



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

CHRISTMAS SEASON IS QUARANTINED

December 21st is the day when the sun takes over the dark days of winter. Solstice is the turning point; the word *solstice* is derived from the Latin *sol* (sun) and *sistere* (to stand still). It may look as if the world is at standstill, but our Earth is rotating, even if the days are at this time short and the sun is not shining. But the darkness and gloomy days will not prevail forever. Not even the Covid-19 pandemic can change it. Our lockdown situation is oscillating "between level 3-5". We had a few days of number 3 level and it felt as if we could breathe and live again. Kids returned to school, restaurants opened, people returned to the streets. Then the number of positive tests started to rise again. The rules and regulations get more stringent, they are changed every few days and we feel like sheep.

The usual pre-Christmas hustle and bustle, decorations, carols, street markets, etc. are tuned down to the point that it just looks as though the Christmas season is under curfew. Without family gatherings, with travel restrictions, people lack motivation. It appears that many Christmas trees will remain unsold. Not even Christmas letters and wishes are coming. Usually we had a full table of them, but this year there's only one, from our neighbor.

Our churches are closed down, and instead we are watching YouTube live. In our case, we start at 9 am in Kuřim, 10 am in Šeberov (our church), 11 am Kladno (Pavel used to preach there), or Aš (a quite vibrant Baptist church on the German border). On Thursday night we have ZOOM Bible study. Our church has communion via ZOOM. We miss the actual fellowship and people we normally keep in touch with. Yes, we have Facebook, e-mail, smartphones, and WhatsApp; yes, it is much better than nothing or being watched by censors and secret police. That was the time with the iron curtain during communism. People could not communicate or keep in touch without fear of consequences. We are blessed.

OUR WINDOW



PRAYERS AND PRAISES

- Prayers for the comfort of those who lost their dear ones this year
- For families separated or isolated by lockdowns
- For churches and their saints who cannot fellowship
- For His love and mercies, which we experience daily
- For faithful friends who pray for the Czech and Slovak ministries

When we are weak, Christ is our strength. And if you are sad, may His love bring joy to your heart. When you are in despair, may you find comfort in the love of Jesus. Have a joyful Christmas despite circumstances. Stay Covid-19 negative. God's Providence prepared for all of us in Christ all the positive in 2021.

**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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