



MARCH 2020
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF
THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA

If we focus our attention on current events, as most of the public events are canceled, closed or restricted, there is not much to be excited about. In our last letter, we shared with you a prayer request for The Bible Church of Prague, its pastor, families, and its unity. We have to deal with some internal struggles, especially in the area of authority. As of now, with the Coronavirus pandemic, everyone (including our church) has different concerns. As of March 16, a nationwide quarantine was declared, effectively placing the whole population under quarantine. This order bans all non-work related travel, in and out of the country. Public transportation in the city is provided, but since it is not wise to use it, very few people are going so.

Most of the people are homebound, schools are out, there are no public meetings, and gatherings are shut down. We have canceled all planned activities or they were canceled anyway.

Before those measures, the country was for a while split. Those who did not believe the danger and warnings kept traveling during spring break to ski areas in Italy. On their return, they had to stay in two-week isolation. Nevertheless, it was too late. Those who had realized that there is a serious problem were ridiculed. Now the borders are closed down, like an iron curtain regime. No foreigners are allowed to enter the country. Flights in and out are canceled and people stuck abroad are being slowly repatriated.

Now that all the schools are closed, students are at home, and instead of "homeschooling", we have TV schooling. "Učitelka" in Czech means the teacher; with little change, "učí-telka" becomes "teaching TV." It is quite popular among students as well as parents. The sad part is that there is a shortage of respirators and protective material, especially for those people on the front lines. It is strangely calm, no hustle-bustle, and no crowds. A few months ago, no one could envision life scenarios like that.

As we were reading the book of Deuteronomy, the unfaithfulness of people became very real. The new Babylon boasts of science, technology, globalism and attempts to create a new world with new people, but it seems that the Lord has different plans. This is a painful awakening, but people near and far have the opportunity to seek the wisdom of the Lord.

As for us, our days are as normal as always, writing, translating, listening to the news ... and of course, praying and keeping in touch with friends and family via Skype. We take a walk in the afternoon to get some exercise and fresh air and soak in some sunshine. Spring is on its way. Days are warmer and brighter. We marvel how after winter everything comes to life. We can go to the parks or places where people do not get into close contact. As of tomorrow, the elderly, 65 and over, can do their grocery shopping between 10 am and 12 am; others should take care of it at another time. This looks like a good idea since it is recommended that elderly people should stay at home. As of today, we should not leave home without covered faces, and only to get food supplies or for medical reasons.

At this time of uncertainty, we try to stay calm, trusting in the Lord and his sovereign grace. We are so grateful that we have so many happy memories – you all have a big part in our lives.

- Our daily thanks go to all the saints and faithful servants of our Lord who stand with us.
- Our prayers are with you all as the same measures are being implemented in the US.
- Baptism of our four sisters in Christ at our little Bible Church Prague on March 1, 2020. Praise the Lord: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_Htlj7tR8E

As it is written: "For your sake, we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:36-39)

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

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

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