

## *Come and see what God has been doing among Slovak women!*

I am Ester Kriskova, a Slovak. I have been married to a Baptist pastor for 23 years, and am a mother of 3 (Jan 23, Noemi 20 and Jakub 19). I am an ordinary woman, trained to be a violin teacher, and currently teaching English part time at an Elementary school. My husband, Tomaš, and I are currently serving in the second church of our ministry - the 3rd Baptist Church in Bratislava, capital of Slovakia.

Through all the years of being a pastor's wife the Lord has been giving me a burden for women's ministry, but there was no model of one in any denomination in Slovakia, neither was there an older mature woman to become my spiritual mother (I think this is simply the fruit of Slovak churches living under communism). My faithful Shepherd and my Savior didn't leave me alone with this burden. He allowed me to co-lead and study His Word deeply in a group of women from my first church in Lucenec. We had several faithful women from Vienna, Austria, coming for several years from BEE International, which is now Entrust. Later on I led two groups of my own.



From the very beginning I wanted to see our first Bible study group as a model for other groups throughout Slovakia. It was not difficult for me to identify with the vision (To see multiplying leaders for multiplying churches) and the mission (To multiply church leaders through accessible, locally owned, reproducible training systems) of Entrust, because this desire had already been in my heart. I had the deep desire to become a disciple maker. I wanted to be disciplined so badly; God heard my voice and sent me these faithful women, and He had been training me and allowed me to see Him being powerfully involved in the lives of the women I served and worked with.

At this point I feel very privileged to see Him at work using me in His plans! Let me introduce you to Him at work among women in Slovakia in places where the Master placed me to live and led me to serve:

**From 1996-1998:** I led two women's Bible study groups in Lucenec (southern Slovakia), in my first church, team teaching with my first disciple from the 3rd women's group in Revuca (northern Slovakia).

**1999:** I organized the first national women's retreat for women in all evangelical churches (100 women - a high number for Slovakia, because the average evangelical church would have about 65 church members).

**1999-2003:** I led Bible study groups, as well as training women in a discipleship program. (All six women have their own small ministries now in the Lucenec church).

**1999-2009:** The national Women's Retreats once a year focused on The New Life in Christ teaching with many practical workshops. (We had 250 women attended the last retreat).

**2003-2006:** Began a three year discipleship program for 29 women from eight denominations, from all the main parts of Slovakia. These women have their own discipleship groups now with 150 women being disciplined.

**2006:** We moved to Bratislava. Currently I have three discipleship groups with 30 women participating. Seven of them have their own groups already with 16 disciples.

***In all the groups in Slovakia there are now close to 200 women disciples in the second generation.***

Throughout the years I was also led by the Lord to share His work in me with other groups of women as a speaker at retreats or conferences. This is definitely not my comfort zone, but my Shepherd has been teaching me to trust His work in me.

My deepest desire in all I do is to show His glorious work.

**Family concerns:**

- Both of my sons suffered colon cancer and were healed (Jan age 11, Jakub at age 18).
- Last summer my husband had thrombosis in his leg and lung embolisms on both sides.

We know God has been very merciful and gracious with us. ***We cannot thank Him enough for what He has done for us, for the privilege to see Him working in us and through us!***

**The current need:**

- Throughout most of these years I have been working full or part-time, because it was impossible to live and serve God in Slovakia on my husband's salary alone. I have always paid most of my ministry expenses by myself (travel expenses, administration expenses - phone and internet bills, postage, printing, etc.) but these expenses have increased as my ministry has grown.
- With the growing ministry God has given me, it is impossible for me to work out of the home more than a few hours per week, just to be able to have a natural mission field.
- The financial need is greater having two university students at home; living and serving with hospitality in a capital city is also more expensive.

My co-leader in the Bratislava group writes:  
*"Ester has a heart for Women's ministries and so many opportunities opening up for her to be a key person in leadership training. We hope to see her gain a support base so she can continue to serve God with her whole heart in Slovakia."*



*One of the Bratislava current groups - serving with Sandy Shaffer*

**I invite you join me in God's work by:**

1. Praying for the growth of this ministry and for me to stay focused on the Master's plan.
2. Helping me to cover some of my financial needs.
  - You can send your donation to Entrust with a note designating your gift for Ester Kriskova.
  - Monthly, yearly, and one time donations will be used partly for my living expenses and for ministry expenses mentioned above.

I deeply appreciate your time reading this letter and being willing to join me serving Christ. Please, feel free to share my letter with your family and friends.

With Appreciation and greetings from your sister in Christ from Bratislava, Slovakia:

*Ester Kriskova*