

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:

*Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever,  
for wisdom and power belong to Him.  
"It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and  
establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and  
knowledge to men of understanding.  
"It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in  
the darkness, and the light dwells with Him.  
(Daniel 2:20-22)*

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

Greetings from a busy place and busy people. It looked as if spring would never come. After four months of no sunshine the sun came out with near-summer temperatures to wake up new life in the first weekend in April.

We have just returned from our favored place in Czech Silesia. It is a region whose much larger part is in Poland and a small part in Czech Republic. Klara spoke there to about 300 ladies at their annual conference. Pavel held a very intense 7-hour talk with 15 theology pundits. We are always amazed when we find a strong Christian community in this country. We have been returning to this Silesia area for the past 15 years. What a joy to see the young generation stepping into different active ministries. During and after the conference many long discussions continued at the hosting family circles. On Sunday Pavel preached in a historical gothic church, with two tall steeples built during the Austro-Hungarian Empire rule. This area remains at least trilingual – Polish, Czech and Slovak. The older generation speaks German well since it used to be part of The Third Reich during WWII. The first Protestant churches were built some 230 years ago after the 1782 Edict of Tolerance of Emperor Joseph II.

*The Edict of Tolerance was a religious reform of Joseph II, during the time he was emperor of the Habsburg Monarchy. His religious reform known as the Edict of Tolerance was composed of two separate laws one was enacted in 1781 and the second in 1782. Both of the edicts were aimed at different groups, but the main goal for both of them was to bring about religious unity. When Joseph II enacted both edicts, he was also inspired by economic motives. The slow emigration of the Protestant population out of Austria would have eventually lead up to an economic slump; this is the second purpose for enacting religious tolerance (Reed more at wikipedia.com).*

## March Highlights

The hundredth issue of our journal Battle for the Soul was prepared by our new team. The young editors are moving full speed ahead. We are excited about their new design of our web page that is friendlier to users, especially with search tools and downloads.

## Public Bible reading

The complete new Bible translation is officially called "Bible for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." It was previously called The New "Kralicka Bible" (originally printed in 1594). Since the Bible is not commonly known, the new name will be more appealing to people who have no clue what it is. Some years back, when the Gideons brought New Testaments to a school, the school principal was under the impression that they came to introduce some kind of new legal document since the Czech Bible is divided into the Old Law (of Moses) and New Law (of Christ). The new translation is done the way that anybody should understand the language. What is most exciting is that the public media is paying attention; numerous Easter programs are scheduled on public media and Czech TV adds point toward the new translation. A public Bible reading in Bethlehem Chapel is scheduled over Easter, coinciding with the release of the new Bible translation.

## More than reunion

We marvel each time something like this happens. In 1979, while we lived in LA, we helped a Czech family during their first days in the USA as newly arriving refugees. At that time we all were non-believers. The family moved from LA and when we met next time in Spokane, Wash., Ivana had a good laugh when she found out that we became believers. However, almost immediately after us, she invited Jesus in her heart. Next time we saw each other, about sixteen years later, it was a great joy to be likeminded. Since that time we had little contact. What a surprise it was when Ivana walked up to us (greeters) in our church in Prague. The couple recently returned to the Czech Republic. They live within walking distance of our church and on the same side of town as we do. There is "more than just a reunion." Ivana is willing to help us with translations from English to Czech language as soon as she can get her Apple loaded with the needed Czech tools. It is amazing to realize that our Lord worked for thirty years in order to put us together to serve Him.

## New Challenges

On April 9, we had a meeting with Christians from the U.S. interested in Radio planting in Czech Republic. We had an extensive talk about regions, possibilities, and the spiritual situation in the country. We will contact people we know in the region. There are some further locations in Slovakia worth pursuing. Please pray for His leading, timing and guidance to succeed. As we got home from our meeting we read in the

newspaper the student's essays we have translated below. The need is great. We Christians owe the presentation of the Good News to nonbelievers.

### **Czechs and Religion**

**University of New York in Prague writing contest for High school students:**

#### **Few believers is no disadvantage**

*Religion was invented by people who could not explain phenomena. I see there is no role for religion in the world as time passes by. Lightning is no longer seen as God's wrath, but an excess of electrical power in the atmosphere; a flood is not the result of human sins, but melting snow or continual rains. I am not saying that religion is the result of man's foolishness, it is just a lack of general knowledge. What people did not understand or did not want to understand in the past, was caused by God's hand. What they did not want to face and be responsible for was called God's will. In God's name the worst atrocities were done. I am not sure why religion in Czech lands has basically disappeared. Perhaps it was WWII when people lost their ideals; perhaps it was the communist regime, which was not in favor of religions. One thing is for sure, in our country there are just a few believers. I do not think that this is to our disadvantage. Personally, I do not know a single Christian. I only know some fanatics who discuss the topic on the internet. Their world view is totally different than mine. Just like in the past, they "preach water and drink wine." They talk about love toward your neighbor and tolerance, but woe to us if we do not agree. Immediately we deserve God's wrath, curse and everlasting damnation. Instead of trying to understand others, they immediately judge, because their truth is the only one and nothing else counts. This internet world is very different than the real world. Christians should look at what the real world is all about. President Bush justified war in Iraq by stating that God told him to invade. Islamic extremists lead holy war in the name of their god, and the end result is a bloody mess, which is far away from the ideals of both religions.*

*I am not convinced that religion is always bad. I believe that people are happy and fulfilled if they can believe in something higher, supernatural, in goodness which will come, even though right now it is hard to find. According my understanding, the blame lies with the religions because they have influence over believers and they are abusing their power. As I see it, the religions are useless institutions. Maybe I do not understand the Church's purpose, but I do believe that we can live without religious influence. The world would immediately have fewer problems and conflicts.*

*Katerina Martinkova*

#### **Godless? Maybe. Unbeliever? No way.**

*When someone asks me if I am a believer, my answer is yes. When I am questioned further about what I believe, I do not reveal my beliefs right away. I will not say I believe in Jesus Christ or in Allah. Most of the time my answer is that I believe in myself or that I believe that one day I will achieve something big and meaningful. I am not an unbeliever. I only do not believe in God; I believe in the strength of an individual. I*

*believe that I am unique; I will achieve something important. I believe the world belongs to me, at least as long as I am young. ... I do not believe in God, but it does not make me an unbeliever.*

*Cenek Sklenar*

### **Word from new president of HCJB Global**

Each time we receive mailing from Wayne Pederson, our new HCJB Global President, we are challenged. Here is an example of his message:

*Are we called to evangelism or discipleship? Jesus' most frequent call was, "Follow me." To me that involves the conscious decision to follow Jesus in all respects, including repenting of sin, receiving God's forgiveness through Christ Jesus, forsaking sin and pursuing righteousness, and coming under the total management of the Holy Spirit in our lives. After the life-and-death importance of conversion, the intentional decision to follow Jesus in full surrender is life-changing. The learning and growth process is vital to spiritual health and productivity.*

We are looking forward to meeting our new president in June during the HCJB Euroasia conference in Germany.

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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<p><b>You may mail your U.S.</b> Tax-deductible contributions to: HCJB GLOBAL P.O. BOX 39800 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80949-9800 U.S.A.</p> <p><b>You may mail your Canadian</b> Tax-deductible contributions to: HCJB GLOBAL 3 - 44 SALTSMAN DRIVE CAMBRIDGE, ON N3H-4R7 CANADA</p> <p><u>Attach to your check</u> <u>the following note:</u> <b>FOR THE CZECH PROJECTS MINISTRY</b> <b>ACC # 577850</b></p>
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