



AUGUST 2017

THE STEIGER'S ELECTRONIC PRAYER AND PRAISE REPORT

Be sure to fear the LORD and faithfully serve Him. Think of all the wonderful Things He has done for you. (1st Samuel 12:24)

SUMMER CHALLENGES, INTENTIONAL AND OTHERWISE

The second half of the summer vacation is speeding up. Since employees have at least four-week vacation in CZ, anyone who can leave the city leaves it to spend his time in more tranquil places. Most Europeans move south to sea resorts. Freeway congestion is a nightmare for drivers at this time. A number of popular beach destinations are not considered as safe anymore because of recent terrorist attacks (Turkey, Egypt, and Tunisia). That is why many vacationers seek safer localities. Most visited are Greece and Croatia. For Czechs it means that they spend their vacation in the mountains, closer to home while tourist from Asia and Muslim countries are flooding Prague. There are numerous non-stop flights from China, Korea, UAE and India to Prague. With exception of waiters there is no Czech heard in the historical center of Prague these days. On the surface it looks like nice example of a multi-cultural world.

On the other hand, the daily influx of refugees and above all economical unauthorized migrants from unknown Muslim countries of Asia and Africa is causing European political, humanitarian and social crises. About 60% are male adults, 25% are male "minors" who may be even in their upper twenties in order to get special child welfare assistance. All the EU countries are under pressure to accept asylum-seekers by quotas. The Poles, Hungarians, Czech and Slovaks do not want any migrants and no migrant wants to settle in these countries. They prefer countries with generous social system and countries where there are established communities of their relatives or peers. Migrants heading to Western Europe are entitled to higher financial assistance than the average salary in PL, HU, CZ and SK. No wonder they are not interested in being resettled by quotas. Those few who were assigned to CZ almost immediately after their arrival disappeared and ended up in adjacent communities in the West. Professional smugglers are filling the boats with those who can pay for getting them into international waters where EU boats pick them up and take them to Italy.

EURO-UNION DILEMMAS

In light of UK “Brexit” other countries are trying to prevent further EU domination and internal interventions. President Trump visited recently Poland. He was greeted with unbelievable enthusiasm. He delivered a speech before flying to Hamburg for the G20 summit and bilateral meetings with the leaders of China, Russia and Germany. He painted a picture of the West facing existential challenges in the effort to “defend our civilization” from terrorism, bureaucracy and the erosion of traditions. The inferno of anticivilization pressure of activists broke in Hamburg in demonstrations, demolitions and cars burning in the streets.

THE THREE SEAS SUMMIT

An interesting concept of future look of Europe comes from George Freedman:

The Intermarium is just an idea, a vehicle for regional cooperation. The bloc runs from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea, but its logical extension goes southwest to the Adriatic Sea. The so-called **Three Seas model** would add Austria, Slovenia and Croatia to the Intermarium's ranks. The Three Seas summit was taking place in Poland at the same time as a visit by Donald Trump. He has not rejected the idea of the Intermarium. The United States would support it. The rest of Europe would agonize over it. What was once inevitable may soon be here. The extension is also explained by nostalgia for the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a significant multinational success that united small countries and largely gave them a degree of autonomy. Many believe the EU, which proved incapable of managing Europe after the 2008 crisis, encroaches on national self-determination just as much as the empire did. By expanding to Austria, Croatia and Slovenia, the old empire is recreated, if only in a geographic sense. It would comprise the former Soviet satellites of Eastern Europe: the Baltic states, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and possibly Bulgaria. Its purpose would be to contain any potential Russian move to the west. It is not an alliance, at least not right now.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR FRIEND

We met Pavel K. many years ago at Munich where he worked in Radio Free Europe. Pavel was a Jew and only survivor of his extended family. He spent some time in Terezin, Auschwitz and Buchenwald. His family could have escaped Czechoslovakia before the hell of holocaust happened. They were granted the immigration visa to Ecuador. The family hesitated and all of them perished in a concentration camp. Pavel was the only one who survived. At the age of 16 with other Jewish orphans was taken care by deeply religious Christian and pacifist Přemysl Pitter. He cared and educated Jewish children who were recovering from the ravages of the concentration camps. Between 1945 and 1947 he cared for 810 children in government confiscated chateaux. Later on he cared for children of German families expelled after the war from surrounding countries.

We met with Pavel and his wife Ruth many times. Ruth is a Christian and Pavel remained till his last day a humanist. In eulogy, those who knew him could hear words about his kindness and humanism. Pavel wrote numerous books, addressing

deep philosophical thought about meaning of life. Titles of his books “My Life Does Not Belong To Me”, “How Much Hope Has Death” “Life In The Shadow” are testimony of his life experience. Each time Pavel heard the gospel, his face was beaming with inner peace and contentment but never expressed his inner spiritual feelings.

Now at the age of 87 Pavel was buried in Jewish cemetery in Prague. Prague's Jewish community dates from 1091. It is hard to believe that the Old and New Jewish cemetery in Prague founded in 1890 survived German occupation and war. It provides space for about 100 000 graves. Very few Jews were buried in the New cemetery after 1945, while great numbers of Jew are buried at the old one. Most of them were born in 19th century and before.

On the tombs stone where Pavel was buried are written names, but the grave remained unused. None of mentioned relatives were buried there, only the names to remember written in gold letters of those who perished in concentration camps. It is as real as can be. Pavel's body is the first one to be buried in the new grave. His name and the names of forefathers who perished in flames of concentration camps ovens are written on the same tomb stone. Pavel was one of few survivors of concentration camps we had the privilege to know.

The cemeteries are reminders where living and dead wait their resurrection together. Survivors or saved? Is the meaning of life only to perish? How wonderful it would be to say, they are raised with the Lord.

PRAYING, SENDING, PLANTING AND REJOICING

On the other hand we have some news of hope to share. Our neighbor, another Jewish friend read with a great interest Pavel's book. He said that it opened the whole new world to him. Now he is reading it a second time and we pray that what he reads will not be only an intellectual information but life transformation.

Another reader wrote:

“I never thought that such thorough explanation of scripture (so far I am only on page 110) can expose so much about Gods majesty and glory as this.” Thank you, Jarda B.

PRAISES AND PRAYERS

- Unplanned and unexpected short stop of David Uhles from Colorado Springs, our immediate supervisor, was a joyful event. He was on the way to other European undertakings. David flew to Prague to meet with others involved on the way to Herrnhut. The village of Herrnhut, "The Lord's Watch," (in present day Germany) came about because on this day June 17, 1722 a little band of religious fugitives from Moravia (in the modern Czech Republic) asked Count Ludwig von Zinzendorf if they might settle on his land. The Count agreed. One Moravian leader was Christian David, a potter who burned with zeal for the things of the Lord.
- What a nice gesture by Reach Beyond and David to present us in person three longevity awards. First one was for 5 years with the HCJB mission, next for 10 years and last one for 25 years of service now with Reach Beyond. Don't we all like recognition? Yes we do.

- Several supporting churches asked us for a short video clip. It's unbelievable we are fulltime in mission for 27 years and for 25 years in Czech Republic. Watch our small video we made for one of our supporting church.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NM5gLI9Mq7Y>

Thank you for your faithfulness, participation and prayers. We need you more than ever.

In His Sovereign Grace
pavel and klara steiger

GOOD MORNING MESSAGES FROM REACH BEYOND FAMILY

*It's simple. **Do this** and you'll be a success in the eyes of our Father:
Fear the LORD. Faithfully serve. Gratefully reflect!
Our heavenly Father is not impressed with the size of our ministries or the breadth of our accomplishments. This is what he cares about. This is what He blesses:
Fear the LORD. Faithfully serve. Gratefully reflect!*

<p>You may mail your U.S. Tax-deductible contributions to: REACH BEYOND P.O. BOX 39800 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80949-9800 U.S.A.</p> <p>You may mail your Canadian Tax-deductible contributions to: REACH BEYOND 3 - 44 SALTSMAN DRIVE CAMBRIDGE, ON N3H-4R7 CANADA</p> <p><u>Attach the following note</u> <u>to your check:</u> <u>MINISTRY OF PAVEL AND KLARA STEIGER</u> <u>ACCT# 100-110329</u></p>
