

JUNE 2022

# IN TOUCH WITH THE TEEDS

NEWS FROM TIM & SHARRON

HOPE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS | EUROPE



Dear Friends,

Greetings from the field! The day we have anticipated for so long finally arrived, and we are so excited to be here. We arrived in Budapest, Hungary, on May 3 and were met at the airport by our directors, Ed and Heather Durham. For those of you who prayed for our journey, we are happy to report God answered prayer! We had a little challenge at the airport in Newark concerning our luggage and our dog, Harper. Thank the Lord, it was resolved, and all our totes and Harper were allowed on the plane! When we arrived in Budapest, we sailed through customs with no issues at all.



We spent our first couple days shopping for needed housekeeping items. On May 6 the Durhams drove us to Slovakia to see our home, and we were greeted by Natasha, the national director of the transition home. After a delicious dinner made by Natasha, we went to the home and joined their weekly Bible study. We were happy to meet the residents: four girls and a Ukrainian refugee family. We spent Saturday buying supplies and groceries for the weekend and quickly discovered that only part of our home's bathroom plumbing was functional, and the sink had been removed.

After a beautiful worship service at the welcoming Brethren Church in Michalovce on Sunday, extensive repairs began on Monday. Tim and Ed completely gutted and reworked the plumbing connections.

Repairing the walls was more complicated, so a man from our church came and has been helping. Three weeks later and we are finally seeing some real progress! Meanwhile there is a functioning partial bathroom in the apartment part of our house, so we have a toilet and sink, but no shower or washing machine. Thankfully we can walk to the transition home for showers and laundry. The apartment next to our house has a small, functioning kitchen, so once the bathroom is finished, we can start installing the kitchen on our side of the house.



## CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS

1. We still need a vehicle. Please pray we will be able to find an affordable, dependable car.
2. Cultural adjustments. We are not just learning one new culture. We are learning three: the Slovak culture, the Ukrainian culture, and the Gypsy culture. They have some things in common, but there are distinct differences. Pray we will be able to learn about each one and be able to build relationships within each group.
3. Language learning. This is a challenge for us. Pray we will find the right person to tutor us in the Slovak language. The nationals have been quite friendly, and some speak English (which is helpful), but both of us realize we will be much more effective if we can speak the local language. One of our challenges is that many of the people are multi-linguistic. At times in their zeal to help us, they will tell us a word and then say what it is in Slovak, Russian, Ukrainian, and sometimes in German! We would love to learn all those languages, but for now we had best concentrate on Slovak.
4. Pray we will continue to make good connections. We are so thankful for the people we have met and are looking forward to making many more friends. We have met many pre-Christians...we cannot wait to see what God is going to do in their lives!



While Tim, Ed, and our church friend spent the first week on bathroom repairs, Heather and I found local grocery stores and shopped for carpet and tile. Grocery shopping and following recipes have been an adjustment as the ingredients I am used to are not available. I need to spend a day or two slowly walking around the grocery stores to get adjusted, but I am thankful Heather has helped me know what is available and what is not.

During our second weekend, we visited a Ukrainian Refugee Center—a safe place for women and children where they can receive food, clothes, diapers, and medical supplies. Our church's pastor is hoping we can establish relationships there which would allow us a chance for ministry opportunities, especially with the children. Also during our second week we said goodbye to Ed and Heather Durham, who have been such a blessing to us. They introduced us to people who are helping us settle in, and we appreciate their time and effort to make the transition as smooth as possible. Tim has continued to work on the bathroom project, cleaning up our yard and planting our garden. We are starting small since we are at the end of planting season, and we have so many other projects to do.



This past Sunday at church we connected with a Ukrainian refugee family, who invited us to their apartment for dinner on Wednesday. The young couple speak fair English, but the rest of their family do not. They were able to translate for us so we could visit with the entire family and had a wonderful time of fellowship! I wish we could learn both Slovak and Ukrainian, as it would be helpful, but currently we feel one language is all we can manage, so we are focusing on Slovak. We are looking for a language tutor, as we only know a few words, but are thankful for so many English-speaking people in our village as well as in the town where we shop. Also we have been asked if we will start an English Bible study and are hoping we can soon.

Time has flown by! We are thankful for God's help in this time of adjustment. We are SO thankful for the love, prayers, and support of God's people!

Thank you all so much for your support and prayers!

*Tim and Sharron*

## HARPER'S CORNER

Many people have asked how I am adjusting to life as a Missionary "Kid." It sure is different here. First I had to endure a long day of traveling in very cramped quarters. Next I discovered they talk differently here. For many hours I listened to these strange words, trying to figure out what they meant.

When we arrived at our new house, I realized there was another "kid" living here. We call him Tripod, but the locals call him Shawnee. He was not happy with my arrival. It has taken a while, but I think we are starting to trust each other, and before long, I'm sure we'll be good friends. He is training me for our job of protecting the yard and the people in the house, and I am doing my best. Funny thing is, when he runs to the gate barking and growling, people back away, but when I do the same thing, they stop and laugh. Not sure what I am doing wrong, but Shawnee says it's because my tone of voice is not as serious as his, so I'll keep practicing!

Recently, I met the girls at the transition home and naturally, they are already in love with me. I'm told one of my jobs is to bring comfort and love to the girls, which isn't a problem for me—it is my special gift!



SUPPORT ADDRESS  
Hope International Missions  
c/o Teeds  
PO Box 1065  
Hobe Sound, FL 33475

EMAIL  
[teed@feaministries.org](mailto:teed@feaministries.org)

FACEBOOK  
[facebook.com/sharron.teed](https://facebook.com/sharron.teed)

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