

THE STEIGER'S E-PRAYER & PRAISE REPORT AUGUST 2006

Dear Friends,

Once again, this is the time for another special monthly
E-mail Prayer & Praise Report (E-PPR) about Czech and Slovak ministry:
WE ASKED—YOU PRAYED—HE ANSWERED:

In our last News Release and Prayer Letter we were describing our cold and rainy season. On the other hand the month of July was so hot that many heat wave records were broken. There was no rain to speak of in July. Thus, after flooding came drought. This reminds us the jokes during communist era about collective farming — *the greatest enemy of farmers has been spring, summer, fall and winter*. Others joked about *demon crematorium*... European climate has become more unpredictable and produces some extreme weather conditions unknown just a decade ago. Especially Central Europe has not been accustomed facing such extreme weather conditions that are quite common in some parts of the USA.

Let's share some blessings in spite of unbearable heat:

July was an extremely busy and eventful time. Cal Poly State University PolyPhonics and Wind Ensemble visited Prague on their European concert tour to Hungary, Austria, Germany and Czech Republic. The concert was held in beautiful and prestigious Smetana Concert Hall. One of the singers was a daughter of our close American friends we know so well from in Indonesia. Hannah has been faithfully praying with her family for our ministry since she was a preschooler. She was the little one who used to say that her dad studies in *cemetery* while he was attending *Dallas Theological Seminary*.

The next event was Evangelical Youth Summer Camp in Smilovice. We have already been invited to speak at this camp four times since 1994. Once more we have to mention how this Silesian part of the Czech Republic is spiritually a most blessed area. When you look at a map where the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia meet, that is the place. It is equally evangelical on both the Czech and Polish sides of the border. Actually, on the Polish side it is the only enclave of evangelical believers to speak of in the Catholic sea. Czech, Polish and Slovak speakers speak without interpreters. Songs are sung in all three languages. On our "pilgrimage" to and from Smilovice we tried to see as many friends and relatives as possible. We spent weekend in Olomouc, visited Dluhonice, Zaben and arrived to Smilovice on Monday.

On Wednesday the campers had a sporting day. We did not sport, thus we continued our visitation tour. We went to Příbor and visited Czech Child Evangelism Headquarters. The center was like a beehive. Over 60 mostly young people were in the middle of six weeks of training to work with children.

Příbor (Freiberg) is also known as the birthplace of famous, or rather infamous, psychologist Sigmund Freud.



The whole town lives of his heritage...!?

"Jewish News of Greater Phoenix" writes on April 14, 2000:

Born Sigmund Schlomo Freud in 1856 in what is now the Czech Republic, Freud was raised in a semi-traditional home but by adulthood had become rigorously unobservant – in his own words, a "completely Godless Jew."

The third planned visit of the "sporting" day to Kopřivnice (Nesselsdorf) did not work out. As we arrived our American missionary friends were departing to pick up some visitors at Crakow airport (Kraków, Poland). Instead we visited Tatra automobile museum. Tatra was the brand name of cars and trucks manufactured in the area since 1897. The first car – coach without horses in Austro-Hungarian Empire was built in Kopřivnice in 1897. It was named the President. A display of the oldest racecars (from 1900) was fascinating. Most unique was the car with snow sleds and rear end propeller. The car had dual steering wheels – one for the sled and the other to control direction of prop. What a hybrid. It looks like boats in Florida or something useful for Antarctic expedition:



The last visit of the day was in Paskov, where we enjoyed a bunch of children in a ground swimming pool. Grandkids of our Jindra and their cousins, aged 3-8, know many verses in archaic Czech spoken between 1579 and 1593 when the Bible of Kralice was printed in six volumes. They were amazing and very alive. Did you know that Czechs had complete Bible printed 18 years before the first printed 1611 edition of King James Bible?

At the camp:

All together 12 speakers provided the camp program. Pastor Michael W. Brandt from South Dakota was the evangelist, Marcum Jay and Jodi – Two for life ministry – are wonderful musicians and in addition to their musical performance they served as non-professional counselors dealing with divorce in the family. Another US couple serving in the Czech Republic spoke on Mission work for every generation. Youth could attend numerous 90-minute seminars and workshops (26 different topics) in one week. We held three seminars. Pavel's topics were: "*Why Do We Have So Many Denominations?*" and "*Questions Skeptics Ask.*" Klara's seminar was for girls: "*Trappings of life.*" Some young men sneaked in anyway.

The most dynamic speaker to us was a Polish missionary who served in Russia, Estonia and Turkmenistan. His ministry in Moscow prison was like reliving times of the apostles. Can you imagine the situation in a prison where the first three converts were killed before they were baptized? This did not stop other prisoners from coming to faith. Guards and mafia that controlled the prison hired a killer to get rid of the two missionaries. Instead, the hired killer was killed in a car accident on the way to do his "job." You see Lord kept protective hand over them and the outcome was like from the Bible. Prison guards begged the missionaries to tell them what to do to be saved, since they were scared that God would kill them for their plot the same way as the hired killer. They were tormented by fear and could not sleep. As a result of all this, the first

prison seminary started at the prison. Testimonies were incredible. Klara hopes that she will get written testimony.

During the camp we visited several families in the neighborhood, reunited with some old friends and people from other denominations. We had numerous private heart to heart talks, met with people we knew through our web ministry. We squeezed into this time three more visits of friends in Loštice, Tršice and Hranice. About half of those we visited were Christians. We know that we must spend lots of time with non-believing friends to build bridges to the Gospel.

Sunday was the highlight of our trip. We were taken from family to family and after Pavel's late afternoon service preaching Agape, we spent time sharing with those who organize the camp year after year. To summarize our Smilovce experience: It was a very hot week, but we were blessed personally in numerous ways. We gained several contributions of good articles for our magazine. For days after we came back home we thought about the event.

„Where are you? – We miss you!“

This was the call from the Dworak's and after that sentence our cell phone went dead. We operate our cell phone in two modes. The first mode is that we do not know where it is, the second mode is we found it with dead battery. We did not see Mike and Ellen Dworak for about two weeks – and they were sure happy to see us back. We had a birthday cake together – Ellen turned 55. As a surprise, a friend from their home church came to congratulate her and we got acquainted with their church family. If you want to see more about life in Czech Republic (our eyes got adjusted years ago) and about the ministry in Europe (becoming ethnically Eurabia), see their web pages – <http://www.dworakshcjb.ministryhome.org>. We must admit Mike and Ellen are good reporters and picture takers.

Back home we had a line of over 400 spams plus letters from different countries — this time we had a special request from Serbia. This morning I heard on the radio about another camp evacuation because of the rain.

Gabi and other friends came to visit us. Gabi's housing is still up in the air and it is difficult for her to do her ministry for us.

As we look on our calendar, our days are full of events till end of October.

Thank you for your love and prayers.
In His Sovereign Grace and Service,
Klara and Pavel Steiger

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