

Information Sheet

COMMUNITY OF LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL/MAY

2017

*Helping youth groups, individuals and the
churches in Slovakia*



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What Happened?

JUMIKO and the Meeting with Former EDS Volunteers (6th – 8th January 2017)

On Friday, 6 January 2017, all 18 of us got on three cars and set out on a few hours long journey to Stuttgart, Germany. Shortly after our arrival, the locals of a town called Freiberg am Neckar welcomed us and accommodated us in their church facilities. On Saturday morning, we went to Stuttgart's centre together with S-bahn, where we met with Mona and Lena (they were at EDS in OC Púchov) and with Benny and Chris (they were at EDS in OC Liptov-Orava). We could see the city, had a lunch, visited Bibliorama – the Stuttgart Museum of the Bible and then we went to a nearby “Rubble Mountain” (Trümmerberg) located over Stuttgart. Trümmerberg is also a natural war monument. In the evening, we spent some time together with people from the local church, where we spent 2 nights.

On Sunday morning, we went to the Messe Stuttgart hall, where the world missionary organizations fair (JUMIKO - Jugendkonferenz für Weltmission) was held. We met with Annika and in the frame of the fair, we were helping in EJW's stand (we were serving a few traditional Slovak products – cheese whips, Horálky, Kofola...) and we could also be at a few seminars. Thanks to translation of Danka and Janka we could hear the seminars in Slovak. One of the speakers was our Mirko Mudrák. The topic of his seminar was: “Meet God and Use Your hands”.

After the program finished, we got into our cars and set out on the journey home. The whole weekend was a precious time, when we could meet our German friends again and get to know each other better.

More information about our foreign cooperation here: <http://sem.sk/o-nas/zahranicna-spolupraca/>



Youth Groups Leaders Meeting (10th to 12th February 2017)

“More Than the Last One” was the topic of Youth Groups Leaders meeting that took place in Veľký Slavkov in February 10 – 12, 2017. Skilled and also “freshman” youth groups leaders came from the whole Slovakia in order to meet and spend some time together.

Together, we were learning about characteristics of good youth group leaders and especially, what does it mean to be the follower of Christ. The evening topics were in the hands of Mirko Mudrák and Janko Blcháč and the seminary speakers were: Vladko Mafaš, Jožko Grexa, Stanko Gurka and Viktoria Korchinskaya. Except for God’s Word, worship time, prayers, games and different activities, we could experience a community full of joy, laughter and thankfulness for Christ’s grace. Many of us were really touched by the time spend at “víkendovka” and we could return to our home churches and youth groups full of encouragement.

SEM General Meeting (February 11, 2017)

On Sunday afternoon, the representatives of more than twenty local SEM associations met at SEM general meeting. Supervisors of individual projects and the local SEM centres presented their activities in the last year. SEM general meeting approved the annual report and the financial report for 2016. Among other things, we were discussing about the contract for SEM and ECAV co-operation. We would like to thank everyone for their participation and contribution to the discussion.

SEM Cup (24th to 25th February 2017)

SEM ice hockey tournament called SEM Cup took place in Dolný Kubín in February 24 – 25, 2017. Altogether six teams were registered from Košice, Štrba, Poprad, Švábovce and Gerlachov. On Friday evening, several tournament participants were staying in Garáž Club where they had a program with Jano Vecan as a speaker. Tournament games started at 8am and the visitors could talk and get to know each other better besides watching the games. We had a delicious goulash for lunch. The tournament lasted approximately until 3pm when the results were announced and the medals were awarded to the winners. The absolute winner could win a challenge cup – SEM Cup and the rest of the teams can compete for the cup the next year.

And these are the most successful teams:

1. Košické blesky (Košice Lightnings)
2. Tatranské strely (Tatra Missiles)
3. BSH



KOŠICKÉ BLESKY S POHÁROM



TATRANSKÉ STRELY



BSH



VŠETKY TÍMY SPOLU

Confweekends 2017

This year, we keep on making so-called “Konfiweekends” designed for confirmands coming from individual ECAV (Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession) seniorates all around Slovakia. Hundreds of confirmands coming from different areas meet at these weekends every year.

Most of the Konfiweekends are already behind us:

10th to 12th March 2017 Myjavský seniorate
March 21 to April 2 2017 Turčiansky and Považský seniorate
March 21 to April 2 2017 Confirmation Weekend INSIDE
7th to 9th April 2017 Hontiansky and Novohradský seniorate
7th to 9th April Confirmation Weekend INSIDE
5th to 7th May 2017 Turčiansky and Považský seniorate
19th to 21st May 2017 Zvolenský and Rimavský seniorate

And one of them is still ahead:

21st to 23rd September 2017 Košický and Šariško-zemplínsky seniorate

What Was One of the Confiweekends Like?

“Our travelling by train already suggested that the confiweekend is going to be amazing. I was right! Much fun, games, talks and serious spiritual program was interesting not only for the kids. We were listening to a few parables (The Lost Sheep, The Prodigal Son, The Sower, and The Wise Man Who Builds on Rock and the Fool Who Builds on Sand) and their explanations. We could also hear testimonies of some of the young people coming to Christ and devoting their lives to Him. I believe the testimonies were the most influential and interesting element for our confirmands. Many of them were saying goodbye with tears in their eyes and promising to come next year. Then you realize how meaningful these events are and how important it is to take our children there and support them on their way to finding Christ.”

- *Katka, a pastor of church of ECAV in Pliešovce – Konfiweekend of Hontiansky and Novohradský seniorate -*



Luneburg Trip (4th to 8th May 2017)

Last year in September, we sent to girls (Janka Diežková from Dolný Kubín and Evka Janotová from Krupina) to Luneburg, Germany in order to take part in EVS project. For that reason we packed our stuff into famous red Toyota from SEM and set out for our journey to Luneburg in order to see our girls and experience a bit of their life and mission in the local church – Freie evangelische Gemeinde.

We managed to see and do many things during those 3 days. We were helping with a program at the Royal Rangers meeting, Lighthouse youth group, we were doing sports, having a barbecue and preparing a pizza party for the young people of the church. Then we visited nearby villages and cities (Luneburg, Hamburg and Kovahl – a village where our girls spent their first three months), and had enough courage to go canoeing. To sum up, we had a blast with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

On Sunday, we could be present at their Sunday service which is a little bit different from our typical service. Early in the morning, many people come to prepare refreshment so that they could attend the service starting at 10 o'clock. All the generations are present – small children, young people even the oldest ones. After the service, everybody stays in for a talk and refreshment. It is such a family morning – sometimes even afternoon.

I have to admit that Luneburg was the most charming place for me. Well, have a look for yourself!

- *Veronika Prídavková, Dolný Kubín -*



Seniorate Meeting of Confirmands and Youth of Hontiansky Seniorate (May 13, 2017)

After a year, we met with the precious people from Hontiansky seniorate again in order to spend some time together at the Seniorate Meeting of Confirmands and Youth. The topic of the meeting was "To See Differently." We all tried to see Jesus and ourselves in a different way on the basis of the story "The Blind Man of Jericho."

In the morning, the program was revolving around different activities, worshipping God with songs and listening to a testimony about life with God. After a tasty lunch and amazing cakes, we were playing a bigger game with many tasks. Excellent people, new relationships, the sun, much fun and God's present – this was the time we spent together. And we believe that we will see each other again next year. Maybe at similar meetings, in different seniorates.



SEMFEST 2017 (6th to 9th July 2017)

Semfest is just around the corner! This year's topic is "The Unwasted Life". You can be looking forward to the speakers such as: Miroslav Eštok, Tibor Jančík, Peter Michalčík, Dodo Michalec and Peter Soukup. Main topics, seminars, life stories, sports, games or programs in children, international or relax tents will be ready for you as well as the bands:

Zion - Loved - One way - Sheva - Nádej - Bread & vine - MC Dárce - A sharp -
- Dominika Gurbaľová - L+ - Yzop - SK 29 - Ignore! - Heavy rain

So, if you didn't fill our registration form yet, you can do so on our website www.semfest.sk. All the other information can be found there as well.

There is an option to SUPPORT SEMFEST financially. For money transfers: IBAN SK71 1100 0000 0029 2989 42 17 ; variable symbol: 1021
We are looking forward to seeing you!



Semfest Volunteering

Come and become our volunteer!

If you want to experience more than just a festival, serve to God and your brothers and sisters in Christ, you can become our volunteer. Eleven days of a unique community, work, fun, sharing, studying God's word and much more. In case of your interest go to www.semfest.sk and fill a registration form in "VOLUNTEER" section.

Become Semfest VOLUNTEER!

Semfest is going to celebrate a ten year anniversary and we invite you to experience it in a slightly different way. How about coming for 11 memorable days and experiencing Semfest and its preparation behind the scenes? Do not hesitate and become a SEMFEST VOLUNTEER! Registration forms can be found at www.semfest.sk

If you still hesitate, you can read a short interview with some of our volunteers:

What has volunteering taught/given you?

“I really liked the depth of Semfest and that I could see the result of many prayers behind it. Through Semfest, I could experience fresh God’s word and it was amazing. Besides this? Getting to know and meeting and talking to many great brothers and sisters.”

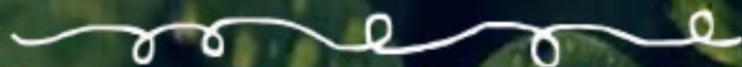
- *Andrej Zát'ko, Príbylina* -

“Personally, I found meeting completely new people and seeing their relationships within their own churches and youth groups most beneficial. I also learnt how to become more comfortable with meeting people I had never seen before, be more flexible and help where it is needed.”

- *Katka Badiarová, Košice* -

“I think I liked the family atmosphere of Semfest the best. I’m quite sure you know what I mean. Everybody knows everybody and we can help each other. The second, more important thing is that I could have a blessed time with God. Through this time, He could teach me and show me many things. I am very glad that I could be volunteering and I am looking forward to going next years.”

- *Michal Chripta, Batizovce* -



What does being a volunteer at Semfest mean for you?

“Personally, I see volunteering as an opportunity to serve and be helpful. I’ve always wanted to serve and this was my first step. I believe that being a volunteer means serving, mission, joy and purpose.”

- *Karin Makovská, Vojňany* -



Why would you recommend volunteering service at Semfest 2017?

“Simply because Semfest is a place you will want to return to. You will not waste your time and it will give you plenty time for your spiritual growth. You will meet new people and make new friends who want to live their lives with God, but mainly you will enjoy serving and being helpful, since it is such a good feeling.”

- *Vasília Bartošová, Púchov* -

“Despite the fact that you meet new people, you will get to know God and his personality better. If you want to serve Him, you can do it through coming to Semfest and sacrifice a part of your summer holiday. All in all, service to God is the main reason why you should come.”

- *Lukáš Meza, Bratislava* -

SPORT OLYMPICS

Warm summer months are made for sport events. That’s why you can be looking forward to many local Olympics.

June 17, 2017 – Online Cup (OC SEM Liptov – Orava; Oravská Poruba)

23rd to 24th June 2017 – Let’s go outside! (OC SEM Tatry)

June 24, 2017 – INSIDE Games (OC SEM Bratislava)

September 16, 2017 – JK Games (OC SEM Liptov – Orava; Liptovský Mikuláš)

September 30, 2017 – iSKejp412 games (Region Myjava)

September 2017 – Football Olympics of Šarišsko-zemplínsky seniorate



EDS – I.D.E.Š?

European Voluntary Service (EVS) is a program that gives an opportunity to travel and work in foreign countries for people between 18 to 30 years old. EVS offers a possibility of getting engaged in activities of hosting EU organizations or organizations from other countries of the world involved in this program.

SEM is among the accredited organizations of EVS in Slovakia within the frame of Erasmus+ program. Here in Slovakia, we've got an opportunity to host (and we are still hosting) a few foreign volunteer as well as to send volunteers abroad. We sent one volunteer to Germany in the academic year 2014/2015. This year, 2 volunteers are in Germany and one is in the Czech Republic.

Currently, we are involved in projects in four countries (Germany, Africa, England and the Czech Republic). So, if you are interested in BECOMING a volunteer in a foreign country, we can help you.

Further information can be found on the website: <http://sem.sk/o-nas/eds/> or you can contact: mudrak@sem.sk



EDS (EVS) 2017/2018 – Come to experience it!

SEM is hosting, as well as sending volunteers abroad within European Voluntary Service (EVS). The next program lasts from September 2017 to summer 2018. You might want to spend a year doing service for God and people in a foreign country. If you wish so, or you know about anybody who would like to join this program, have a look at these links. You can find more information and blogs of current volunteers there.

Germany:

<http://old.sem.sk/ocsempuchov/europska-dobrovolnicka-sluzba-eds/vysielanie-20162017/vysielanie-20162017-janka-a-evka/>

The Czech Republic:

<http://old.sem.sk/ocsempuchov/europska-dobrovolnicka-sluzba-eds/vysielanie-20162017/danica/>

Africa:

<https://invytblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/31/dva-mesice-v-zivote-dobrovolnic/>

England:

Church Army Marylebone Project – only female volunteers (5 places available)

https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/944928605_en

Yeldall Christian Centres – only male volunteers (1 place available)

https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/946733290_en

The Lodge Trust – male or female volunteers (4 places available)

https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/946729119_en

Bethany Christian Trust – male or female volunteers (1 place available)

https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/944048233_en

Morley Community Church Trust – only female volunteers (2 places available)

https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/organisation/947253113_en

"Love the Difference!" Project

We are involved in a three-year cycle of youth exchange between Slovakia, Germany and Island. Our plan is to make a camp in Germany first. The next year, we would like to go to Slovakia and then to Island. This year, we are staying in Germany.

In case of a serious interest you can contact mudrak@sem.sk.

International Camps – WORKCAMPS 2017

We can give you an opportunity to experience something new, spend a small part of summer helping and having fun with people from other countries. These Workcamps are organized by Wurttemberg Church (Germany) but take place in different times and places (Slovakia – Levoča, Greece, Belorussia, Germany).

For more information go to: <http://www.ejw-weltdienst.de/aktiv-werden/workcamps/>

We would like to bring to your attention!

DVK – Perfect in Christ

DVK is a course for young Christians who want to change their lives and grow in knowing Jesus Christ. The aim of the course is to change a personal life and to encourage living a real life with God, to send people to do missionary work (service to others), to gain practical knowledge how to lead youth groups, talk to people...

The course members meet once a month from October to May and a business trip abroad takes place once a year. The topics spoken on the course are divided into 5 elementary circles:

1. basic truths and God's principles
2. spiritual life
3. Bible studies
4. practical skills
5. discipleship

In order to join our course you have to be 17 or older and fill up a registration form accessible at our website from July to September. For more information you can contact: vecan@sem.sk



WHAT DO FORMER STUDENTS SAY ABOUT DVK?

“DVK means an opportunity to go further in looking for God's truth. Teaching is focused on Jesus Christ and how to follow His footsteps in this world. We could see God's kingdom being built and were surrounded by people creating an exceptional community.”

- Veronika a Janko Malovecovi -

“When I was 17, I decided together with my girlfriend at the time (now wife) take part in DVK educational program. Since I was a young Christian, but firmly decided to follow Christ, this decision essentially affected my life. I have no regrets. It was an amazing time full of spiritual growth and building a community. We were systematically going through the main areas of a Christian life and it was a great time for making life-long friendships. If you are thinking about joining the course, I can tell you, go for it. But remember that with the decision to take part in DVK course comes great responsibility. Don't take it easy.”

- David Gurka -

“On the basis of the course, God's shown me that underestimating myself is a problem in my life. He showed me the source of it and I could let Him into those places. I could learn how to live my life with Christ every day. I learnt more about Him through Bible studies and through other people's lives I could see that Jesus Christ is very real and He longs for our hearts.”

- Sima Chreňová -

Members of DVK course pay a certain part of expenses out of their own pocket, but the other part (accommodation, catering, materials, lectors and the business trip abroad) is financed by SEM.



We Bring to Your Attention!

An option to support DVK program financially:

- 1) Providing financial help directly to a DVK student (provided that you know the student in need)
- 2) Providing financial help (a one-time or regular) directly to SEM by two ways:

Online Donating:

through our website www.sem.sk * you can click on the form of your support on the right side and the system will navigate you according to the type of your payment * don't forget to write "DVK" as a note to a recipient

Payment To A Donating Account:

payment information:

IBAN: SK71 1100 0000 0029 2989 4217

BIC: TATRSKBX

Variable symbol: 1022 (designed directly for DVK project)

Helping Hand Project

Helping Hand is SEM's missionary project designed to help you (according to your needs), so that you can help people who don't know Jesus Christ.

We have two options:

- 1) You have an idea and we will enrich it. We can bring some of our attractions or fill up your program.
- 2) You have no idea but we do. You can contact us and we will find a way to serve and preach gospel to people around you.

We can offer you these attractions:

Water Football, Football in three combinations (water football, human kicker, bungee football), body zorbing, jumping castle, inflatable darts, stack'em, weykick, board games, low ropes and others

Helping Hand project is covered by local centre SEM Púchov – employee in charge:
Miroslav Mudrák - e-mail: mudrak@sem.sk

For more information go to: www.sem.sk; <http://old.sem.sk/projekty/helpinghand/>

Helping Hand Project from Other People's View

"Helping Hand was there for us while we were organizing some of our events. They were helping us with sport and game activities which brought attention of people of all ages. That's what we wanted to do - to bring all generations to one place and see them spending time and getting to know our Lord together. This was the help of Helping Hand and we are very thankful for that."

- Marcel Ištváň - a pastor of church of ECAV in Tornaľa -



“Helping Hand is a real helping hand to our churches. Our churches are not equipped with such attractions. We are grateful for you and are happy to recommend you to others. This project helps us to spread God’s Word. We are looking forward to a future cooperation.”

- *Andrea Lukačovská* - a priest of church of ECAV in Sládkovičovo -



“Times are changing. Twenty years ago, all you had to do was to play football with kids and share the Gospel with them after the match. Nowadays, a football match is not enough.

Children are more perceptive, they want more and I am glad that there are other alternatives. All the inflatable attractions are very popular among children and if not for God, they will at least come to play. Then it is easier to tell them the Good News.”

- *Martin Riechy* - a priest of church of ECAV in Levice -



“This project helped us twice when we wanted to prepare a program for children for the whole afternoon. We were playing games, listening to God’s Word, listening to a testimony and devotion from someone new. Some other time, Helping Hand team came and enriched our youth group meeting. We had a different program, were doing different activities etc.”

- *Eva Kadlečiková* -



Support SEMFEST 2017!

SEM budget and attendant fee are not enough to cover festival expenses. That’s why we would like to bring an option to support Semfest 2017 financially to your attention.

There are two options:

- 1) Material Support – food articles, sanitary items, office supplies etc.
You can contact us at: sponsoring@semfest.sk
- 2) Financial Support – on the account: SK71 1100 0000 0029 2989
4217
variable symbol: 1021

SEMFEST

Thank You! :)



Contact

SEM Headquarters
Community of the Lutheran Youth
Zvonárska 23, 040 01
Košice

sem@sem.sk

www.sem.sk

Telephone number: 055/622 00 96