



**THE STEIGER'S  
E-PRAYER & PRAISE REPORT  
August 2011**

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:

**Every one that cometh unto me, and heareth my words, and doeth them, I  
will show you to whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who  
digged and went deep, and laid a foundation upon the rock: and when a flood  
arose, the stream brake against that house, and could not shake it: because it  
had been well builded. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that  
built a house upon the earth without a foundation; against which the stream  
brake, and straightway it fell in; and the ruin of that house was great.  
(Lukáš 6:47-49)**

**Dear Friends and Partners of the HCJB Global Ministry  
to the Peoples in Czech and Slovak Republic**

**SUMMER TIME WAS HERE**

Summer vacation time is a big event in Europe. As soon as school is out many families from the north migrate toward the south to enjoy warm sea waters creating an incredible traffic jam. Since most of the homes have no air-conditioning, city people who can leave town spend most of their time in the country. In summer time we usually stay nearby and attend different summer camps and host short time visitors.

The first one we want to mention is Georgina and her husband from Austin, TX. Georgina was born to Czech parents in Ecuador. When she was 15 years old her wish was to start Czech and Slovak short wave broadcasting from Quito. This became reality in 1975. For the next 25 years she and her mother Lili put their hearts into broadcasting ministry. We came aboard in 1990. In 2000 short wave broadcasting ended. However, our ministry continues. We were hoping to see Georgina in Colorado Springs, but unfortunately she and her mother could not come. What a joy it was for us to have Georgina and her husband stay with us for a couple of days.

Later on we enjoyed a short reunion with our friends from Indonesia. The other Indo-connection couple lives here now. She is a Czech, he is from Holland. Together they created a small paradise called Bohemian Rhapsody.

At the English camp in the western part of Bohemia we were reunited with a group of friends from Spokane, WA, with whom we spent a few days during our home ministry trip in June. We visited many castles and realized how the post war and communist eras marked the lives of many. To see three kinds of ownership was worth a thousand words. After WWII, Germans had to leave the Sudeten Land (Czech territory). Their properties and farm land were confiscated. Nobility became "class enemy" and their castles were nationalized, some of them preserved to be used as tourist attractions. Those less valuable were used for working class's recreation. The third targeted group of confiscation was related to the Church and Christians. Most church land and a number of properties are state owned till now, 21 years after the fall of communism. The government is not able or willing to return properties to the former and legal owners. Without proper ownership numerous architectural treasures are in a hopeless state of disrepair and ruins. Anything that reminded of past beauty, luxury and life style of landlords was looted, stolen or destroyed during the past 60 years. During the socialist era the castle buildings and churches were used as army barracks or mental institutions in the better cases and at worst cases as pig farms, fertilizer storages and maintenance stations of collective farm machinery. This is heart breaking testimony about the ugly face of socialist era.

After the fall of socialism some properties were returned to the rightful owners or their heirs in restitution; most of best castles continue to be operated by the state as museums. We admire some of the original owner families who had the courage to resurrect those ruins back to life. What a difference between the private ownership and the working class's collective and state ownership.

We stayed in one of the castles in a remote place which in the past was turned into a dormitory type object that up until now has been owned by a University which has no money to maintain property like this.

After a few days in Bavaria we changed our location to the eastern part of the Moravian uplands. This was our 4<sup>th</sup> stay with the "youth of our age" church group of Brno, Opava and Prague. Pavel was leading the evening Bible study program. During the day we visited more historical landmarks outside of historical German influence. The countryside was absolutely lovely and beautiful. No wonder that this area is overflowing with painters and galleries. We were amazed how the area is becoming alive, many old houses are restored to former charm and many new houses are being built. This almost looks as if people are getting ready to be self-sufficient in hard times to come.

Most of July and August were cold and rainy with lots of storms. The fields were soaked and harvest was delayed. Mushroom hunting is a national passion and even we found some. We will remember summer days especially when we use our dried mushrooms in Klara's cooking.

## **A Secular Outlook of the World According to a Czech Magazine**

How will the world look 40 years or one generation from now? That is a question; most of us will not be here to see it. We have to say that the absolute majority of the people here are not expecting the second coming of Jesus at all. Their extrapolation of the future is not based on a Christian view of the Bible but on geopolitical constellations and the most important developments in the past. The following is not our opinion, however, it shows the dead end the world is in.

*In 1890 the world had moderate rulers, right-mindedness and decency was followed by two World Wars. 1890-1930 – growth of mass political movements and totalitarian regimes; 1930-70 – Nazism was defeated (massive loss of lives), communism on the rise, age of technology; 1970-2010 fall of communism and growth of religious political phenomena. Growing anti-capitalist sentiment was most of the time only a cover up for national socialism or patriotic communism.*

*The most common question of our days is: Twenty years after the fall of communism came financial and economic crisis and the possible fall of capitalism. What social system comes next?*

*Europe was transformed into a secular, economically socialist and morally liberal life style which is not self-sustaining. Necessary changes may lead to a new type of redistribution through taxation and reduction of the generous social system. This creates social unrest especially in the West.*

*America: can lead to dissolution or break-up of the USA. The North-east may lean toward secular Western Europe. The South and West will remain more conservative, religious and economically stronger.*

*Russia: unfortunate country. One joke describes best what this means: If you have an unhappy son, send him to Russia. "Anyone who gets out of Russia becomes a happy man." In spite of lots of natural resources, the country does not produce anything. All the wealth will continue to be smuggled out of the country and rich Russians will live abroad in Switzerland, London, French Riviera, etc. Hopelessness for those who stay behind will not change.*

*Asia will play a significant economic role. India may become natural geopolitical ally of US (same language, democracy, nuclear arms), against China and radical Islam.*

*"Optimistic outlook for us": Since Czech people are quite skeptical about playing a major role in anything – taking into consideration all the pros and cons of global geopolitical prognosis, this country should remain a serene and pleasant place to live (Bohemian Rhapsody for example).*

*"Realistic outlook for Europe": Demographic changes, multi-cultural unrest, loss of traditional (Christian) values, chaos, loss of orientation and lack of leadership. Most people (regardless where they are coming from) are convinced that they have an automatic right to live comfortably. No one is sure who is making all the decisions: is it Brussels, Washington or someplace or someone else? The most frequently used term of our days is crisis. Those who manufacture arms are quietly busily*

*trading and building the armament of the least stable countries. The possibility of social unrest starting a war is adding fire to smoldering problems. The whole atmosphere is reminiscent of the tension of the Old World in 1914.*

As you can see there is much to pray about and do for people who do not seek God. To conclude, only our Lord knows and controls what is ahead.

**And he changeth the times and the seasons; he removeth kings, and setteth up kings; he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that have understanding; (Daniel 2:21)**

*Your HCJB Global Voice missionaries in Czech and Slovak Republic  
Klara and Pavel Steiger*

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