



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

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is begotten of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. Herein was the love of God manifested in us, that God hath sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man hath beheld God at any time: if we love one another, God abideth in us, and his love is perfected in us: hereby we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father hath sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. (1 John 4:7-14)

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

WONDERFUL FALL

The month of October was as busy as usual. This time it was full of really special events. As we drove to Germany to attend the "European Bible Training Center" (EBTC) Conference, we enjoyed beautiful fall display of colors. On the way we stopped in the East German city of Leipzig, which was not totally leveled during World War II. Now, after the unification of Germany, the city looks quite well with one exception – a big portion of the population moved to West Germany. It is a strange feeling to be in the heart of this large city without the usual hustle and bustle.

On the way back, we stopped to see the wife of our longtime friend (who has died just recently) in Hanover. Since it was Sunday, it was again unusually quiet. German shopping centers and stores close Saturday afternoon and open Monday morning. People stay more at home, visit families or enjoy the outdoors. After this visit we continued home. We stopped at a rest place, had a snack, and a few minutes after we got back on the freeway there was a "stau" – traffic slowed down and after while all traffic in both directions stopped. Fortunately, we were able to inch for about an hour till we reached an exit and took alternative road as police directed us. The remainder was an uneventful drive home.

WHAT A CONFERENCE, what an experience:

We drove about 450 miles to Lade, Germany to attend John MacArthur's "Slave conference." We were wondering about conference location – to us it was far out in an unknown place. We were looking forward to staying for the first time with a German Christian family since we signed up for family housing. When we arrived we found out that our hosts did not speak English and we do not speak German. Our common language was Russian and what a great time we had together! It was interesting to know that they were living in the former Soviet Union as German settlers. These Germans moved to Russia in the 18th century. Ekaterina (Russia's Empress from 1729-1796) invited them to cultivate land. Stalin forced all these Germans out of Russia and relocated them to the Soviet Central Asian Republics. Thus, our hosts were born in Tajikistan and later moved to Kyrgyzstan because Tajikistan was too Muslim a territory with few churches and believers. There were some Christian congregations in Kyrgyzstan. At home they spoke German, in order not to forget language of their forefathers; and the Russians living nearby called them Nazis. Now in Germany two generations continue to speak Russian in order not to forget that language; and Germans call them Russians. Their grandkids and great grandkids now speak only German and some English as a second language in the school.

The conference location was chosen because of strong Baptist influence. Lade is the place where hundreds of Russian Germans (R/G) settled after 1986 after they were allowed to leave the former Soviet Union and be repatriated 200 years later. The church was built by new settlers almost immediately. As the community grew more, large Baptist churches in the area were established. What a difference it is to see so many Christians living in one area. Klara enjoyed the ethnic food stores.

The conference itself was attended by over 700 people from 10 different countries, but mostly by R/G. Lectures were translated from English into German or from German into English. Both languages were translated into Russian and Czech. We had a small group of people out of Czech Republic and one of them was among graduates with a master's degree from EBTC's study program to equip faithful men for the work of the ministry. This seminary is associated with Master's College where John MacArthur is the

president. Since we do not speak German, Klara was taking translation notes of German conference speakers. With one ear she listened to English and in the other ear to Czech translation. Now she wonders what language we will use in heaven – perhaps our inner understanding will process all different languages at once, or we will have one language, or there will be all new way of communication, who knows? However, this multilingual effort went totally in vain, since the next morning Klara's notes were all gone. We have no clue what happened, since she saved the text all the time. The good news is that we met two R/G friends, Viktor and Peter, who we know through HCJB conferences from Russian and German broadcasting. One of them provided Klara with a conference recording. However, at home we found out that the recording is not too clear. And guess what? To get a better conference recording, Klara started to write to both R/G friends in Russian language with Latin letters (not Russian Cyrillic) and it works, since both, Russian and Czech are written phonetically. Now we hope to get a better recording soon. Hopefully she will be able to rewrite and retranslate the lectures into Czech language.

Now from a German German's (G/G's) perspective, R/G's are seen as ethnic Russians no matter how well integrated they are. Most of R/G families are strong believers. That itself is unusual in Germany. In Germany there are state churches. Most people pay church tax as Catholics or Protestants; and state pays priests. A lot of Germans today are just formal, cultural or nominal believers. R/G's are hardworking and functional community. Their social life is integrated into the church; they marry mostly among themselves. When a believer marries an unbeliever, he is expelled from the church.

After a couple of decades of their presence in Germany some G/G's wonder how come the R/G's "have and they have not". R/G's built their houses with lot of self-help from community, spent their vacations with their large families in Hungary (where it used to be much cheaper). Meanwhile, G/G's were traveling to exotic destinations, which are of course much more costly, buying luxurious cars, and living in rent controlled apartments. After 25 years of different lifestyles and the resulting domestic and family economy, there is a visible difference.

In Germany it is very unusual to see big families of three generations raising their children and grandchildren. Most R/G's get married and they procreate. Nowadays, the same segment of G/G's live as singles or alone. Instead of raising children and grandchildren they are walking their dogs. It was so obvious to see how Godly principles are superior to manmade life styles. Hardworking strong families of believers are an asset to any country. The greatest honor for us was when three out of four married children of our host family came with their offspring for dinner. It was the utmost in humor to see the disbelief of a little child's face as they watched someone who did not speak their language.

To conclude, we were amazed that most of the books written by John MacArthur were translated into the German language. They are circulated mostly in R/G's communities. As you can see, we were praising the Lord all the way around. Now something to pray about:

PRAYER REQUEST

We would like to see John MacArthur's book "SLAVE: The hidden Truth about Your Identity in Christ" in the Czech language. We have a translator in mind – a young lady which worked for us as translator about 14 years ago. She got married and lived in Morocco, and recently popped on Klara's Skype screen. The two of them got together and what a surprise! Marcela, now mother of two small children is back in Czech Republic. Klara does not want to push, but we pray that the two of them can put a translation together. Since our ministry is now linked together with book publishing ministry there are just a few ties to put together. For our part of the world, the book is absolutely essential. Since most people reject any rules and regulations, we have numerous professing Christians who live as they please.

Thank you for reading, listening, praying and helping to carry this task with us.

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

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