



*Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.*

*(1. Tess. 5:1-10)*

**FEBRUARY 2025  
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF  
THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY  
TO THE PEOPLES OF CZECHIA  
AND SLOVAKIA**

**VALENTINE'S DAY**

Valentine's Day, celebrated on February 14, has its roots in European traditions, although it is often considered an American holiday. In Anglo-Saxon countries, especially in the USA, the day is celebrated in style—people exchange cards, flowers and sweets and have romantic dinners. In the Czech Republic, however, Valentine's Day does not have such deep

roots and its popularity is more the result of modern influences. Many Czechs prefer the traditional celebration of love on May 1, when it is customary to kiss your chosen one under a cherry blossom tree. This difference in attitudes towards Valentine's Day celebrations may be the reason why some entrepreneurs complain about less interest in Valentine's Day products and services in the Czech Republic.

On this Valentine's Day, Pavel's brother Ivan passed away after a long period of unconsciousness. He had been in intensive care for almost six months after suffering a fall and a brain hemorrhage. It is with great gratitude that we thank the local health care system and hospital staff for their dedicated care.

This year's Valentine's Day commemorates a tragic event near the end of World War II. 80 years ago, the Allies bombed the city of Dresden. In four raids over two days, 769 British heavy bombers and 527 American planes dropped 3,900 tons of high explosives and incendiary bombs. Dresden was in flames. The flames razed Dresden to the ground.

Coincidentally, there was poor visibility that day with strong crosswinds, and navigators were having trouble with on-board radar. Sixty-two bombers of the American squadron were off target and the bombs fell on Prague. The raid lasted only two minutes. The navigational error cost the lives of 701 people, twice as many were injured. 2,500 Prague houses were hit. Among other historical and important buildings, the Emmaus Monastery was hit. The monastery was built between 1347 and 1372.

During the war it served as a military hospital for the Germans. The complex was restored in the first half of the 20th century. The monastery was not used for years. After restoration, property was transferred to the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. For political reasons, the restoration of the towers should not take a sacral form; under the supervision of the conservationists, a modern type of two interconnected reinforced concrete shells was chosen. The more massive tower symbolizes the masculine principle, the subtler one the feminine principle.

## WRITING ON THE WALL?

We are anxiously awaiting the outcome of the recent peace talks between the United States and Russia. The eastern border of the Czech Republic is less than 300 miles away from Ukraine. The European Union received an electric shock during the Munich Security Talks. Instead of engaging constructively in its own security, it unleashed a "green diktat." Environmental challenges, economic stagnation and technological backwardness have distracted attention from the war in Ukraine. The twenty-seven members of the European Union cannot agree among themselves, let alone decide how to proceed in order to stop the war in Ukraine and bring about a "permanent-temporary" peace.

This year Moscow will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the victory over Hitler's Nazism. Europe will also mark the end of the war. Current events are in many ways reminiscent of the atmosphere in 1939, before Hitler's Nazism came to power. Had America not intervened: Europe itself would not have defeated Hitler. It appears that history is repeating itself. Sadly, even generations of descendants of those who experienced firsthand the Russian liberation, invasion and subsequent occupation in 1968 are under the illusion that something similar cannot happen again. Czechoslovakia was betrayed twice for the sake of preserving peace in Europe. The Allies sacrificed Czechoslovakia in 1939 in order to preserve peace in Europe. The member states of the EU are watching the Russian invasion, atrocities and destruction of Ukraine. The disunity of the allies often plays into the hands of the aggressor. How do the events of the past differ from the present? We are holding our breath. Meanwhile, America is engaged in bilateral negotiations with Russia. The European Union must, in its own interest, assume a greater role and responsibility in NATO and counter the threats from Russia. In the meantime Europeans live ordinary lives, under the illusion that the current dangerous situation will be solved by someone else, not realizing that the threat is not only local but global.

*They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.  
(Luke 17:27)*

## WHITE FEBRUARY

The Czech proverb:

*February white, fields gain might*  
expresses the truth that the February snow is beneficial to the farmland. The snow cover protects the soil from frost, and when it slowly melts in March, it provides the necessary moisture that promotes seed germination and crop growth. The germination of the seed of the gospel, spread by technology in many ways, benefits our land in the same way.

*And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest...."  
(Luke 10:2).*

## "KINGDOM COME" VIDEO GAME

*Kingdom Come: Deliverance*, the second episode of this all-Czech video game, was released on February 13, 2025. *Kingdom Come: Deliverance* was originally released with English, French and German dubbing. After the first day, over one million copies of the second episode were sold. One year ago, on February 13th, 2024, 6 years after the release of the first episode, the studio announced that a total of 6 million copies had been sold. On November 4, 2024, the studio announced that over 8 million copies had been sold. The video game has once again achieved global success, receiving praise from the world's leading media.

Historical Context of the game: *Kingdom Come: Deliverance* is set in Bohemia in 1403, during the late medieval period, before the Hussite Wars (1419–1434) and over a century before the Protestant Reformation. The dominant religious structure in the game is the Roman Catholic Church, which was the main religious authority at the time. The game pre-

sents widespread corruption in the clergy, indulgences, and power struggles within the Church, which were some of the key issues that later led to the Hussite movement and Reformation.

The game does not advocate for the Reformation, nor does it endorse pre-Reformation movements like the Hussites. The Hussite Wars, which played a significant role in the Czech rejection of certain Roman Catholic practices, had not yet started in the game's timeline.

### OUR WINTER CONFERENCE

The 2025 Winter Conference of Battle for the Soul and Pilgrim's Readings will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025, God willing. The theme is "Soli Deo Gloria!"

By God's grace, for the fifteenth time, we will have the opportunity to be encouraged and guided by God's Word as we discover the splendor of God's glory, and also to meet with other Christians to hear what the Lord is doing in the lives of His children for His glory.

### WAITING FOR SPRING

Even as we eagerly await the arrival of spring, other proverbs:

*In March, by the fire we stay,*

*In April, we're still that way*

remind us that winter will be with us for many weeks to come.

Our older son, soon to be a grandfather, will visit us in Prague with his wife in April. We hope it will be warmer then. When he was little, he would eagerly ask: *When will the leaves grow on the trees?*

### BIG BROTHER REPORTS

A few days ago we discovered a personal Google Maps record of our whereabouts over the past few years. We visited 11 countries (3 new); 113 towns/cities (61 new); 330 places (212 new); walked 68 mi; drove 7,877 mi; flew 19,446 mi (62 hours); shopped 140 hours (71 places). In total we walked, drove and flew 28,252 mi, slightly more than a trip around the world.

We thank the Lord that all our health crises happened while we were at home and within reach of quick help. All the more reason to thank God that He is merciful, and without His permission not a hair on our heads would fall out.

In our last letter we mentioned that the first New Year's phone call came from Australia, so the first visitor to our home this year was also from Australia. It was the first, but far from the last.

### PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

- We are happy to be part of the fellowship and ministry activities once again.
- The conference on February 22nd, is just around the corner. We look forward to many meetings.

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, loss of appetite.

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

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