



PROVISION INTERNATIONAL

FEEDING.
CLOTHING.
LOVING.

one life at a time.



WHEN WE FIRST MET

Rinaldo, we were touched by his humility and genuine, contagious love for the Lord. Amid struggles and oppression, he was always filled with joy and encouragement. Rinaldo is one of the Roma pastors in the town of Sabinov, Slovakia. Along with a team of dedicated believers, he makes it his life's mission to reach the Roma people around his area. Despite prejudice and many hate crimes, his face always beams with the light of Jesus and he's always looking for new villages to plant a church. Šarišské Jastrabie, a remote settlement, where many Roma squat and live without ever having hope of a different future for their children, is one of those places. When Rinaldo first started visiting, there was not even one believer in the whole village. After many prayers and visits, people's hearts started to soften up to

the gospel message. Rinaldo would bus them all to the main church 40 minutes away and then bring them back. Pretty soon, there was a small group that would get together on a weekly basis, yet they faced another challenge – no adequate gathering place. As they prayed, they decided to ask the mayor for a permission to use an old, dilapidated barn which had only dirt floors, no windows and hasn't been used in over 30 years. That's when we talked to Rinaldo on the phone and Provision decided to help. With financial aid, they were able to pour cement floors, install new windows and doors, finish the walls and paint them, and furnish the room for their future meetings. Endless hours of work paid off and as

you can see from the pictures, the abandoned building has become a place where people meet God and lives are changed for eternity. Rinaldo wrote us few months later:

“With your help, God has blessed us. Before, because we met only in houses, the ministry was stuck, some people were ashamed to come into family house. With this small church building we are now very blessed, almost every week new people are coming to Christ. We thank God that He has used Provision International to make this dream come true. For some, this place may seem not a big deal, but for us it is a huge step for our ministry to reach many for Christ.”

Roma believers have a much harder road ahead of them. They are not trusted by the authorities, and they're not liked by most local Slovak people.

It's amazing to watch the transformation once they hear about the hope we have beyond this life and beyond the struggles of this world. There's joy in the suffering, there's peace in the middle of the storm, there's grace when we fall short.

We mentioned in the previous newsletter that our family has been walking through a hard season, and that Lance is struggling with health issues once again. It has been one of the toughest things we've ever dealt with. In the middle of the battle and pain and despite circumstances, we are learning to choose to stand on who God is – He is our redeemer, He's our Father, our Savior, He is good, He is faithful, He has a better plan than we do, He is trustworthy, He is all powerful and He loves us. All around the world, our brothers and sisters are fighting the good fight, and many times it's not easy. As we approach this Christmas season, we pray that you may all be reminded of what God has done for us, and that He is faithful to carry us through whatever comes our way. Let's focus our eyes once again on the Light of the World, and allow Him to shine into our dark, seemingly hopeless places. Then let's rise up off the ground and keep fighting the good fight! This is not the end. For our Savior has been born and that's the best news ever. We have a reason to celebrate.

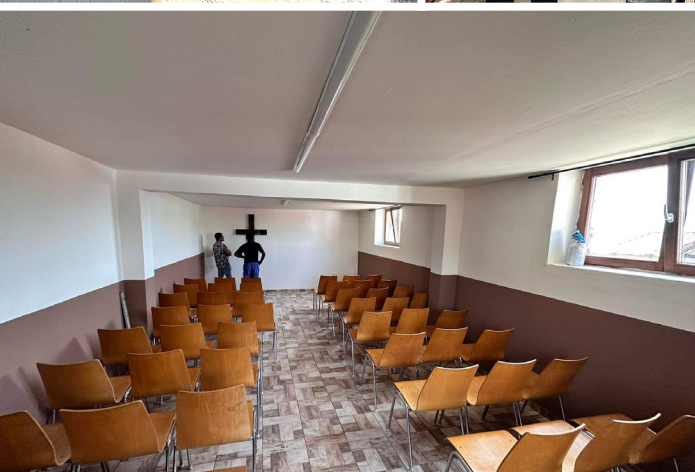
Merry Christmas
FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS!

IT IS EXCITING TO HEAR THE VILLAGERS ARE JOINING THE MEETINGS, SURRENDERING THEIR ADDICTIONS AND TURNING THEIR HEARTS TO JESUS. THE PLACE IS ALMOST TOO SMALL FOR ALL WHO GATHER ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.





Thank you FOR PARTNERING
WITH US TO BE A CONDUIT AND
MAKING DISCIPLES ALL AROUND
THE WORLD.





PROVISION INTERNATIONAL

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PROVISION *International*

is a worldwide Christian ministry of outreach that strives to meet the needs of the earth's less fortunate and downtrodden populace. We are committed to be the hands and feet of Jesus by networking resources to serve people in areas of great need.

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