcok, we have accepted also to serve in the

Lutheran Church in Nadlac, since the previous senior pastor had retired. I continue to teach at school (half time job), I do continue to travel to Butin, Reșița, Bocșa a Șemlacu Mare. We continue with a renovation of the Church building in Butin; this autumn we have begun with a renovation work of the Church building in Morava (Șemlacu Mare), this is with a modest contribution of both the County office and the Gataia magistrate office. This Church, too, is with a very damaged statics; I hope we shall consolidate at least four corners of the Church building.

At the end of September we organized a youth trip from Nadlac to Butin, the photographs are included.

One of the photos is with my school class, these are 12th class students (it means the 4th class of the gymnasium), next summer they shall complete their studies with a maturity examinations; with years going on, I have had to accept the task, to become fully responsible as their class teacher.

Family photo is from the birthday of Vlasta.

Our family is well, we give thanks to our Lord God for everything. Emanuela attends 2nd class, Teofil 5th class, Timotej 8th class. Vlasta takes care of all of us, she sometimes says “I do have four children”.

On Sunday we shall celebrate the festival of the thanksgiving for the crop of fields; it is our great festival. Brother Bishop and the ViceBishop shall be present.

Nice greetings to all of you from ourselves, may the Lord God protect you and bless you richly!

„I always thank God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus.“ (1Cor 1,4)

With brotherly greeting,

Dušan