



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

*...and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. Therefore, from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ
(2 Corinthians 5:15,16)*

DID SUMMER END TOO SOON?

Most summer activities in Europe are the traditional time for family vacations and group retreats. During this time, the normal operation of most churches is to some degree curtailed. We had an opportunity to attend several week-long church retreats and several get-together meetings in various places. On top of this, we usually include short stops to recharge or renew our commitments to cooperation. This is an opportunity to sign various annual reports of ministries we are involved in.

AN UNPRECEDENTED JOURNEY BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH?

The semi-private adrenaline experience took us first to the place where the highest and longest suspension bridge (in the world?), 721 m long (almost half a mile), hangs in the air. The very interesting and interactive "Bridge of Time" nature trail is an integral part of this adventure. Take a look:

<https://www.dolnimorava.cz/en/sky-bridge-721>

The parking lots are full of visitors from nearby Poland. This outdoor attraction offers many possibilities for really strong adrenaline experiences; 16 km (10 miles long) downhill biking trail, tobogganing, hiking trails ... The only downside of this

adventure for us was that the upper parking lot near the cable car was full and we had no choice but to overcome the almost $\frac{3}{4}$ mile-long and uphill climb to the cable car. No wonder we had no longer the energy to conquer the treetops and the stunning views.

Then followed a relaxing few days at the "Spanish Little Dead Sea" or "Mar Menor" in Spain. A packed-to-capacity charter flight with Polish Enterair was an experience in itself. About 200 seniors were heading to the little-known healing coast. The sea was shallow and warm, the beach was sandy, and those who waded over to Deer Island could take advantage of miraculous mud deposits supposedly relieving rheumatic and arthritic pains. Seeing the mud-covered bodies in swimsuits of the elderly was not exactly eye-pleasing. Two relatively handsome women raised the question, "Why does old age have to be so un-pretty?" Pavel's explanation of "wages of sin" surprised them. There was no better explanation.

In short, our stay was enriched by visiting centuries, even millennia-old Roman history. In Cartagena, we saw "an ancient theatre built between 5 and 1 BC, as has been proven by the dedication of the edifice to Gaius and Lucius Caesar, grandsons of Augustus, who had designated them as his successors."

We all remember from history classes the famous Hannibal and his crossing of the Alps with elephants in 218 BC. "This was one of the major events of the Second Punic War and one of the most celebrated achievements of any military force in ancient warfare. Hannibal led his Carthaginian army over the Alps and into Italy to take the war directly to the Roman Republic, bypassing Roman and allied land garrisons, and Roman naval dominance."

IN HIS TIME

Pavel's already published book, "My Glory I Will Not Give to Another," has already been translated into the Polish language and is undergoing final proofreading and editing.

Not on our initiative, the book is being translated also into German. The process is a bit slower so far, but we plan to attend the meeting in Hamburg in November conducted by the like-minded congregation.

When asked when the book would be translated into English, Pavel always replied that there was so much written in English that translating something from Czech into English seemed to him to be pointless. But as we all know, sometimes man thinks and the Lord God makes changes. Throughout the summer we had some interesting encounters. The wife of the American pastor who started the church in Kladno where we attend, now living in the US for several years, mentioned that she was reading Pavel's book, albeit slowly, but she liked it and suggested that it would be worth translating. She offered to put the text into proper English herself if we would supply her with a DeepL translation. Without the help of DeepL, it would be a year's work project.

Another US missionary we met recently in Pilsen, who, after living here for five years, is quite proficient in the Czech language, has read the book and offered to take an active and personal part in proofreading the text. How everything will turn out in the end, only God Almighty knows.

NOAH'S ARK PHOTOBOOK

Another fun but time-consuming summer activity was a project reflecting on the Kentucky Ark Encounter and Creation Museum we visited in June this year. As usual, we share our experiences with others and that's how the Noah's Ark photo book came to be. The first five copies were snapped up immediately, followed by three more reprints. The final number of 60 copies was immediately reserved. It is not only an eye-catching photobook, but translated texts from English into Czech are for most an eye opener. For the unbeliever, the implications of the scientific theory of evolution stand in contrast to the biblical challenging view. What is for evolutionists and some Christians unacceptable as unscientific, simplistic, and primitive becomes a challenge to a deeper understanding of how our world is wonderfully made (created) in light of the biblical context. The most interesting timeline texts from the creation of Adam and Eve, Noah's flood to Jesus Christ's return, and how it all will end raise many questions, especially in the current effort to save the planet. Atheists, evolutionists, and ecologists are preoccupied and panicky about rising planet temperatures. We know that our world is nearing an end; the world lives as it did in the days of Noah, and we are certain that one day this world will be consumed by fire. The warning is most real.

However mere evidence and intellectual understanding of the battle for the mind between evolution and creation will not convince anyone; only the Holy Spirit can do that, but for believers, it is ammunition for victory in an unequal battle.



PRAISE AND PRAYER NEED

- Like a year ago, we received an invitation to an all-inclusive weeklong retreat in the beautiful Slovak Tatras. On this occasion, we spent a day with Milan Hudec, a loyal collaborator of the Internet broadcasting Radio Logos. This time Milan informed us about the fact that Radio Logos SK is working closely with Reach Beyond, New Zealand. There they have developed special software for internet broadcasting and signal streaming. RBNZ leases the Slovakian website server, www.radiologos.sk. As you can see, distance plays no role nowadays. What can we say other than PTL?

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS,
SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION
IN OUR LIVES AND THE CZECH & SLOVAK MINISTRIES**

**In His Sovereign Grace,
Pavel and Klara Steiger
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