



## **NOVEMBER 2019 DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA**

### **BACK TO SCHOOL TIME AND HISTORY LESSON**

Looking back, the colorful October days are passing by like never before. The days were nice and sunny as we admired the beauty of the Prague Botanical gardens and spent a perfect afternoon in Zoo. In addition, several ministry and cultural events added to our busy days. A number of times we have mentioned our „freeway system“ which is constantly under reconstruction. To use the car, under those circumstances, is a nuisance. Instead, we use public transportation. Recently we took the train to Brno and Ostrava. It is not fast, but is a comfortable way to get around.

### **THE CONFERENCE IN BRNO**



The conference in Brno was a blessing. Our original women's ministry team met in spite of the fact that we are now scattered around. Reunions with numerous friends and partners from different parts of the country were precious. It is great to see a new Christian generation stepping in. We also met with our former employees: Jindra (in the middle) who worked for our HCJB ministry as administrator for 16 years and Gabi (on the right) who worked for our HCJB ministry mostly as audio technician for 5 years.

### **PAVEL'S MINING UNIVERSITY REUNION AFTER 52 YEARS**



Pavel's reunion at the Mining University in Ostrava 52 years after graduation was another exciting event. We enjoyed time being together and sharing memories, but our hearts are broken. Out of 21 classmates present, there is no one who is interested in anything spiritual.

Ostrava used to be called „Black Ostrava“ or „Steel Heart“ of Czechoslovakia. The mining and metallurgical industries were closed down in 1994, a few years after the Velvet Revolution. Remnants of the former coal-mining, coke production and ironworks complex are now opened to tourists. The area became a major cultural site of historic industrial architecture in Europe. Visitors can see the whole process of ironworking ironworks. The capacity of blast furnaces and smelting tanks is gigantic. The working conditions and heat during the process were nothing short of hellish. The highlight is the 60 meters tall Bolt Tower at the top, named after Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, the fastest human being so far.

[https://www.idnes.cz/bydleni/architektura/stavba-roku-bolt-tower.A151016\\_142318\\_architektura\\_rez](https://www.idnes.cz/bydleni/architektura/stavba-roku-bolt-tower.A151016_142318_architektura_rez)

A gigantic former gasholder was turned into the multifunctional hall called „the Gong“. With a capacity of 1500, it is a unique place for numerous cultural events and conferences. An interactive World of Technology and Science is a popular attraction for children and students.

## THE MIND OF A PROCLAIMED ATHEIST

Recently our country mourned the death of popular singer, Karel Gott, known as the „golden voice of Prague“ and „Sinatra of the East“. Flags flew at half-mast and the Czech leaders were ready to orchestrate a state funeral for him with all honors, if the family agreed. During the national day of mourning, tens of thousands lined up for hours to pay a last tribute and say a final goodbye. The whole atmosphere was reminiscent of the national mourning for the death of Princess Dianna. Flowers and candles covered the street for days at the place where he lived. A Catholic Funeral mass was held at St. Vitus cathedral for invited guests, including the President and Premier. Tributes, prayers, recognitions, awards and 60 years of fame - all his earthly accomplishments - were presented as merit for eternal bliss somewhere „above“. Biblically speaking, the prayers of the clergymen during the service were nothing short of blasphemy. A number of atheistic speakers and well-wishers were sending him to heaven to join other stars, i.e. famous and talented personas. As one of the sane commentators pointed out: „If people do not have in their hearts real God they create in their mind god [like a singer] to project their imaginative faith in eternity.“

## IN HIS TIME

It is amazing how the Lord works. Our radio ministry with HCJB started in 1990 in Ecuador. The Czech and Slovak broadcasting from Voice of the Andes goes back to 1975. Georgina Gonzales and her mother, Lili Kladensky, were the founders. For the next 25 years, Good News from Ecuador provided short wave broadcasting to communist Czechoslovakia. Lili faithfully corresponded with listeners in communist Czechoslovakia. The tandem of daughter and mother had the greatest impact on our lives and ministry.

The family history is very interesting. Lili was of Jewish descent and, as a young girl, survived the Terezin concentration camp. After her return, she married, and at the time when the communists took over, the family immigrated to Ecuador. Because of their emigration from Czechoslovakia, their property in Brno was confiscated.

After the fall of communism in 1989, forty years later, the family was eligible to start the restitution process. To live in Ecuador, USA and Costa Rica and to be involved in courts was quite frustrating. Lili is now 94 years old. Finally, after thirty years the final verdict was issued. The state kept the villa and the family got back all the land. The appraised price of the land became much greater than what it would have been for whole property years back. Praise the Lord for all the delays.

*And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:28).*

We were happy to help Georgina and her husband with some logistics to close this chapter of the family story.

The new project comes out of all this. The Czech family life story and radio ministry from Ecuador were written in Spanish. Now the time has come to translate and publish it in the Czech language. We will work on it when we stop in Austin.

## OUR ITINERARY

Nov 04 – Flight: Prague, Amsterdam, Minneapolis, Denver  
Nov 04 – Nov 10, Denver, CO  
Nov 11 – Nov 14, Oakland, Santa Rosa, CA  
Nov 15 – Nov 17, Madera, CA  
Nov 18 – Nov 21, Los Angeles, CA  
Nov 22 – Nov 26, Phoenix, AZ  
Nov 27 – Nov 29, Tucson, AZ  
Nov 30 – Dec 02, Midland, TX  
Dec 03 – Dec 04, Austin, TX  
Dec 05 – Dec 08, Dallas, TX  
Dec 09 – Flight: Dallas, Atlanta, Amsterdam, Prague

## PRAYER NEEDS

- For traveling mercies, safety and connections.
- For meetings with churches, mission people and supporters.
- For unbelieving friends with whom we will reconnect.
- For our church's physical needs, spiritual growth, unbelieving spouses, children and family members.
- For our Winter Conference "God's love" in January 2020.

## PRAISES

- For another active mission outreach year in Czechia and Slovakia. With your support, love, and encouragement we are blessed. Our daily Thanksgiving goes to all the saints, and faithful servants of our Lord who stand with us.
- Our days are what we can truly call multitasking. Several events are fusing together and we are in the midst of Halloween, All Saints' Day and Thanksgiving. The Christmas season is fast approaching the end of the year. However, the most important event is the expectation to be with you in person.

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

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

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