

In the center of every village in Slovakia, there is a church and a pub. The last century has been a trying time for the church as it lived through fascism and nationalism, the Second World War, 40 years of communism and state-endorsed atheism, as well as the forced removal and displacement of minorities.

Leaders in the church have said that in some ways consumerism is the new godlessness facing the church in the aftermath of communism. However, today everyone may freely confess his or her Christian faith, while in socialist times one often suffered discrimination because of it. That's the big difference between present and past times.

Stefan Evin is the senior pastor of the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren in the central Slovak town of Levice. Trained as an engineer, he began taking Entrust courses in the late 1980s. Over the next several years he completed all of the courses that had been translated, including Old and New Testament Surveys and Church Doctrine. He emphasized that these courses were the only formal theological training he received, but that it has served him well. In 1998 he was asked to join the church staff and has been the senior pastor of the 400-member congregation for the past three years.

As a student, Stefan became aware that both the approach and content of what he was learning were things that he could pass on to others. He and another pastor have formed a church-based training center for ongoing adult education that is led, organized, and administered by Slovaks. The center, which is based entirely on the methodology and ministry strategy learned from Entrust, currently has 35 students. Payment for materials used by the students has enabled translation of additional courses.

Today, churches in Slovakia pray mainly for growth in unity that will enable them to use the new positive opportunities as members of the European Union, that they may serve as an enrichment for their communities, and for wisdom and strength to effectively deal with the negative social effects of the society's transformation.

Slovakia

Will you
prayerfully
consider helping
with this project?



*Church in Čičmany,
Slovakia*

*“We believe that
the proclamation
of the gospel
in everyday
life makes a
difference in the
hearts of people
and bears fruit.”*

Slovak pastor

Budget - \$11,000