



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

***Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, (Gal 5:19-20)***

**MAY DAY ... MAYDAY, MAYDAY**

The month of May is one of the most tradition-rich months of celebrations; the arrival of spring goes hand in hand with several centenary, usually pagan, festivals. This begins on the last day of April; in our part of the world, it starts with the witch burning and erection of a may-pole, a trunk from a conifer tree.



The next day, May 1st, is traditionally dedicated to the lovers kissing under the cherry blossom tree. However, under communism, original May Day celebrations were emptied of traditions and folk festivities and became the state holiday. The May Day parade became the official demonstration of the communist block power. Participation in the demonstration was compulsory. Those who did not participate in the parade of cheering working class, athletes, and students or who dared not to display a Soviet paper flag decoration in their windows were considered enemies of the regime. Failure to participate led to various forms of repression and persecution, from loss of employment and expulsion from studies ...

The second state holiday, May 8th, the Day of the Liberation of Czechoslovakia from Fascism, was replaced by the Day of the Liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army a day later. Moscow time is different from European. On this day, military parades were usually held to symbolize the unity and international struggle for world peace. At that time we never heard about General Patton and the American liberation of Europe and the western part of Czechoslovakia.

## **THE NATION'S MEMORY OF THE END OF THE WAR**

The term "liberation" can be understood and interpreted in different ways. For example, the liberated one acquires freedom – the liberator is the one who does not claim to subjugate the liberated. In our case, the fascism was replaced by communism. Understanding related historical events is very hard. It is usually written by a "liberator"/winner; however, there are numerous silenced truths. One of the most recent and verified truths seldomly mentioned goes as follows: "There is no doubt that Czechoslovakia was incorporated into the Soviet sphere at the end of 1943 at the latest, more or less by the will of its political leaders, and the Western Allies were gradually forced to accept this as a given."

As the only state in the region to have concluded a post-war alliance treaty with the Soviet Union during the war, Czechoslovakia was one of the pillars of the newly built Soviet sphere of influence, and Moscow perceived it as such from the very beginning." So Stalin knew full well in 1945 that he was driving the Nazis out of "his own" territory (which is also why Prague had to be "liberated" by the Red Army after the uprising, even though the Americans could have been in the capital of Prague

sooner). So what to conclude from this? It is good to remember the anniversary of the liberation from Nazism; we can remember the soldiers of the Red Army who fought and died in the final days of the war in this country. But we should do so in the knowledge that with their arrival another long period of unfreedom began, which, of course, was largely of our own making. The totalitarian Soviet Union exploited the Czech naivety for its imperial needs and has done us no good since the war, only turning us into a gloomy governorate for forty years.

Another traditional celebration changed by communists was Mother's Day. It was first celebrated here in 1926. After World War II anything connected to America or German occupation was ideologically unacceptable. For this reason, Mother's Day was shifted to March 8th and was renamed International Women's Day. The state mandated the recognition of the day of international solidarity, peace, and equality. After opening speeches and recognition of the best workers, the women were given a red carnation and small but practical gifts, followed by entertainment; in reality, it was an alcohol-fueled celebration by men. Since the Velvet Revolution in 1989, International Women's Day is not celebrated anymore and the traditional Mother's Day was returned to the second Sunday in May. International Women's Day remains a global celebration of the progressive left.

Only the last day of May survived in some parts of the country. This one was apolitical and not long ago, it was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Moravian Ride of the Kings.

## **PRAYER NEEDS AND PRAISES**

- After more than three and half years we are coming to see some of you from May 24 to June 6th in AZ. Pray for our endurance and safety.
- If you are not on our list already you can reach us via e-mail. Leave your phone number. We would like to see as many of you as possible.
- A dream comes true; we booked Noah's Ark Encounter in Kentucky.
- We will enjoy 5 days in NH with our older son, his wife, and four grandkids.

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

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

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