



MARCH 2019

**DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF THE REACH BEYOND
MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES IN CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA**

In our February letter, we informed you that we were quite uncertain about the future focus of Reach Beyond in its Europe Eurasia Region. March 4th we had a briefing with our immediate supervisor, David from Colorado Springs, in our home here in Prague. He was coming in person to Europe to inform all of us what the immediate future for this region is. With great joy, we can say that our ministry can continue as in the past 29 years. To tell the truth we were expecting that the Europe Eurasia Region would be dissolved, detached or otherwise restructured. Providentially this was not the outcome of our meeting with David. For now the Europe Eurasia Region, Czech, and Slovak ministries remain an integral part of Reach Beyond (with no budget assigned to it).

Europe is generally considered a conglomerate of reached countries. Yes, this is an historical truth in remembrance of the great reformers' legacy. You can see numerous church buildings and cathedrals; however, there is no spiritual life in them. State supervised church structures are not the gospel centered church of Jesus Christ. In some countries, the state tax is distributed to complying and registered churches.

Culturally religious people with respect to traditions and those who enjoy a specific mystical atmosphere of magnificent buildings have the opportunity to be baptized, married, and buried with proper rites, and to attend special services at Christmas and Easter. Cathedrals are now mostly used for organ concerts and are mostly admired by tourists. Churches are often used as galleries.

Going forward, Reach Beyond wants to focus on the largest 1900 unreached people groups (UPGs). However, we will not forget the unreached wherever they are. God is the One who prepares the soil where we plant and labor. The urgency is much wider than the 1900 UPGs.

Going back to Europe Eurasia ministries, the question that hunts us: what is the difference between unreached groups and Post Christian Europe where multitudes of lost souls are perishing daily. Post Christian and de-Christianized Europe is often an overlooked and forgotten perishing minority. The commission to go and reach the world is not geographically, culturally, demographically or politically determined. The question of our days is how to transform opportunities and abilities given to us for His Glory.

Europe has been losing faith, culture, identity, and sovereignty. Unless our Lord intervenes, other cultures and religion will conquer it.

BREAK DOWN OF REGISTERED RELIGIONS IN CZECH REPUBLIC

- **Abrahamic religions:** Catholics, Protestant, Evangelical, Orthodox, Judaism, Islam and Baha'i.
- **Indian Religions:** Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhism, Mahayana, Zen, Theravada Buddhism, Hinduism.
- **New religions movements:** Neopaganism, Reconstructionism, Slavic faith, Eclectic Neopaganism, Celtic Druids, Neo-druids, Wicca, Scientology and Hare Krishna, etc.

List of unregistered religious groups is quite colorful. Gnostic of Indo-European Tradition, Brotherhood of Wolves, Church of Militant Atheism, International Pagan Federation for Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, Grail Movement, Living Rock established by pastors from Zambia, Druid Biopharma, Ariasamádzh of Czech Republic, Zen Kwan Um ...

Small independent churches are not even mentioned because they are registered as citizen's guild or community. We are not going to be far off if we say that the whole country has between 20-40 thousand Protestants out of 10 million population.

East European countries have a number of trained servants, who speak the language and understand local culture in their respective countries but have no financial means to enter into full time ministry. They are ready to serve; they have a vision but stand alone, with no ministry budgets or enough volunteers to start. With the help of committed partners, the world can be significantly changed. We have a tendency to look behind the horizon, while we overlook what can be accomplished right where we already are. Reach Beyond has a tremendous legacy. We remember humble beginning and God blessed the way that His name was proclaimed in mighty ways. Let us walk together systematically and use the experience of networking, stand side by side with like-minded brothers and sisters and let the Lord accomplish the first and last. How sad we are that we do not have the opportunity to get together occasionally with those who are in the same boat. Our greatest experience as seasoned missionaries is to be continually focused on His Glory and Guidance.

We are constantly challenged and inspired by several missionary individuals reaching thousands of souls in different cultures and continents. We know those who are mobilizing people who can help to send those who are fired up for special projects in locations where traditional missionaries cannot get in. Generally speaking, the world is hostile to our Savior, his children and his servants.

LATEST MINISTRY REPORT

Recently we had our annual Czech board meeting to comply with governmental requirements. At this time, we have the opportunity to evaluate all the activities and events. We want to share with you the outcome of our 10th Winter conference. This time the topic of the conference was By Grace Alone – The Sola Gratia. We agreed that the topic for Winter Conference in 2020 should be "God's love."

This time we paid attention to where the attendees come from. The pie breaks down as follows:

15% of those who came have no church affiliation (usually there is no church where they live, or the teaching is not nurturing)

25% came from denominational churches (40 registered church denominations, out of that number only 12 are of Protestant confession)

60% independent churches (we had people from eight small independent Bible Churches).

The conference cost break down:

- Auditorium rent (\$1,100)
- Conference book and materials for attendees (\$800)
- Travel assistance for five serving pastors (\$600)

To organize a Biblical conference is never a money making project. The total cost for the conference was \$2 500, the offering was \$ 1 000. We are happy to cover the rest from our overall ministry budget. Similar statistics pertain to the church budget, publishing, one week Summer Family Outreach or broadcasting in Slovakia. This is just an example how Church in Central Europe can benefit from collaborating ministries.



UNEXPECTED EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Rachel formerly from NY North Shore Baptist Church contacted us before leaving as their team spent three weeks as church planting trainees in Ostrava. We know the area very well and in the past we had there many dear friends and ministry contacts. This was an interesting debriefing with Rachel and we were happy that we could fill her in on cultural information about the Czech people, local church and direction it goes. Since the fall of communism many changes have come, however sinful men do not change by flirting with churches where Christ is not the head. The Church planting is a new concept here and we have to admit that new churches started by young people, who left the church where they grew up, with great zeal to become an outreaching "modern church" is something that looks and behaves as a cloned American style Youth group.

More than a year ago, our dear friend had a stroke and as we followed on his condition it looks that he is going to be soon with the Lord. Twice his heart stopped and he was resuscitated. For a month he was unconscious in the hospital. He could not move, eat, talk and lost his hearing. Chances for his recovery were about 5%. Last, we heard that he was moved to the nursing home. Later we lost contact with his church and we were wondering if anyone would tell us about his departure. We did not know that the pastor had a brain aneurism episode and he is out of circulation. Today we got a phone call and he asked, „Can I come to see you this afternoon?“ What a joy and what a story. Those are the days when we put gladly all plans aside.

Thanks to all who keep in touch regardless if they come from abroad or next-door.

PRAISES AND PRAYERS

- Pray for the Czech and Slovak people and churches, for the majority of the people around us are unreached.
- Pray for the church and believers wherever they are. More and more „New Gospel innovations“ creep in.

Each time we get a monthly statement of your contributions it is for us a miracle. You have stood faithfully with us for so many years. Day by day, year by year you carry this country and us in your prayers and by sacrificial giving. We can promise you that we will stand firm as long as our dear Lord will keep us. We have no plans to retire.

- Continue to pray for Pavel's brother Ivan and his wife Eva. We met them a few days ago. There is a spark of hope that both of them now pay more attention to what matters most. Our time to share was encouraging as well as sad to see someone's strength failing. We were happy that we could bring some joy in seeing 55 years of video clips.
- The Lord provided two Slovak palliative caretakers. One of them is a Catholic. Her presence is very beneficial for both of them. We pray that we can see Ivan and Eva again in a couple of weeks.

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

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

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