

Bonduel and Slovakia

Jesus loves me, this I know – also during this 2021 year!

Letter to St Paul Lutheran Church in Bonduel, WI

“Jesus answered: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14,6

It is in the special mercy and care of our heavenly Father, that we can be one in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, brothers and sisters of the StPaul Church in Bonduel, and myself, as a member of the Slovakian Lutheran Church (ECAV: Evangelic Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia). It is my wonderful privilege, to have this fellowship in the Lord with you. This last year also online, listening to sermons - and to your singing! Thank you!



Here is my report about some of my activities during this year 2021.

1/ This was a year with many limitations because of the Covid virus infection in Slovakia. Churches closed (since Advent 2020), online fellowship. **Several of my brothers and sisters died.** These had been my good friends of the illegal mission during the previous communist regime, and suffering ones, some biographies included in the book of Pavel Uhorskai, The Church Under Oppression (CvU).

February 2021: pastor Miroslav Hvozدارa died, then his son/pastor Rastislav died.

March: Olga Hvozدارa died, wife of Miroslav, mother of Rastislav

April: Stanislav Kaczmarczyk died, good brother pastor from the illegal mission work;

May: fire at the parsonage in Celovce, lady pastor Zorka Kachnic - Beblava died;

July: Mrs Ludmila Vecan died, wife of the pastor Jan Vecan (he died years before; their son Jan suffered jail for his youth mission);

September: Bozena Dlhan died, daughter of persecuted pastor Stephan Dlhan.

(My task was to help with an information, memories, articles to the Church website and to the Evangelic Messenger from Under High Tatras /biweekly Lutheran magazine).

2/ I continued with **biographies for the CvU3rd volume** /Jan Vecan; Ondrej Simek; Pavel Tomko, Theology Professor Jan Beblavy, and his daughter Zorka Beblava married Kachnicova, etc.); This CvU3 includes a chapter about the situation at the Lutheran Theology Faculty – I visited brother Dean Dr. Milan Jurik, we have to discuss this history (mainly 1949-1959) together (2 students went to jail in 1952, etc.).

3/ **Church Archives:** with the completing of the book CvU3, the last volume, I do have a task to bring back to persecuted families documents, photographs they have given to me regarding their father's biography; other materials, copies of documents from the State archives, including the interrogation of pastors by the State secret police – it needs some precautions, yet I would like to organize it and give to the ECAV archives. Only a limited part of all those documents and correspondence I have prepared by now.

4/ **Evangelism, Mission activities:** Newly established Evangelic radio Peace has asked to help for the broadcasting with the evangelical **radio program Peace be unto you** for unbelievers,

which a team at the Evangelic Mass Media Center and myself prepared and broadcasted during 1996-2000 years; those 30' programs included testimonies of the persecuted pastors, their wives and children. To use it now again, it was necessary to digitalize it from the minicassettes and/or CD. I had a technical help for this from brother Lubo Hucko.

I have neglected the **Gypsy evangelism and mission**. I resigned from the position of the Director of the Mission Organization (ROMA- Gypsy organization for mission activities) in the year 2012 (since 2011 I have begun with finishing the CvU book). I continued at the ROMA Board, mostly as an Advisor; last year I have not done anything, relying on new Director and brothers and sisters in particular congregations. Yet I feel a responsibility, to pass on the knowledge I have received/learned (mostly from brother Lutheran pastor Larry Merino, Frt Wayne, a Gypsy himself), how to behave in the Gypsy mission, not to do mistakes regarding their culture and religious background, carefully behaving also to Gypsies who have become Christians. ***“...make my joy complete by being like-minded... in humility consider others better than themselves...”*** Philippians 2,2-3)

5/ **Finances:** With my social State system pension of 771 eur/month, and with your great about 500 eur/month I am able to continue with all basic needs, regarding the expenses with the book, mission, my own needs, very much these last years a need to support my orphan niece Evka. With my wholehearted thanks to you, I am grateful to our Father in the Name of the Lord Jesus for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation and the LHF Director Matthew Heise, he took care to pay for the CvU2 book publishing costs. (For the CvU1 I used my own life insurance scheme money, with several gifts of others, including widows of persecuted pastors.)

Liptovska Kokava, 14th of September 2021

Viola Fronkova

Bonduel Viola 2022

Tasks for the September – December this year, and for the next year 2022

„I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done“ Psalm 118,17

This verse from Psalm is at the cemetery, on the memorial stone of my grandmother. My mother has chosen it: I will not die, but live! To read it on that grave, it gives me a special thought of eternity. At the same time, it gives a deep meaning to all the work I do – either writing the history of suffering of the Church, or trying to express in prayers, how special it is, to have the way and the truth and the life – in the Lord Jesus Himself.

1/ With Lord's help only, I can finish the CvU3 – the last volume. It is perhaps 80 percent ready, yet to complete details, to organize photographs, editorial work, It could be ready about June 2022.

2/ A distribution of the CvU1 and CvU2: especially I think of getting some more books to Rumania – how nice I do have brother pastor Dusan Vanko in Butin and Nadlac. During 2019 with the help of sister Magdalena Peniastek in Bratislava, we could prepare the book of sermons and lectures of brother Bishop Uhorskai. This also has to be brought to Rumania, and also to Serbia – there is the Slovak Lutheran Church there, too. (We could not do much until now, also because of Covid restrictions for travel abroad). Hopefully, after the June, we can get the book CvU3 to Slovak Churches in Rumania and Serbia. (I do have a good support for this from the General Bishop's office of the ECAV in Bratislava.)

3/ Gypsy mission: several video documents were produced during my Gypsy mission time. Some people do ask it, to use for the mission meetings, youth mission or so. I would like to ask few of co/workers of the ROMA organization or at least from the Lutheran local congregations who have been doing the Gypsy mission, to check those video documents and to prepare one or two good materials, usable for the Church schools (high school level), for the local mission groups of congregations, mission conferences and similar opportunities. This could be an effective way to help people to accept such a mission task – and to take it into prayers.

4/ With working on the CvU book, dear Lord helped me to seek – and to find! – audio records from the conferences of Lutheran pastors from years 1968 and 1969 years. It was actually brother Lubor Dlhan, his father pastor Stephan Dlhan did hide those audiotapes and the written records about 150 pages). Lubor helped me to rewrite those audio records on a presently used CD tapes. I hope to discuss this with the Board of the Association of the Lutheran pastors of our Church. A serious interest for these materials have been from the History Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

5/ Growing older, I think and pray for my personal testimony – witnessing of Lord's care for me under an atheistic socialism. This is necessary for those who are confused about the importance of the Church in the present society; confused with some information from the present mass media news and opinions (like "how better it was under communist regime" and similar). I see my life story of seeking the Truth as a very moving and explaining story. I have spoken about such an article to prepare for the magazine quarterly, published by the Institute of the Memory of the Nation (this State Institute keeps in his archives documents of those secret police interrogations, Court proceedings documents and other similar materials) – they do wait for me to write it. Of course, if you are ready, I can do it in English for you in Bonduel. Surely, my story is just a simple story, nothing to compare with those persecuted imprisoned brothers (also sisters) who suffered, following the Lord.

It reminds me of dear Lord Jesus and his prayer: ***"My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."*** Matthew 26,42

Liptovska Kokava, 14th of September 2021

Viola Fronkova