



**MARCH 2018**  
**DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF THE REACH BEYOND**  
**MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES IN CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA**

Right after our conference, the country was under flu epidemic. February was the worst time. As we were recovering from fever flu malady hard winter hit. Freezing temperatures, snow in March and strong winds caused damage. Instead of spring signs, it looks like winter has just arrived.

At this time, our son Vit arrived for ten days from Denver to Germany for training. It was a very intensive training; and he was glad to leave Germany and come to Prague to see us. Together we had a great family time. Prague is always full of interesting events and we took advantage of the proximity. We squeezed in a day trip to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Kutná Hora (Kuttenberg) about 60 miles east of Prague.

**KUTNÁ HORA**

The town Kutná Hora began in 1142, by 1260 German miners began to mine silver. From the 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century, the city competed with Prague economically, culturally and politically. It became the favorite residence of several Bohemian kings.

The Cathedral of St Barbara, a jewel of the Late Gothic period and one of the four cathedral-type buildings in Bohemia, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List together with the Cathedral of the Assumption of Our Lady and St John the Baptist and the historical center of Kutná Hora. The splendor of this structure is tangible testament to the fame and riches of the silver Kutná Hora as well as of the deep devotion of its creators. The cathedral is dedicated to Virgin Barbara, an early Christian martyr, invoked as a helper in need, an intercessor for a good death, and a patron of all who carry on a dangerous occupation, especially miners. And it was in fact miners who contributed the most to the medieval town's blossoming as well as to the construction of the cathedral, which they dedicated to their holy protectress.

Construction of St. Barbara's Cathedral started in 1388 and in 1588 for lack of finances ceased. Following Hussite invasion in the 15<sup>th</sup> century the cathedral was left in ruins. In 1626, part of the church property was handed over to Jesuit College dormitory. Last part of construction was finished in 1905.



The cathedral's present-day appearance dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the church underwent an extensive regothisation and a total restoration. The exterior and interior of cathedral is magnificent.

### THE SEDLEC OSSUARY

In the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century, during Black Death, and after the Hussite wars in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, many thousands were buried in the abbey cemetery. Around 1400, a Gothic church was built in the center of the cemetery with a vaulted upper level and lower chapel to be used as ossuary. After 1511, the task of exhuming skeletons and stacking the bones was given to a half-blind monk. In 1870, František Rint, a woodcarver, was employed by the Schwarzenberg family to put together the bone heaps into order, yielding a macabre result.

The ossuary is estimated to contain the skeletons of between 40,000 and 70,000 people, whose bones have, in many cases, been artistically arranged to form decorations and furnishings for the chapel. An enormous chandelier of bones, which contains at least one of every bone in the human body, hangs from the center of the nave with garlands of skulls draping the vault.





The ossuary is among the most visited tourist attraction of the Czech Republic. (Wikipedia)  
Several of you are planning to come and see us. Now you know what is ahead of you.

### **BUILDING HIS KINGDOM**

With our ministry, we are not building cathedrals but His body of frail believers. Week by week we have new people coming, one by one. Some stay, others go. The spiritual battle for their souls is intense. Some of them are trying to cross very deep and turbulent waters of sinful past. We have people as far as from Ukraine and Armenia,

All that we can do for them is love them, teach them and be faithful to His word. We believe that His word will never return without accomplishing His outcome.

This month we have our council meeting to evaluate the last conference and start planning the 10<sup>th</sup> one for the next year. With the Church in Kladno and Ústí we plan several activities during the year. We carefully follow the Euro Union events as the situation becomes more and more oppressive. Countries of Central Europe are once again in a vise – on the West is Germany and France pressing hard their solutions especially concerning Muslim immigrants; and from the East are the Russians. Results of recent presidential election in leading countries is not signaling happy days ahead. The words of John MacArthur's make more and more sense: "We are living in an age when Christianity may be criminalized."

## PLEASE PRAY WITH US

- For open hearts and minds of those attending the conference
- For the ministry and those who labor in Czech and Slovak Republics
- For Bible Church of Prague and those who stand with us and pray for us
- For Gods Glory as we strive to serve Him

**Thank you for your prayers,  
support and participation  
in our life and  
Czech & Slovak ministry**

**In His Sovereign Grace,  
Pavel and Klara Steiger**

<pavel.steiger@gmail.com>

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