



JUNE 2021
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF
THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA

SUMMER IS HERE

We have two good reasons for the June delay in our prayer letter communication. First of all, our plans for a church friend's vacation/retreat became reality. Klara got her 2nd Pfizer shot on Saturday, and on Sunday we were on the road to join the church group.

June was very hot, and that Sunday was one of those days. About 70 miles from Prague we stopped for a cup of coffee and when Klara got out of the car, she nearly fainted. Excruciating headache and weakness was the reason to return to Prague to be checked. It was a combination of the heatwave and reaction to the vaccination. Thus we spent the Sunday night at home and drove to the retreat on Monday. Most of the brothers and sisters in Christ of previous years' gatherings were survivors of Covid. One of them was in coma for over a month, another was on a ventilator, several were hospitalized and others recovered at home. Some of them were grateful for our earlier advice to get an Oximeter to measure the saturation of oxygen in the blood. It surely was a time of praises, and sorrow for those who did not make it.

In the morning and evening, we held an hour of Bible teaching. There was also a lot of singing. The topic was *Faithfulness*. Pavel's teaching turn was on Tuesday evening. During the day we drove to historical places.

The place where we stayed had just opened for business but without personnel. To comply with COVID rules and regulations the food was catered in the morning and the evening, otherwise it was self-service. The location was wonderful. See the picture below. It is amazing how small a country we live in. In a radius of 70 miles, we had so many interesting places to see and admire.



We focused on video and picture taking to prepare for you once again a short YouTube presentation. The first one is from the "Small Bible Museum" in Pelhřimov. The enthusiasm and outreach from this church ministry were inspiring. We are sure we mentioned it previously. Some parts of the Bible were translated into Czech during the 11th and 12th centuries. The whole Bible began to be systematically translated into Czech from 1378. However, the first printed Bible in the Czech language was published in 1475, some 30 years after the invention of the printing press. The next two were published in 1487 and 1498. The text was translated directly from its original languages. The theologians and translators of the Unity of the Brethren took care of the translation and printing of this Bible. What is amazing is that the museum has the hand-operated wooden printing press, a kind of locally recreated Guttenberg press. It was interesting to see the whole printing process from casting metal type characters, using oil-based ink, applying firm pressure, ... this is how the information revolution started. The pastor of the church learned a new trade. At this time they are reprinting the whole Bible.

In Germany, around 1440, goldsmith Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press, which started the Printing Revolution. Modeled on the design of existing screw presses, a single Renaissance printing press could produce up to 3,600 pages per workday, compared to forty by hand-printing and a few by hand-copying. Gutenberg's newly devised hand mold made possible the precise and rapid creation of metal movable type in large quantities. His two inventions, the hand mold and the printing press, together drastically reduced the cost of printing books and other documents in Europe, particularly for shorter print runs. (Wikipedia)

This is our video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pO7YcJAARoQ>

The Bible Museum is located at a former family house, later a church building, now a museum. The Lord blessed the congregation and as of now, they have a brand new church building and two small pastoral houses. How inspiring it is to see new work and new opportunities in the community.

One of the original objects is over 30 yards long Torah scroll written on sheepskin. Originally from the Czech territory of Austria, it later „emigrated“ with its owner to the United States, and to make a long story short, it was repatriated (donated) by the last owners to this museum.

The second YouTube is in process for the July Prayer letter. It will show you all kinds of historic and beautiful places in the southern part of the country.

And last but not least as we got home, the next day we started to feel “under the weather”. Would you believe we got typical “summer flu”? A dry scratchy feeling in the throat, runny nose, itchy ears, and mild nausea. It was almost as bad as Covid, except no shortness of breath. We stayed in a horizontal position for 4 days.

PRAISES AND PRAYERS

- For reconnecting and fellowship with old and faithful friends. Together we celebrated Pavel’s birthday.
- We had an opportunity to visit two friends during this trip.
- We continue in our translating and writing efforts.

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

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

pavel.steiger@gmail.com

<°))))><

**You may mail your U.S.
Tax-deductible contributions to:**

REACH BEYOND
P.O. BOX 39800
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80949-9800
U.S.A.

**You may mail your Canadian
Tax-deductible contributions to:**

REACH BEYOND
3 - 44 SALTSMAN DRIVE
CAMBRIDGE, ON N3H 4R7
CANADA

**Attach to your check the following note:
FOR THE MINISTRY OF
PAVEL & KLARA STEIGER
ACC # 11329**