The Gospel Coalition Slovakia – Spoločenstvo evanjelia

> *Is a fellowship of evangelical Christians in Slovakia who base their faith on the gospel of Jesus Christ. Together we seek to renew the contemporary Church by proclaiming this everlasting gospel. Therefore, we cultivate an environment in which Christ-followers can be encouraged to faithfully proclaim the gospel, devotedly follow Jesus Christ, sacrificially serve in the local congregation, and boldly reach out to the culture with the love of Jesus Christ, in grace and truth. We invite you to read about how we have tried to do this in a very practical way over the past 12 months.*

Seminar on Expository Teaching - November 2023

The seminar was attended by 73 people, more than half of whom were first-time participants and just over a third of whom were women. This year's participants included pastors, church elders, children's and youth workers, religious education teachers and Bible study group leaders.

The participants were divided into three sections according to their level of experience in Bible teaching. In groups and individually, under the guidance of three teachers, they studied the Gospel of Matthew in depth, seeking its purpose and message and seeking to understand difficult passages. Of particular note is the fact that all three teachers are in their thirties and had previously attended the Seminar for several years as students. They represent a new generation of expository preachers in Slovakia with a gift for teaching others.

In the plenary part of the program, we heard an introduction to the Gospel of Matthew by one of the teachers. We also heard two model sermons followed up by evaluations. Our time together was enriched by praise, prayer and sharing about how the Lord is working in our churches and ministries. The aim was to strengthen our commitment and love for God, and to encourage us for Word ministry in the context of the local church.

Here are some follow up comments from the participants themselves:

- I have been greatly impacted by looking at the biblical stories in the context of the grand story of God - from creation to the 2nd coming of Christ. This is probably the first time I've heard it comprehensively. I am determined to put it into practice.
- The strongest aspect of the Seminar for me was the deep teaching. I finally felt like someone was making an honest effort to go deep, not just run through a text or context.
- I was very encouraged by the Seminar. Thank you for all the good recommendations of books, and events. I'm already looking forward to next year.

Proclamation Conference - April 2024

The 15th Proclamation Conference (Máme čo zvestovať in Slovak) was in the city of Poprad and addressed issues of how men and women can work together in the service of God's Kingdom, exploring biblical principles and practical applications of complementarianism. Hence the theme of the conference: "Men and Women - Together in the Ministry of the Word".

The keynote speaker, Graham Beynon, Head of Local Church Ministries in the UK, delivered three papers. These were complemented and enriched by two expository sermons of pastor Vaclav Andrs (Czech Republic) on 1 Timothy 2 and 2 Corinthians 14.

In addition to the plenary parts of the program, participants could choose from a handful of interesting and high quality seminars on Biblical Eldership, Blessings and Challenges of Parenting, AI in the Ministry of the Word: Forbidden Fruit or God's Gift?, Preachers in the Ministry of the Word, Mental Health, Singing the Word.

This year's conference was extraordinary. And not just because of the record number of participants – 170 (many from the neighboring Czech Republic). With humble gratitude we celebrated the 15th anniversary of the conference and the 70th birthday of its founder, Ján Henžel. To mark the occasion we dedicated one evening of the conference to Ján's testimony of 50 years of God's grace and faithfulness in calling him to the ministry of the Word. It was indeed a blessed evening that ended with a challenge to take up the baton and continue to preach the Word for the rest of our days or until the Lord Jesus returns.

Most valued by attendees:

- Interesting theme, good speakers, book sales, nice location
- Great fellowship of preachers, elders and church workers, and not just from one denomination
- Relevant and clearly presented topics

- Good community, exposition of the Word, praise, surprises
- An atmosphere of acceptance, a community moving in the same direction.
- Very high standard of the overall organization, the inclusion of praise, the quality of the keynote speaker
- The mix of education and practice

ReFormatio Publishing House

ReFormatio has been an imprint of Porta Libri publishing house until June 2024 when it came under the auspices of Spoločenstvo evanjelia (The Gospel Coalition Slovakia) as its publishing section. Thus far *ReFormatio* has produced 24 book titles which deal with topics from apologetics, (biblical) theology, ethics, ecclesiology to evangelism from reformed perspective.

Our publishing ministry has proved to be very challenging at all fronts this year:

1. We are pleased to announce that we have appointed Katarína Zemčík as Editor-in-Chief. She is a very committed Christian lady with considerable gifts needed for this ministry. Thus far we are only able to pay her part time services although she is spending much more of her energy than we can remunerate. Increasing that is the priority if our publishing ministry should continue and grow.
2. The friendly(!) separation from Porta Libri meant that in early July a truck of 2.300 books arrived which we must safely store and effectively distribute to our customers.
3. A task group of 4 are still working hard on building an online environment for marketing and e-shop linked with banking and storage facilities.
4. Parallel to the above mentioned structural and ground-laying work our editorial team has been working on 3 new book projects securing grants, copyrights, translators etc.

We started our publishing ministry along Habakkuk prophecy: *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.* (Habakkuk 2:14). Obviously, the earth is not yet filled with the knowledge of the LORD, therefore we persevere in it.

Two responses from our readers for your encouragement:

- We have lived in the Reformed Church all our lives, but only now, while reading your book *Why the Reformation Still Matters,* have we been converted (a married couple in their 70s)
- I was rather suspicious about Calvinism but the books from *ReFormatio* brought clarity and conviction. Thanks a lot! (Monika)

In Pictures

Our Staff

Ján Henžel

PRESIDENT

Štefan Evin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Katarína Zemčík

PROJECT MANAGER

Edita Uličná

CONTENT & EVENT MANAGER

SE SPOLOČENSTVO EVANJELIA
THE GOSPEL COALITION

Okružná 4, 974 04 Banská Bystrica
Slovak Republic

jan.henzel@spolocenstvoevanjelia.sk

spolocenstvoevanjelia.sk

If you would like to support our ministry, you can contact us, use the QR code or the link:
https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/?form=tgcslovakia