

THE STEIGER'S
E-PRAYER & PRAISE REPORT
October 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:

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ... (Hebrews 1:1-3)

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

HISTORY OF REVIVAL

Part of our Wednesday Bible study program is focused on church history and revival in the local protestant movement. The history is very rich and the places we mentioned previously in our reports are authentic. They witnessed really great revival events. We visited some of the places with our church during a long weekend in September.

History of the Moravian Church

The movement that became the Moravian Church was started by Jan Hus (English: *John Huss*) in the late 14th century. Hus objected to some of the practices of the Roman Catholic Church and wanted to return the church in Bohemia and Moravia to the initial practices in these territories when it had been Eastern Orthodox: liturgy in the language of the people (i.e. Czech), having lay people receive communion of both kinds (bread *and* wine), married priests, and eliminating indulgences and the idea of Purgatory. In rejecting indulgences, Jan Hus can be said to have adopted a doctrine of justification by grace through faith alone; in doing so, the Moravians became the first Protestant church. The movement gained royal support and certain independence for a while, but was eventually forced to be subject to the authority of Rome. Hus was tried by the Council of Constance and burned at the stake (1415).

Within fifty years of Hus's death, a contingent of his followers had become independently organized as the "Bohemian Brethren" (*Čeští bratři*) or Unity of the Brethren (*Jednota bratrská*). These were the earliest Protestants, rebelling against Rome more than a hundred years before Martin Luther. After 1620, due to the Counter Reformation and the Thirty-Years War (1618-1648), and after being abandoned and betrayed by the local nobility, who had previously tolerated or supported them, the Brethren were forced to operate underground and eventually dispersed across Northern Europe as far as the Low Countries, where Bishop John Amos Comenius attempted to direct a resurgence.

The church body in present form was established after World War I, but its history traces back to the 16th century. Lutheranism started to spread over (Těšín) Teschen Silesia during Luther's life. Since 1610 it was subject to counter-reformation. In 1709 a church in Teschen was allowed to become Lutheran by Emperor Joseph I and this church became a significant center of pietism and it played important role in the establishment of Moravian Church. The Revivalist movement was strongly present in Teschen Silesia in the beginning of the 20th century too, culminating in 1905.

In 1722, a small group of Bohemian Brethren who had been living as an underground remnant in Moravia (the so-called "Hidden Seed") for nearly 100 years arrived at the Berthelsdorf estate of Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, a nobleman who had been brought up in the traditions of Pietism. Out of a personal commitment to helping the poor and needy, he agreed to a request from their leader (Christian David, an itinerant carpenter) that they be allowed to settle on his lands in Upper Lusatia, which is in present-day Saxony in the east of modern-day Germany.

The refugees established a new village called Herrnhut, about 2 miles (3 km) from Berthelsdorf. The town initially grew steadily, but major religious disagreements emerged and by 1727 the community was divided into warring factions. Count Zinzendorf worked to bring about unity in the town and the *Brotherly Agreement* was adopted by the community on 12 May 1727. This is considered the beginning of the renewal. ...Herrnhut grew rapidly following this transforming revival and became the centre of a major movement for Christian renewal and mission during the 18th century.

The Moravian missionaries were the first large scale Protestant missionary movement. The first missionaries were sent out when there were only 300 inhabitants in Herrnhut. Within 30 years of their beginning, the church sent hundreds of Christian missionaries to many parts of the world, including the Caribbean, North and South America (see Christian Munsee), the Arctic, Africa, and the Far East. They were also the first to send lay people (rather than clergy) as missionaries, the first Protestant denomination to minister to slaves, and the first Protestant presence in many countries.

PRESENT CONDITION OF HISTORICAL CHURCHES IN MORAVIA

During our trip we visited a 300-year old church in Teschen (Poland). Believers carried building stones on their backs from far away, since the local decree did not allow them to use building material from the area:



We visited several churches and places we know from our past ministries in the area. Most amazing was a tour of newly built church and conference center in the small town of Hradek. The church building has about 150 members and with Lord's blessings they were able to build an activity center valued at about \$1.5 million. Their story about governmental contribution during a time where budget cuts are everywhere is nothing short of miracle:



Another sad “highlight” was a side trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Nazi Death Camp. If you Google this topic, you can take a virtual tour. Just take a look at the ruins of a gas chamber in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Mind stops here:



The last part of our tour took us to the mountain top of Beskydy and we enjoyed the conclusion of a most beautiful fall weekend.

TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF PRAGUE:
<http://www.stovezata.praha.eu/list.html>

BROADCASTING STRATEGY PLANS

There are always ups and downs. Since the Czech temporary government is concerned with so many crises like – economy, budget deficit, future election, and above all the Czech presidential rebellion against Euro-union ratification of the Lisbon treaty, there is no reason to pursue an actual broadcasting license at this unsettled time. It looks as if we might be better off to wait for a new digital technology licensing law. However, our potential ministry partner from the U.S. is coming in November so, we will have to work out details. On October 24th we will meet with Czech Trans World Radio and our fantastic Slovak man who knew how to obtain a broadcasting license under very uneasy conditions. This is going to be a brain storming session.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

- We praise the Lord for the excellent work of the new editorial team. The journal "Battle for the Soul" is done so well that we could not do it better. More and more webpage tools for searching the archives of our articles and programs are constantly added.
- For the first time Klara experienced "the reader's joy." When one reads and works with text as an editor, in the final phases it becomes quite cumbersome, tiresome and a mixed up task. However, when someone else does the workload and Klara has the privilege to read and edit the final product, it becomes a new and exciting joy.
- Please continue praying for our contacts we already have and know among radio communication experts and key partners.

Thanks for your faithfulness, understanding 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

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