



Bevan and Laura Stein Ministries

Fall Newsletter 2026

Father's Heart

Dear brothers and sisters, and dear friends of Father's Heart and of Heavenly Father's Love Mission,

Warm greetings to you and your churches. Thank you for sharing in our ministry in Slovakia, Ukraine, and Uganda. Some of you prepare Boxes of Blessing; others give their time to children in Slovakia's Centers for Children and Families (which were formerly called children's homes), which provide residential care. Many of you give generously financially and faithfully uphold us in prayer. We deeply appreciate each of these gifts.

In this newsletter, we want to share what the past few months have held: the joy of holding multiple summer camps on our own ranch and of seeing young people grow in faith. Of course, there are also other things which you may have read about in the news, lives which have unfortunately been deeply affected by war or illness. We share a desire to bring them the gospel and meet their practical needs. We thank the Lord God for the privilege of sharing with you and indeed serving alongside you as your ambassadors across our different countries of Slovakia, Ukraine and Uganda.

SLOVAKIA Serving through friendship and faith

Motorcycle Ministry

May 9, 2026 · Vrbovce, Slovakia

"The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore."

Psalms 121:8

On Saturday, May 9, 2026, approximately 1,300 motorcycles filled the town square in Vrbovce. The traditional Štefánik Ride marked the opening of the new riding season and included a blessing of the riders. Those gathered listened to a gospel message, prayed together, and received both a collective blessing and individual blessings.

Bevan Stein, who has served in Slovakia for many years and rides his own motorcycle to the event, once again preached the message. Riders still remember his sermons delivered in Slovak, especially his first: "Not only on two wheels, but also on two knees."

Through God's Word and prayer, people of other faith traditions, as well as those who do not yet believe, also find a warm welcome. Bevan invites them to follow Christ through his preaching, personal conversations, and the witness of his own life.

We give thanks for his ministry and for everyone who joined in prayer. May the Lord protect all who travel and bring them safely home.

Article by the Rev. Miroslav Hvožd'ara



Vrbovce · Bevan blessing the riders at the opening of the motorcycle season.



Bevan and Laura Stein with their family.

Faith at the ranch

June 26–29, 2026 · Socovce, Slovakia

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20

At the Father's Heart ranch in Socovce, we welcomed seven young people from residential care centers. At last year's summer camp, they had received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. This retreat gave us time to build on that beginning and talk about living out their faith after camp. So this was a discipleship camp for believers.

Leaders from our Martin and Košice teams talked with them about reading the Bible, walking daily with the Lord Jesus, and finding a Christian community. We gathered for worship and Scripture each morning and evening. We also spent time with each young person individually so they could ask questions and share what was on their hearts.

We spent plenty of time outdoors, too, playing soccer and other games, riding horses, practicing archery, and hiking up a tall mountain nearby called "Zniev." We took cold-water dips in a nearby spring-fed pond, helped care for the horses, and painted huge concrete planters as a work project. Working and having fun together helped us get to know one another better.

We want these young people to know they can turn to us after they return home. Our hope is to stay in touch and help them continue growing in faith.

Thank you for the prayers and financial support that made these days together possible.

1,300 motorcycles

Riders heard the gospel and received a blessing.

Friendship, faith and new beginnings



Where friendships grow

July 23–26, 2026
Socovce, Slovakia

“Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder?”

Job 39:19 (NKJV)

For Laura Stein, working with horses is a way to help children feel safe, valued, and loved. Her ministry in Slovakia serves children from local families and residential care homes, including children with disabilities and those who have experienced trauma. Through personal attention, time with horses, and Christian care, she seeks to build trust and nurture lasting relationships.

This year’s ranch camp brought that ministry to life in a setting where children could learn, play, and grow together.

Alongside riding and caring for horses, the camp offered creative activities, shared worship, and opportunities to discover God’s love. For Laura, its deepest meaning lay in the relationships built over many years and the moments of care that made each child feel they belonged.

Laura says, “I often refer to this particular ranch camp as my ‘favorite’ camp, not to be exclusive but to emphasize the special relationship we have with each of the seven children from local families and three from children’s homes, “residential care homes,” and five teenage helpers, two of whom we have known since they were just toddlers. Daily camp activities included horse care, riding, crafts, archery and games. Each evening, we enjoyed worship and studying the Bible story of Daniel. One of the blessings of this camp was the way our multi-talented team shared their unique gifts. It felt like a puzzle that came together beautifully and naturally. Some shared moments were light-hearted, such as crazy games and bathing horses, and others were more serious. One evening I observed a team leader coaching one of the boys through an anxious situation he was dealing with. Through our ranch community, shared experience and Bible lessons the kids learned that God is always with us and always hears our prayers. We are already looking forward to next summer’s camp!”



Worship at the camp in Tatranská Lomnica.



Father’s Heart summer camp

Enter by the Narrow Way

August 8–11, 2026 · Tatranská Lomnica, Slovakia

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

John 14:6 · excerpt

Our Košice and Martin teams worked together to organize this year’s annual Father’s Heart summer camp in Tatranská Lomnica for children and young people in residential care homes. Looking back, we agreed it was one of the most positive and memorable camps we had ever shared.

Many of the children were joining us for the first time. They were spontaneous, open, and eager to take part. Friendships were formed through games and sports. As the children grew more comfortable with the leaders, we had more opportunities to listen and get to know them.

The theme was “Two Gates, Two Ways,” based on Matthew 7:13–14. We talked about our choices, where they lead, and following the Lord Jesus through life. Morning and evening worship, Scripture, and small-group conversations gave us time to discuss both faith and everyday struggles.

Our greatest joy was seeing 25 children and young people receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, while others made re-dedications of their lives to Christ. We thank God for them and pray that they will grow in faith, read His Word, and find a Christian community.

On the first morning, we joined the boys for a run of several kilometers through a popular mountain tourist town, Tatranská Lomnica. There were games, camp-style olympics, a treasure hunt, and an evening cookout. The days were full of laughter and activity. We are grateful to the Lord that the camp concluded without any injuries and with Bevan giving Aaron’s blessing to the kids.

We will reconnect on October 10 at a follow-up gathering in Košice, Slovakia. Time in the City Park and other shared activities will give us a chance to revisit camp memories and spend time with the young people we hope to keep discipling as they follow the Lord Jesus.

Thank you to the churches, donors, and everyone who helped with camp. Because of you, the children experienced a warm welcome and heard about the love of their heavenly Father and the choice that they must make to either take the wide path to destruction or the narrow path to life through Jesus Christ.

25 young people

received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

A safe place for those who could not escape

August 19–24, 2026 · Ukraine

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2 (NKJV)

Bevan Stein has been providing humanitarian relief for Ukraine since the very beginning of the war in Feb. 2022 and through the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia (ECAV) since August 2022 using his large truck to deliver food and hygiene supplies collected by the church and other international organizations. In all, he delivered over 1,200 tons of food, enough to feed over 5 million people. He made lasting friendships with people who had lost their homes, their health, or loved ones.

Churches and church schools throughout Slovakia joined the “Boxes of Blessing” collection. Bevan helped transport and distribute the food and hygiene packages in Ukraine, including at a care facility in Mykolaiv, near Kherson housing over 100 people. The packages met practical needs and reassured the recipients that they had not been forgotten.

Bevan also provides ongoing support to his Ukrainian partner, Volodymyr, who currently cares for 370 people 24/7. He evacuates elderly people, those who are ill, and those unable to move independently from areas near the front lines. He is rescuing people who could not flee on their own and now provides them with food, hygiene care, and a safe place to live. The facilities are called “Abraham’s Tent.” Each person who arrives is welcomed as a valued guest and as an angel disguised as broken people.

Funds raised through U.S. churches, with Bevan’s help, made it possible to purchase land and a building and convert it into a care facility. In an interview for the Lutheran periodical magazine, “Evanjelický Východ,” Bevan says he tries to send €3,000 a month, however the total monthly expenses for all 370 people in 4 care centers are approximately €30,000! This covers food, housing, medicine, hygiene supplies, and other needs. Most of their needs therefore go unmet each month because Volodymyr has no other source of funds for monthly expenses.



Bevan with Boxes of Blessing.

Sources: Bishop Peter Mihoč’s account; E. Mihočová’s interview with Bevan Stein for the forthcoming October 2026 issue of Evanjelický východ; information from ECAV in Slovakia and the Office of the President of Ukraine.



In August 2026, Bevan visited Ukraine with Slovak Lutheran Bishop Peter Mihoč. They spent four days in the care centers, listening to residents, praying with them, and encouraging them. They brought a gift from the Slovak Lutheran church of €3,000 to expand the facilities. Bevan contributed an additional US \$4,700 from donations he had received.

One of the residents, Vitaliy, whom Volodymyr rescued from an unheated barn, had his legs amputated. By the time Volodymyr found him, he was nearly frozen stiff and had severe gangrene. When Volodymyr picked up Vitaliy, one of his frozen legs literally broke off and fell to the ground. Vitaliy boldly proclaims that if Volodymyr had not found him and rescued him he would have soon died, and what’s worse, he would have died without knowing the Lord Jesus Christ. He says that if he had to lose both legs to gain salvation then it was a good trade. Today he helps others as he is able, bathing and feeding them. Despite all he has endured, he remains grateful to God and wants to serve.

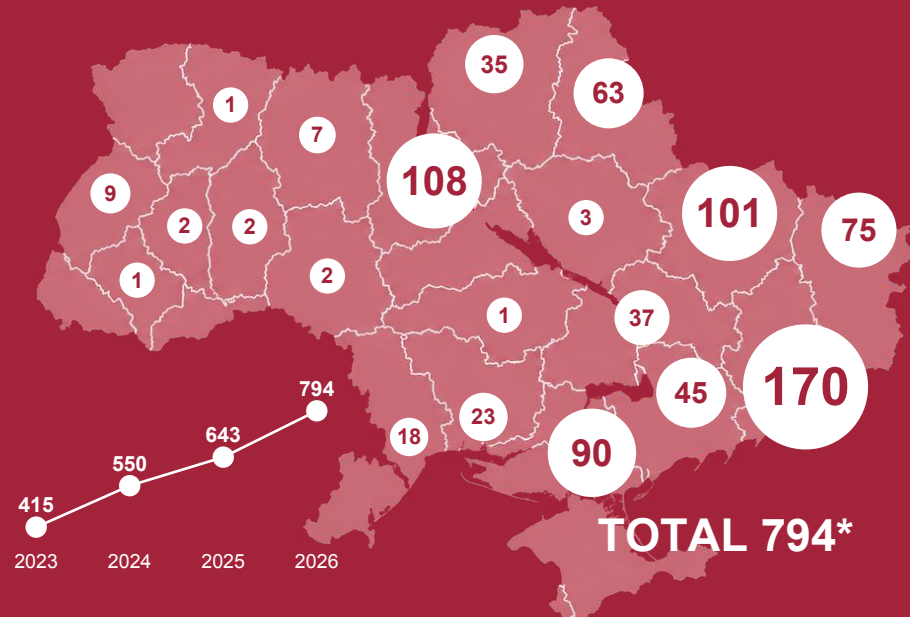
During the visit, they also attended the National Prayer Breakfast in Kyiv on August 23, 2026, held under the patronage of Ukraine’s President Zelensky. Together with Ukrainian and international guests, they prayed for peace and expressed solidarity with those affected by the war.

The visit encouraged Bevan and the bishop so much that they even returned to the center to see the residents once more and say goodbye again, finding it hard to leave such an amazing place and the people whom they have both come to love so much. Bevan spoke of the importance of this personal contact for both parties.

Thank you for your prayers, financial gifts, and relief packages. You are helping people who have lost so much to live with greater dignity and experience the care of others and find Jesus as Lord.

DAMAGED OR DESTROYED RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

Ukraine · 2022–August 2026



Source: National Prayer Breakfast, Ukraine, August 2026. *The source reports 794; regional figures total 793. Confirmation pending.

Standing with widows and orphans through hardship



UGANDA

Adjumani · East Africa

James Kenneth
National Director, HFL



“A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation.”

Psalm 68:5 (NKJV)

In Uganda, Bevan Stein founded and oversees his mission organization in Uganda called Heavenly Father’s Love Mission, or HFL for short. He has 7 full-time staff including a national director, James Kenneth and his wife, Jacqueline. They serve widows and orphans who fled the war in South Sudan. Current ministry reports describe two hundred widows and orphans receiving help.

This year Bevan was able to purchase an additional 100 acres of farmland and farm equipment. HFL now owns 120 acres of farmland on which the HFL team grows corn and vegetables. The harvest is intended to feed the families receiving support and reduce the amount of food which must be purchased to feed them.

Our HFL mission encountered three very great challenges this year. Firstly, in March 2026, Uganda announced a new law, “Protection of Sovereignty Act 2026” which addresses registration of agents of foreigners. Basically, our National Director, James Kenneth, had to register as an agent of a foreigner, International Director Bevan Stein, in order for HFL to continue its work in Uganda. We also had to re-register our organization not as a domestic NGO but as an international NGO and re-apply for permission to work with refugees in settlements. While we were eventually successful, until this process was completed all of our assets were frozen and our ministry had to cease. So far, only HFL survived as an organization in our district of Uganda with permission to work in the settlements with refugees.

Secondly, the Ugandan government has completely stopped all aid to refugee settlements affecting hundreds of thousands of refugees. They have been strongly advised to depart Uganda or face starvation. However, the President of Uganda has heard of our work and has awarded us a land grant of 2,000 acres plus free use of farm equipment to grow crops to feed the 39,000 people in our refugee camp! We have already begun to feed all 39,000 people from our recent harvest. Unfortunately, there is only enough to feed this many one time. We have applied for a grant from a foundation to help us feed them until our new 2,000-acre farm can be productive.



Thirdly, our National Director, James, was handling registration paperwork for the mission when he was cruelly attacked and run over. He suffered a broken back and had to have emergency spinal surgery. We thank God for preserving his life and for the physicians who cared for him. However, his mother died and he had to travel to South Sudan for her funeral despite serious security and health risks. He subsequently developed several infections and had to be hospitalized yet again. Doctors saved his life a second time. Thank you for remembering James and his family. After all they have been through, they need our help and prayers.

Bevan Stein, founder and International Director of Heavenly Father’s Love Mission in Uganda and founder and Chairman of Otcovo srdce (Father’s Heart Slovakia) and Vice-Chairman, Ladislav Adamovič, plan to visit Uganda on October 28th, 2026. In addition, they will meet the Vice-President and Prime Minister of Uganda who have heard about our work and the absolute uniqueness of our ministry in the region with 18 other refugee camps besides ours.

Please pray for James’s health, the widows and children in our refugee settlement, and our upcoming trip.

Looking ahead

The year is not over yet. In addition to the planned Uganda visit, Bevan intends to travel to the United States on November 17th. Please pray for these journeys and that God would be glorified by all of these ministries.

Dear brothers and sisters, thank you for your trust and for all you have given to this ministry. We are grateful that you stand with us through difficult times. May the Lord strengthen you in your families and churches and give you joy in the work He has called you to do.

With gratitude and warm greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ,
Bevan and Laura Stein

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our website.

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