



And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

(Mark 16:3-8)

**HOME MINISTRY APRIL 2024
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF
THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY
TO THE PEOPLES OF CZECHIA
AND SLOVAKIA**

Although this year's Easter began at the end of March, in our area the holiday continued on April 1, otherwise known as April Fool's Day, or all about surprises.

In Catholic countries, tradition comes first. The Easter celebration of the Resurrection of Christ is not primarily focused on services, prayers, blessings, traditions that take place mainly in churches, but it is a celebration of spring and folk festivals. The squares are filled with stalls selling Easter souvenirs, colorful eggs, chocolate Easter bunnies, sweet yeast pastries ...

Here is the sequence of events: Lent, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, when the Pope blesses the faithful, White Saturday, Resurrection Sunday and Easter Monday, which is a public holiday. A day when young men whisk girls around with a pom-pom, symbolically swishing their skirts and legs with elaborately woven willow wands to keep them healthy, beautiful, and fertile. The girls reward the boys and men with decorated eggs, while the women offer the men a glass of brandy to drink to their health.

Now and then there are critical voices from outside that this is a barbaric sexist tradition, but this tradition is much older than today's gender view of femininity and masculinity in relationships.

The Easter holiday season begins and ends with family visits, treats, and the joyful anticipation of spring awakening. The beautiful weather has attracted hordes of tourists to Prague, not only from European countries, but also from Asia. Prague in bloom is magical at this time of year.

Many of our friends, especially from America, also choose this time to visit their hometowns. It is wonderful to see friends in April whom we have not seen for 45

years. Time has pulled back the curtain, and we watch in amazement as some of them resemble their parents, and their long-gone grown children resemble their parents as we remember them. This time we have reunited with, or will reunite with, friends from Colorado, Arizona, California, and the Carolinas. Time is ticking away relentlessly, and the closer we get to our grandson's wedding, the more we look forward to our trip to America. The status of the guests is as follows: The bride's side has reportedly confirmed 220 guests, while we will be in the minority. At best, there will be up to 20 of us on the groom's side.

The arrival of spring this year has taken us by storm; it's like someone wants to confirm global warming. Easter week was full of blossoming trees, flowers, green grass, and fragrant lilacs that usually bloom a month later. We don't know yet what will come later, but this time in April we have reached tropical temperatures, while sometimes the temperatures dropped below freezing and there was snow instead of rain.

The early spring brought misery to allergy sufferers, and not only that, yellowish clouds of Saharan dust covered the blue skies over Europe. We're waiting for the rain to wash everything away and make it easier to breathe again.

At the moment we spend most of our days at home. Pavel is fully immersed in his writing project; both of us are proof-reading texts, but my endless attention is focused on email communication and contacts.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ivan's surgery went well. He is under medical care and his prognosis looks good.
- Our son Filip, the groom's father, just lost his job.
- Nathan, our second son, will graduate from college in May. He will also be looking for a job.
- Our younger son Vit was in TX during the eclipse.
- Next events are two mini-conferences with Geoff Volker in Ústí and Prague.

Thank you all for your prayers and encouraging words. Afterwards, we realized how serious Pavel's situation was - heart, lung, urological problems, antibiotic side effects, and loss of appetite.

***Thank you for your prayers, support
and participation in our life and
Czech and Slovak ministries.
In His sovereign grace.***

Pavel and Klara Steiger
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