

The task of the Berea centre is to **train, assist and network resources** of Christian Assemblies in Slovakia in various areas of ministry. It enables them to **achieve together** what none of them could do on its own.

Biblical Education

There is no tradition of systematic education in the Brethren Christian Assemblies in Slovakia. Most of it happens in the regular Bible studies in local churches. Nearly all of them are led by self-educated lay people.

Berea Centre helps to make up for what was lacking by providing various seminars and courses ranging from one day to several months, covering topics such as the **history of the Brethren movement** worldwide and in Slovakia, **evangelism and discipleship** and the **role of church leaders**.

A year ago we embarked on a bigger project with the **Bible Training for Church Leaders**. A group of 30 students meets each month to study the Bible and how to use it, to understand Christian doctrines and gain practical skills for service in the local churches. It will take about 4 years to complete the whole course. We are excited to see these men and women working diligently on their studies and applying God's Word as they prepare for their ministry in various cities in Slovakia.



Supporting Mission

After the four decades of communist regime in Czechoslovakia we got used to being passive. Many are still thinking that mission is the task of the „rich“ Christians from the hard currency countries.

For Christian Centre BEREa supporting missionary activities is one of its priorities. We hope that by God's grace the missionary mindset of the Christian assemblies will be awakened. We would like to contribute to it by organising **annual missionary conferences**, spreading **information about mission** and specific prayer requests and **sponsoring missionaries and missionary projects** as much as we are able.



Publishing

The newsletter **PERSPEKTÍVA** (Perspective) is being published quarterly and brings articles, experiences and opinions about mission, evangelism in contemporary setting and Christian education.

We have also published one book **„The guard-duty of love“** dealing with the hot topic of church discipline. We are preparing other publications about Christian ministry, building up the church and about the history of the Brethren churches in our country.

Building Project

Children and youth ministry including the summer camps have brought much fruit in the past. Under Communist rule this was done illegally and with much improvisation. Since 1989, there is freedom to work openly but until now the assemblies have lacked their own facility for recreation and education purposes. However, the dream is becoming a reality now.

In 2003 we bought a suitable facility at a public auction. Through sacrificial giving of the saints in Slovakia we collected the amount of 1.8 million SKK (approx. 45 thousand €), i.e. one half of the needed sum. By the grace of God and the help of many supporters we were able to purchase this facility.



The finished building should serve as a **Christian Conference and Retreat Centre** as well as a **Bible School**. It could accommodate up to 70 people. The necessary reconstruction will take a huge amount of work and money too much for us but not much for the Lord.

Even with the end of reconstruction still far away, the facility is already showing its potential for camps and weekend retreats. Several times more than 100 people met together and enjoyed a blessed time in fellowship here. We especially appreciate the new opportunities that we now have of inviting our non-Christian friends to a pleasant place where a meaningful first contact with Christians can occur.



Thousands of **volunteer work** hours have already been invested in this project. Dozens of local Christians are coming to work here on weekends. Young people have also spent much of their vacation time here. Several large commercial containers of rocks and concrete have been removed from the **basement** to get one more large room for Bible classes, fellowship or games. **New foundations** have also been dug out and finished for the expansion of the main entrance hall. Some **reinforcements for the foundation** are necessary since the building will have to carry the weight of the newly added floor.

After this, we hope to be ready to remove the old roof itself and build both the **third floor and the new roof**. This is our immediate plan. We want the building to be finished this year as far as the outside and rough work is concerned. We want to be able to continue working inside during winter.



If there is a way that you can **join us in this very important and continuing missionary endeavour** in Slovakia, we would be very grateful. The removal of the old roof, adding a new floor and building a new roof has to be done in a very brief period of time as we can not allow the rain or snow get in the building. That's why we need to have all the necessary funds on hand before we begin this major phase of reconstruction.

This next phase of reconstruction requires us to have about 75.000 € on the account. At the moment, we have 31.000 €. Our Slovak people continue to do their utmost both physically and financially.

We are grateful for the way our Brothers and Sisters have helped us in the past. We deeply appreciate your prayers and encouragement, and thank you in advance for whatever that the Lord has placed on your heart regarding the project of the Berea Christian Centre in Slovakia.

Should the Lord put on your heart to help us with the reconstruction financially, please use the information below to send your donation.

Name of Bank Account: KRESTANSKE CENTRUM BEREА
Name of Bank: TATRA BANKA a.s.
Bank Address: Hodzovo nam. 3,
 811 03 Bratislava, Slovakia
Bank Account: 2629010205/1100
IBAN Code: SK55 1100 0000 0026 2901 0205
Swift (BIC) Code: TATR SK BX
Purpose: gift



*Inspired by the short story of Acts 17:10-12, the **Christian Centre BEREА** seeks to follow the example of Paul and his team in bringing the **gospel** - good news - to today's men and women in a relevant way.*

*It also seeks to follow the example of the Berean Jews who considered the **Scripture** and not tradition or human reason to be the final judge in matters of belief and practice.*

For a more comprehensive and updated information about the Berea centre visit www.berea.sk