

DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS

The content of our refrigerator is back to normal and we are happy to be again at our computer screens. Pavel happily said "I see light at the end of the tunnel". He got two nice book annotations, one of them: The book by Steiger should be compulsory reading.

Our holiday time was filled with joy and laughter we had not experienced for a long time. Our daughter-in-law's brother Jonáš (Jonah), his fiancé Ani, her brother and parents all from Spokane, and Jonas' mother Mirka all celebrated Christmas Eve in our home with us. Jonáš and Ani are another Czech-American-to-be-married couple—an outcome of English camp here in Czech Republic. If you have never wrapped gifts with newspaper, try it. You will be amazed what can come up. Klara's three ducks were wrapped in an article about the Pope; another package had a head-line that China will bail out the Russian ruble. Since we had close to a hundred packages under the tree, it took a while to unpack and oooh and aaah. The wedding is planned for August 21, 2015 in Spokane. Since our American odyssey started in Northern Idaho we are looking forward to visiting our old territory with our sons and grandkids. Believe it or not we were able to buy roundtrip air tickets Bratislava to Seattle for \$490 each. However, travel time Seattle-bound will be 24 hours (long waiting in Philadelphia), and back about 30 hours (long waiting in Brussels). No complaints.

Holiday days were filled with music. The Bizet Gala Concert was outstanding and the Christmas at Swing with an excellent big band was also wonderful. We are already prepared for the next year event called Sinatralogy. The New Year celebration and colorful display of fireworks above Prague was beautiful. We kept in touch with our kids and grandkids through Skype. We rejoiced all your family pictures and greetings you showered us with.

Looking back and then into the future of what 2015 may bring to all of us, we can't overlook the rise of the New World (dis)Order. The serious situation east of us makes most of Europe very concerned. Russia is on edge in dealing with Ukraine and the European Union, and has faced economic hardships caused by sanctions and low oil prices.

During holiday events we rejoiced in meetings with our dear friends from near and as far as Canada and Australia. As usual, Prague was full of tourists and about 30,000 Catholic youth (Taizé) from all over the world came to Prague to pray for peace. We remember our youth days when young communists from communist countries of all continents gathered during World festivals of Youth in Prague, Budapest, East Berlin, Bucharest, Warsaw, Moscow, Havana and later on in Pyongyang – North Korea. After fall of the Iron Curtain international gatherings continued in Caracas – Venezuela, Algeria, Pretoria – South Africa and the last one in Quito – Ecuador to demonstrate their international desire for peace, democracy, friendship, antiimperialist solidarity and social transformation.

This is another disturbing event as most ecumenically oriented evangelicals are participating under the Roman Catholic leadership. After five hundred years since the Reformation, Catholics and many Protestants are as close as never before.

On top of it, the Islamist State makes everyone nervous. It is most interesting that they are recruiting young people from secular circles; 90 % of them come from atheistic families, only 4 % come from Christian or Islamic families. Secularized Europe raised its own enemies. It is easier to recruit young persons who have no religious upbringing. The next interesting fact is that 90% of potential terrorists were recruited through the internet. Only small numbers were recruited directly in Islamic centers and mosques. Those young Europeans who are convinced the mainstream media is lying to them are called disseminators. Most of them are interested in conspiratorial theories and their own interpretation of the world events.

Our attention is focused on our January Conference, Sola Scriptura. Please pray with us for good weather, driving conditions and good health of all speakers, volunteer helpers and those who plan to attend.

Thank you for your earnest prayers, faithful support and love.

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

Reach Beyond missionaries (formerly HCJB Global) in Czech Republic and Slovakia Klara and Pavel Steiger

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