



JANUARY 2016

First of all we want to thank all for Christmas greetings, letters and most of all family pictures. Since we have known most of you for a long time, we marvel when we see all the blessings and growth from childhood to maturity; and at those who are as mature as us we see no bit of aging.

This year we decided that we would not stay at home all alone during the holidays since our family is scattered around the world. With a couple of friends we left our home behind and met a few new friends along the way. We had a unique time of spiritual sharing, understanding and learning together.

The month of January is always a very hectic time to prepare everything for our upcoming Winter Theological Conference. Each year we prepare and publish a book relating to the conference topic. This year it is "Delighting in the Trinity" by Michal Reeves.

The upcoming conference will be held at a new place and location, since several people objected to the previous building at Bishop Gymnasium. The conference topic is the Work of the Triune God in Salvation.

CHURCH PLANTING PROGRESS

After the holiday season our small groups are resuming normal schedule. The first one is meeting for Bible study every Wednesday evening and the second meets Sunday morning worship. It would be nice if both groups would attend Bible study and Sunday worship together. Jarda (pronounce Yarda) is involved in a number of counselling and shepherding young believers. The group consists of people from very different backgrounds, experiences, needs, hurts, health issues, etc.

As for us, especially for Klara, leaving behind all previous contacts and friendships is not easy. It is like moving into another town.

SLOVAK RADIO MINISTRY

This is a bitter sweet report. The sweet part is that visits at the broadcasting internet pages, readers and listeners contacts are growing year by year. The bitter part is that ministry account was \$2.000 deficit in 2015. Unless something changes, due to personal and financial deficit, Milan is considering closing down the ministry at the end of 2016 after almost 20 years of service.

MIGRATION CRISIS

The migration crisis in the Euro Union is not getting any better. Concern over terrorism, refugees, radical religious and war has risen sharply. The number of people in the Czech Republic who see terrorist groups or individuals as a threat is at an all-time high; 81 % seeing it as a big threat, 16 % as a small threat.

Recent sexual assaults and robberies carried out by groups of Arabic speaking males during New Year celebration shocked Germany. Hundreds of women experienced

assaults and violence. What is more disturbing is the fact that the policemen's attitude towards the violence was nonchalant. They just stood with hands on their hips. On the other hand their action against demonstrators against this kind of violence was less than nonchalant. Deployed police used water cannons and pepper spray to keep the order.

Out of 32 people identified as being involved in sexual abuse incidents, 22 were in the process of seeking asylum in Germany. Other European countries are reporting unusually high levels of sexual harassment.

The Schengen territory of the EU used to guarantee free movement of people, goods and capital from Baltic countries to Portugal. It was as smooth as crossing US states. Now the crossing points are one by one being checked, some fences were built, and green (unfenced) border patrolled. Newly built fences remind us of the Iron Curtain era. However, there is an inverse reason. The Iron Curtain fences kept people inside, these new ones are supposed to keep people outside.

It looks like the peaceful, careless, tranquil and prosperous days of Europe will face some big upheavals. The continent is changing politically, economically, demographically, and racially. The values related to the Christian heritage are slowly but surely disappearing. It is only a matter of time before more unrest and troubles will spark some civilization clashes.

PRAYER NEEDS

Please pray for upcoming Winter Conference in Brno on January 30.

- safe travel for those who will travel from the east and west parts of the country
- good attendance and no deficit from the cost of the conference
- spiritual outreach

Please pray for the wisdom to manage all the ministries in progress without discouraging those who serve faithfully.

Please pray for the "Prague Bible Church".

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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