



JANUARY 2023
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF
THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA
JANUARY 2023

**"May the name of God be blessed forever and ever,
For wisdom and power belong to Him.
It is He who changes the times and the periods;
He removes kings and appoints kings;
He gives wisdom to wise men,
And knowledge to people of understanding.
It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things;
He knows what is in the darkness,
And the light dwells with Him.
To You, God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise,
For You have given me wisdom and power;
Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You,
For You have made known to us the king's matter." (Daniel 2:20-23)**

The year has come and gone and before it disappears irretrievably into the distance, it is an appropriate moment to look back. 2022 was a year of unexpected events and many surprises.

In a few weeks it will be a year since the "special operation," codename for the fratricidal war in Ukraine began. For us, this is a particularly tragic event, since our generation remembers well the fraternal help from the then-Soviet Union. Only by God's miracle did the Russian troops leave after 20 years of "brotherly" occupation. We may be hypersensitive, but we know what is behind "the liberation of Ukraine from fascism, etc."; similarly, we were "saved from Western capitalist warmongers." Today's generations don't remember that despair and betrayal and again believe the disinformation about a hostile West threatening peace-loving Russia. The cost is too high and the future too precious.

While rockets and bombs were and are targeting Ukraine, the initiators of this special action started to tighten the gas taps under various pretexts. The pipeline from Russia to Germany, which America had warned Europe about as dependency on

one provider, was „shut down.“ We know why, but to this day we do not know by whom. This meant a shock for consumers and a sharp increase in energy prices. The coming winter triggered a Europe-wide crisis in the energy market.

While America and Canada were in past weeks gripped by severe cold and snow, here, on the contrary, we had an extremely warm January. Rain has melted the December snow; even in the mountains, temperatures remain above freezing. At a time of extremely high energy prices, we hardly need to use gas heaters. We wear more sweaters instead of one and have turned down the hot water thermostat to save energy. Our apartment remains comfortable; it is probably warmed primarily by our computers that are running for at least 12 hours a day.

The first round of the presidential election is over. Eight candidates plus one qualified. That one, "Arthur Laborman," is an artificial intelligence creation. It answers questions posed by reporters as do credible candidates since its answers are as empty and shallow as theirs. Artificial intelligence is entering our lives intensively, and the possibilities? Only God knows how far he'll let humanity go.

The Presidential election, this time, the final duel between the two candidates, is called the Clash of the Titans. It is between the former Prime Minister, one of the richest businessmen (his net worth exceeds D. Trump), and retired General Peter Pavel. The latter was Chief of the General Staff of the Czech Army from 2012-2015. Between 2015 and 2018, he served as chairman of the NATO Military Committee; he became the first representative of the former Warsaw Pact countries to serve in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's highest military post. Which is not a vain qualification in these days of the war.

Both candidates have a past wound: membership in the Communist Party. Both were raised in prominent professional communist families. One denies his mistake, and the other regrets it. The final presidential election will be decided this week. It's hard to say who will win.

PRAISES AND PRAYER NEEDS

- Our calendar for this year fills quickly as always. We praise The Lord for providing for all our needs despite the rising cost of materials and services. We are pursuing several publishing projects in the process.
- Trans World Digital Audio Broadcast (DAB). After the good news came a cold shower. In 2022, the governmental fees for the operation were set at 1 mil; in the year 2023 they are doubled. The budget of this mission service is undergoing a major test due to high inflation, the high price of raw materials, and everything related to economic and inflation development.
- Surprisingly, the Catholic Church held Sunday afternoon service in Prague's cathedral for the country and upcoming election. The current president and both presidential candidates and their spouses were present. The appeal on the horizontal level was: "Have the courage to think differently", and on the vertical, "turn to Jesus Christ and believe".

Our Church in Kladno



Biblický sbor křesťanů
Kladno

Modlíme se za Vás



**Thank you for your prayers
Support and participation
In our life and the
Czech & Slovak ministry**

**In His Sovereign Grace,
Pavel and Klara Steiger**

pavel.steiger@gmail.com

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