

THE STEIGER'S
E-PRAYER & PRAISE REPORT
February 2009

With love and appreciation we send you another special bi-monthly
E-mail Prayer & Praise Report (E-PPR) about Czech and Slovak ministry:
WE ASKED—YOU PRAYED—HE ANSWERED:

*For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible
and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all
things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things,
and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church;
and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will
come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure
for all the fullness to dwell in Him,
(Colossians 1:16-19)*

Dear Friends and Partners of the HCJB Global Ministry
To the Peoples in Czech and Slovak Republics

Year 2009 is in full swing. Looking back at our January calendar we had only 4 windows without any activity. Some days we had more than one event. We are happy that our snail-mail Prayer letter 2008/09 finally reached all of you. It sure was a difficult delivery, but we hope that from now on we will be back to normal again. Finally, we have a new printing service called "Serving Servants" and some of you commented on their logo. The head of "Serving Servants," Roger, knew former HCJB Global president Abe Van der Puy since his childhood. Abe and Marge were our good friends and role models for our ministry. We have beautiful memories from days gone by. Speaking of new Presidents, HCJB Global inaugurated Dave Pederson as our new leader in January 2009. We pray that his ministry leadership will glorify our Lord.

January Highlights

Our new team of coworkers and editorial council prepared a winter mini conference in Kladno, Central Bohemia. The name of the conference was "His word is light for my feet". Covered topics were: 1. Why we need to use scripture? 2. The role of expository teaching, 3. The importance of context for Biblical interpretation. The well prepared seminar is now available on MP3 format or as four CD's. We can say – well done.

The next highlight was a series of four lectures by Dr. William Edgar. What a treat! Bill Edgar, an internationally known jazz pianist and professor at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was in Prague sharing four lectures and a concert as part of The European Leadership Forum Jazz and Lecture Tour – *“Is Rock Dying?, Heaven in a Nightclub, The Spiritual Roots of Jazz, The Problem of Evil, and Beauty In But Not of the World.”* Pavel was his translator at the concert. He thoroughly enjoyed that since he is a big jazz fan.

His musical trio (piano, saxophone and an excellent vocalist) was an unforgettable treat for all of us. While translating this event, we met another translator. To our great delight, we can help him to publish a manual “How to introduce Jesus Christ to Jehovah’s Witnesses.” It will be an insert in our magazine.

Last but not least is the highlight we were all waiting for. Broadcasting testing in Banska Bystrica started January 29th. We are on the air. Praise the Lord. After testing the full license will be granted. Along with that, Slovak listeners asked for the programs of Hebrew texts to be published and already contributed some funds toward this. We have a willing publisher. Now we need to gather all translated texts together and edit them. Right here we have to overcome some difficulties. Please pray that we will get what we need.

Czech Missionaries and Mission Events

As we are sharing with you how few believers live in Czech Republic, it is amazing how many mission activities are provided in hard to reach countries. Two young people from our church joined a ministry to widows in remote part of Armenia. Their presentation was incredible. With Czech passport you can get into areas no other foreigner can. The places they went were stricken years ago by a devastating earthquake. There is no employment, living conditions are very hard, people do not know how to work any more. They haven’t had jobs for years. Next project for this small group is to develop ministries to children. Pavel was so excited about the area, needs and opportunity that he is considering joining the team next time.

Another well known ministry – The Voice of Martyrs – International Christian Association covers persecution happening in numerous countries in Africa from the Czech Republic. The stories are just amazing. In spite of Christian persecution and steady muslimization of Africa, the faith of those martyrs is amazing. Joyful stories of forgiveness and faithfulness in spite of terrible circumstances are amazing. To meet someone who was called to the ministry in very special way was another highlight of mission events reaching out from here.

The complete new Bible translation is now called “The 21st Century Bible.” It was previously called The New Kralicka Bible (originally printed in 1594). It will be released

at Easter time. Since the Christian message and the Bible are not commonly known, the new name will be more acceptable to people who have no clue, and it's the kind of translation they will understand. Many years back, when the Gideons brought New Testaments to a school, the school principal was under the impression that it was some kind of new law.

To conclude this part, the Czech Christians are serving in Ukraine, Russia, Serbia, Indonesia, and are doing great job. We are amazed how much can be done from such small pool of Christians.

Prison Ministry

Our magazine is also mailed to prisons and several prisoners are corresponding with us. Last night we met one of them who was released after serving a 10-year sentence. His letters to us were always spiritually very well written, reacting on magazine content, never asking any help, just praising God in everything. His only wish was to meet us when released. He wrote to us the date and we gave him our phone number. He called about two hours before our regular Bible study so we invited him to join us. His short testimony in the class about years spent in prison was praise that God took him out of the world. Prison was the best school where he was touched by God's mercy and love. There was not a bit of bitterness or confusion from changes visible all around. We have another former prisoner who is doing very well. A local church is blessed by his serving attitude toward the needy.

Book Worth Reading Was Recently Translated Into Czech Language

"Hansi," The Girl Who Left the Swastika, Her life story! Background: Hansi grew up as an orphan in harsh poverty and rejection. When Hitler's troops conquered her homeland, Czechoslovakia, she was selected for a German Nazi-school to be trained as a youth leader. Idealistic but brain washed, she watched her world disappear at the end of WWII, when she was taken to a Communist labor camp in Bohemia. She escaped to West Germany joining thousands of starving refugees who desperately needed food, shelter and a new meaning for life!

While Gabi Laukova worked for us she spent a week with Hansi while she drove her around the country visiting the places of her childhood.

You can find more at her web site: <http://hansiministries.org/bio.htm>
As I looked at her pages, a paragraph in her Prayer letter spoke to me:

Feature film worth exploring!

On February 16, we attended the premier of Fedor Gál's feature film. Please check it out for yourself. It deals with the never-ending question concerning human depravity. What does the beast-like behavior of men trigger? Fedor is a Jew and one of the two children who were born in a concentration camp and had survived! We know the author well. His son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter live in our apartment where we used to have our office a couple years ago. It's a must to open:

<http://www.kratkadlouhacesta.cz/>

Then click "english >" on the right side, click "enter website >" and start browsing around. See pictures, read stories, and watch videos with English subtitles.

Letter from Our Listeners in Slovakia

Dear and precious in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our wonderful Savior, wishing you His mercy and blessings in everything. Your broadcasting of Hebrew programs has been to us, lonely children of God, very special as it is enriching our lives. Our innermost desire is that the broadcasted texts could be published. I am sending a gift of 3,000 Slovak Koruna (about \$130) toward this project and I hope you received them.

Sister Z. Thomkova sent 10,000 Slovak Koruna (about \$430) contribution to the Mission Printing Agency, hoping that this contribution will help to publish this expository explanation of Hebrews.

I realize that our contribution is a small amount, but we would like to help as much as we can from our limited widow pension. For now we are praying that our heart desire will become reality.

I have one more request. Can you repeat questions at the conclusion of broadcasting? We elderly are slow to catch them in writing. Thank you for your understanding.

Last thought in connection with your broadcasting; many years ago I read an interpretation of Hebrews from brother A. Safira. It was great blessing, but I had to return the tapes. I was able to copy about four tapes and they are very precious to me. I am not sure if you know, but br. Safira was preaching in the middle of the past century in Budapest among Jews and there was great revival in the midst of them. Brother Safira himself was of Jewish descent.

Best wishes into the New Year to all of you dear friends and I pray that the Lord will greatly bless your work to glorify His Holy name.

Your sister in Christ, Elena Cierna – Slovakia

Daily events overview

January was a month of closing statements, issuing all kinds of tax and legal documents required by the government. Also our bookkeeping of all kinds of payments like health insurance, retirement, etc. were examined by gvt. control. Our bookkeeper passed with flying colors. February and March will be a month of preparation for Czech and US taxes. We reconnected with several friends or missionaries we did not see for a while as they passed or appeared in Prague. Of course unexpected reunions pop up here and there and we are always happy to see old acquaintances. We drop everything to be together with them. Also our fellowship with different pastors is always a blessing for both sides. The best times are always associated with visiting new and thirsty believers. We are preparing for the April Ladies Conference. It will be in the most vibrant Christian area in the country (next to the Polish border). Pavel will have a day-long session with several church leaders in the area. Please pray that all involved ministry co-workers will be under His protective hand.

We pray the same for each one of you. Thanks for your faithfulness and love.

In His precious name,

*Your HCJB Global Voice missionaries in Czech and Slovak Republic
Our eyes are focused on the Lord and His guidance.*

*With love and appreciation,
Klara and Pavel Steiger*

Your HCJB Global Voice missionaries in Czech and Slovak Republic

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