



DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS,

Let's hurry up! If we do not finish our Prayer letter right now we will miss the month of July. Where did it go? Since we had so many scheduled activities and events we had to cut some of them shorter to be able to attend them all. They were numerous and very interesting. Our first outing was with a group of Bible loving Christians from Brno. We spent four nights in "Czech Paradise," a lovely area of Northern Bohemia.

From there we relocated to the Krkonoše Mountains to join an English Camp organized by our pastoral and publishing ministries. Church teams from Spokane and Southern California have been coming for about the past ten years to help with the camp. The California team consists mostly of young Americans of Korean and Chinese descent. Some of their testimonies were amazing and touching.

After the English Camp we spent a couple of days at home to finish the unfinished business. Then we went on with our Church to Klara's territory, to the area where she was born and grew up. This is the so called Sudetenland, the border area of Czech Republic that was inhabited by ethnic Germans and annexed by Hitler during the WWII. After the Germans lost the war, over three million of them were expelled from the Sudetenland that they had inhabited for 700 years. For decades this was part of Iron curtain and sad place to live. Many traumatic memories were experienced on both sides. Now, almost 70 years later, there are signs of reconciliation and normal life is returning again. It is becoming lovely tourist area where Czechs and Germans are meeting without any animosity. We visited a number of glass factories where individual artisans are creating most beautiful pieces. You can sit in the restaurant and watch the kilns burning and hot, pliable glass being worked as if it were soft wax. Art Glass Museums are wonderful, from the old glass work to the modern creations. Discovering, or rather rediscovering, the old masterpieces and modern creations are breathtaking. There is much to see and do. This time, spent with our church and our new pastor, bonded us all.

STEPPING OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE

After we finished our Bohemia summer camp tour we moved from the most northern to the most southern area of former Czechoslovakia. As the Czechs endured their turbulent times with the Germans, the Slovaks were in a similar situation with their Hungarian neighbors. We drove southeast of Bratislava, the capitol of Slovakia, to visit an interesting couple, their children and partners. Living in the EU now feels like the time right after the Tower of Babel. We were communicating around one table

in Czech, Slovak, German and English. Each of us was involved using a language we could translate to those who did not speak the other language. No Hungarians were with us. A number of Slovak speaking friends were invited to listen to the lecture about the situation in Syria presented in Slovak by two Syrian men living in Slovakia for a number of years. Their command of Slovak language was very good. Both of them formerly belonged to the Syrian Orthodox Church. This was a most informative, interesting and tricky insight into a different world. They explained how a person becomes Christian in Syria. If someone is born to a Christian family, they automatically become a Christian. How do you recognize who is who? Christians do not use Arabic names. In Syria, as in several other countries, all legal documents or identification must include one's religious affiliation. Usually it is Muslim, Christian or Orthodox. No one can remain or be labeled an atheist. To hold the classification "Christian" does not mean in this case that one is a believer. The "Christian" umbrella can include doubting persons, nonbelievers in any god, humanists or even communists. Their name makes them "Christians." This explains how it can happen that a Syrian "Christian" can present you the Koran. The host family was given one in Slovak. We were presented a text book of Arabic phrases. According to the Koran, a person is born sinless. As these Syrian "Christians" said, Islam and Christianity are equal and we all have the same god regardless if we are "paper Christians", atheists, or communists. However, they have common enemies: the state of Israel, and the United States, which one of them called a "plague." They believe that world powers and capitalism have to be destroyed. We do not want to be political commentators, but we were asked to share this authentic uncensored message with our friends so that you can see how the US and European media distort the news coming from the Middle East. We asked about the possibility of a peaceful solution to the problem in Syria and the Middle East and were told that there is no solution; the state of Israel is the problem. It looked to us as if deep down under their skin, no matter where the refugees live, no matter how much education, how many benefits and freedoms they can experience, or how many generations were born in the hosting country, these people still remain loyal to their old ways of thinking. As we were surrounded by unbelievers, it was interesting to observe how easy it is to stir irrational emotions of hate. Hate unites people faster than the message of love and forgiveness.

LETTERS

Dear Pavel, allow me to share a few lines with you. The Lord called me to faith in 1990. Since the beginning I have tried to know Him from all angles—who He is. For a long time I have tried to grasp teaching about predestination. First, I ignored this issue. Next I was trying biblically to get around it because it scared me. Are we just puppets in the hands of a heartless God? Why did Christ die? And how you can harmonize predestination with God's love? Articles in the magazine "Battle for the Soul" did not help me, they rather irritated me. It all sounded theologically without compassion. This year, the Lord showed his mercy to me through a book by J.M. Bianchi: "God Chose to Save" and after that I downloaded your teaching on Trans World Radio about God's provision, providence, and creation. This was like drink of living water to me. Finally, thanks to His grace, I could accept that truth by heart and embrace it by faith. I feel like God lifted a huge burden from my shoulders which I was dragging in my Christian walk for many years. I am full of joy as I am uncovering deep and precious truth in the Scripture. I want to thank you. God used you. In eternal God's mercy your brother Jaromír Jandl.

Dear Iva, (Iva is our administrator and she corresponds with the readers and listeners.)

Thank you for the welcome packet of books from the “Battle for the Soul” Ministry. I listened to the series of radio programs of Pavel Steiger and—thanks to God and His patient love—now grasped the teaching about His sovereign will in our lives. ... It brought into my life more awe and joy, more peace and desire to know Him better and serve Him more. Actually my desire to preach the gospel was awakened again. My wife can see the change as I tried to share this with her, but at this point she is scarred. I do not push her but pray that Lord will touch her heart and she will experience and enjoy new depth of His mercy. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the winter conference.

PRAYER NEEDS

Praise The Lord for all summer activities that on the other hand disrupt our regular work. We have had numerous contacts with nonbelievers. Their hearts are being prepared for more interaction. During the last week of July we have a few more summer ministries and activities.

The following is an excerpt of a prayer request from the partnering ministry, “The Czech Bible Institute”:

Join Us in the Battle

We are facing resistance on every side with the institute. People are being encouraged to not study the Word at our institute, to not continue, and to beware of us...the fundamentalists. Even the Baptist Union, which our church is a member of, is at work against the institute. Please pray with us that the Lord would send two full classes of students for this coming school year. We are praying for a full class in the Bible Foundations Program and for a full class in the Pastoral Training Program. Please pray for God to call men to the ministry to preach His Word and shepherd His people in this atheistic nation. Pray that God would lay a deep burden upon pastors, elders, and men's hearts that would move them to sacrifice, and to study the Word of God, to study preaching, and to strive to be the best shepherds and preachers they can be for the glory of God!

We live in days of deception, compromises, lukewarm-ness and loss of judgment.

***Thank you for standing with us, for your
love, prayers, support and concerns.***

***Reach Beyond missionaries
(formerly HCJB Global)
in Czech and Slovak Republic***

Klara and Pavel Steiger

You may mail your U.S.

Tax-deductible contributions

to:

REACH BEYOND
P.O. BOX 39800
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80949-9800
U.S.A.

You may mail your Canadian

Tax-deductible contributions to:

REACH BEYOND
3 - 44 SALTSMAN DRIVE
CAMBRIDGE, ON N3H-4R7
CANADA

**Attach the following note
to your check:**

MINISTRY OF PAVEL AND KLARA STEIGER
ACCT# 100-110329