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*Your words were found and I ate them, and
Your words became for me a joy and
The delight of my heart; for I have been called
by your name, O LORD God of hosts.
(Jeremiah 15:16)*

May 2006

DEAR FRIENDS AND PRAYER PARTNERS

HALLELUJAH – HE IS RISEN

Celebration of HIS resurrection is a major event of the spring season. After endless winter we rejoice to see the first signs of new life in the country, but also new growth of spirit among Czech Christians. Last time we shared with you the progress on Czech Bible translation and audio production with unlimited number of copies to distribute free and without copyright restrictions. The New Testament will be available by the end of the year. This is a major breakthrough for how to reach the majority of the population with the gospel.

Our next exciting news is a project called EXIT 316. About two years ago two Christians had a dream to create Christian TV program for young people. The former Czech director of Trans World Radio became director of Christian production on public TV. He was instrumental in securing another Christian project. A contract for 17

parts to be broadcasted in fall of 2006 was signed and the project is in full production now. EXIT 316 is directed toward young people but we know that many, especially older people, are watching TV almost nonstop. This program will stand face to face with commercial TV talk shows with their solutions or suggestions how to live life without restrictions or fear of consequences. Especially young people are taught how to live for the moment of time, not counting the cost of foolish decisions. Topics cover: Love, Friendship, Conflicts, Forgiveness, Image, Disappointment, Fear, Courage, Truth or lie, Sex, Addiction, Anger, Faith, Darkness, Success, Meaning of life. At the end of each topic will come the solution – EXIT 316 (John 3:16). This is not a classical evangelization but an opportunity to examine important life choices with scripture in mind. Young people can learn about God, faith, and how to solve daily problems through wisdom of God's word. We are praising the LORD for raising up talented local Christians and giving them opportunity to explore new and bold ways to speak about Christian faith. From the following report you can see how important it is to seek new ways of presentation in order to penetrate Czech society with Gospel.

In our April E-mail Prayer&Praise Report about Czech and Slovak ministry titled: WE ASKED—YOU PRAYED—HE ANSWERED, we shared an interesting experience. In March we met a very special couple of Czech missionaries from Canada serving with TEAM mission. TEAM's vision is winning new converts to Christ and creating reproducing churches in the Czech Republic. The

Marek's (their family name) shared their impressions and experience based on their two terms of service, 5 and 9 months long. The Marek's genuine love for God and the Czech people penetrated the hearts of the hardest to reach group of people – the older generation of atheists and communists. Their fascinating background and testimony of family faithfulness going back to 1620 and the exodus of persecuted Czech Protestants was the door opener to a Gospel presentation. In a letter to fellow TEAM workers Marek's wrote:

In our ministry area the TEAM outreach to seekers seems really well developed and there are many who are just a breath away from conversion, but the church seems out of step with the process of engaging and creating communities of care for the new believers. It is quite common that the local church is not paying attention to visitors or newcomers. Why are believers fellowshipping only with their own circle of believers? The pastor of a church, which describes itself as a mission church, said to me, "If we keep growing at the present rate, it will take 100 years to grow to 100 members." He was talking about growth of new believers, not a church made up primarily of transfers from other churches. ... Although the church of Jesus Christ is growing significantly in some areas of the world, today in the Czech republic the growth of new believers is tiny. Christians seem to be in the trenches on the whole, while some sectors of the front are in full retreat. It would appear there is a serious problem.

Our related comment—do you remember Dub Page—the camp grandpa? Klara just read the fascinating book "Methuselah Conspiracy" about the future of the baby boom generation. While the world is quite concerned about the economical drain in the pension system and health care, we pray that baby boomers will become a great asset for His kingdom. The gray hair generation should play a major role in evangelism. Marek's are another example of the gray hair generation doing a great job. After our meeting with the Marek's from Canada we pray that the Lord can challenge and send more Czech speaking mature missionaries like that. There is a gold mine of Czechs and Slovaks living abroad and we pray

that the Lord will touch their hearts. Our answer to Marek's question "What we should do?" was – COME AGAIN.

WHERE IS THE LOVE?

Previously we shared with you that Pavel is leading Bible study in our church. As we are slowly moving through the first chapter of the book of Ephesians in our biweekly meetings, we examined what it means to be "chosen by God", "blessings and peace", "to belong to God", being "holy", His "kindness", ... vs. 15 is about "the love you have for Christians". What a topic and discussion – where is the love in the church? This issue really hit the sore spot. Lack of love in church has nothing to do with natural selfishness of man; it shows general lack of interest, distrust and no accountability for each other. This is the root of local church weakness and lack of its growth.

PRAISE AND PRAYER:

Early vacation:

As we mentioned in our EP&PR e-mail, last September Pavel discovered a British Airline special (two for one fares) to Australia. He decided that we could escape part of the winter to celebrate our 41st wedding anniversary and have some rest before the major events of this year – including Dworak's arrival. In the month of April we experienced Australia's end of the summer, the beautiful fall and beginning of winter in Tasmania. Our travel days were full of sightseeing and meeting with numerous friends – readers of our magazine. As always we looked for new acquaintances. We would like to share with you just one interesting episode. By e-mail contact we were offered a place to stay in Brisbane by a couple of Czechs serving the countrymen community. Milan is also the publisher of Czech monthly paper for Australian Czechs. They organize numerous gathering and activities, host visitors from Czech Republic and take care of Czech stars when they are invited to tour Australia presenting their mostly musical performances. As we were touching the bases during the introduction, we came to the question of Christian

faith. Milan has a Catholic friend who is not silent about his belief and scares him by his Bible interpretation of last day's events. Milan is not easily scared and has his own sense of humor and life philosophy. He leans toward different kinds of political conspiracies. As with most non-believers, he brought up the question – How come that good God allows so many bad things in the world? He is one of those people who believe in their own abilities, hard work and was convinced that one can not depend on God's help, when needed... We explained the major error in those questions since God gives us so much good we do not deserve. Milan agreed that we truly can't do much without the goodness of the higher power of God. Without Him we do not have the ability to inhale next breath of air. As we got together next evening he greeted us with the words: "It looks like God saved my life today" and shared how he was nearly electrocuted on a construction site. He touched a live electrical wire (240V). Instead of using a metal stepladder as usually he does, he used an old wooden stepladder closer to his work site. He ended up in the emergency room for a check-up and there was a thorough investigation of worker's safety omissions. To count one's own laziness for life saving was not sufficient.

While in Australia we met several friends and readers of our magazine whom we knew personally before and some we had never met. Together we had very special times and great theological discussions. We attended services in two churches and had opportunity to share about our ministry in one of them for 45 minutes. We also attended one session of the Easter Christian conference (excellent speaker from Sydney). All that kept us close to the Lord.

Our visit to the HCJB Australia Office was one of the highlights. We felt like we were reliving our first days in Quito 16 years ago. HCJB Australia is building a vibrant and exciting ministry. The Kununurra broadcasting site is nothing short of a miracle and we are blessed each time we meet with special servants. The day before our departure we recorded three programs for International Friendship to Asian listeners.

No matter where we are or where we go, God prepares special meetings and opportunities to minister. Not all of them are easy to handle. Klara was invited to a lady's meeting that studied written messages from a medium who was a "mouthpiece for Jesus Christ." What do you do if you are trying to minister to someone who is involved with spiritualism and is convinced that Christians are only judging and condemning others? One major idea of this group of ladies is to love and not judge. They received Klara with many hugs, however repeatedly judged Christians and churches they used to be part of in the past. All of them, except one, were divorced. To get married or divorced you have to use some kind of judgment—without it marriage or divorce is impossible. Together they examined their experiences of the past week. Their leader was recently arrested for DUI. She was 72 years old and it was her first traffic offence. Another had a nasty argument with her neighbor. To us it proves that life without judgment – right or wrong—is impossible. Their conclusion was that the world around us has nothing to do with reality. We are spiritual beings detached from reality. The basis of this teaching is that God is love and since our goal is to give love to others, we become part of God. The decision to love is an instrumental part of judgment—whom we follow and how we live. Some of their conclusions were very strange and revealed personal confusion. It is hard to understand that all of them were part of Christian church before and now they are so far from Truth. People are seeking love and kindness desperately. It is sad, that love is not found in many churches. Who failed?

To conclude – our Lord blessed us in many ways. With young friends and families we felt very young. Australia is a young and great country built by the hard work of many immigrants. We are glad that Czech people do not have to travel anymore to escape their homeland and can live and work almost anywhere. Those who chose Australia as their new home are doing very well and we are glad that those we met mostly belong to the Lord. There are many more who are not saved yet and we pray for His mercy.

It is amazing how the technology eliminates distances and borders. In Milan's living room we could watch special weather (snow melt) and flood reports right from Prague on Czech TV in Brisbane. Subscribers around the world can watch four Czech and three Slovak channels and have access to an archive of more than 3000 Czech films.

WE ARE EXCITED

It looks like our children and grandchildren will arrive May 10. Dworak's should arrive May 12. It will probably be a little hectic, but all of us are ready to be very FLEXIBLE.

LETTERS:

Dear in Christ,

Let me express my appreciation for your faithful service to His people by publishing the magazine "Battle for the Soul." I would like to encourage you in this undertaking. As I read the April issue I was greatly blessed and encouraged. The selection of topics is excellent, as they are complementing each other. Content is actual, articles are Christ centered and lead to Christ as they serve to our spiritual growth. I've been reading "Battle for the Soul" for the past two years and I am surprised to realize, from the letters you publish, that a number of brothers are critical toward issues of God's sovereignty and salvation of men. It boggles my mind how such disunity in evangelical churches exists. Reading those letters reassures me about the unchangeable truth of God's sovereignty and the firm foundation my faith stands on.

Dear Klara and Pavel,

... I remember fondly the day we met with you in our home. In my mind I returned to my student years when I used to discuss God's truth with others. That way I could accept the truth as my "own" discovery. We were young and excited about our "own" discoveries rather what was crammed into us by church leaders. Now I have the same feeling when I read "Battle for the Soul" magazine. It is unique since it gives the reader space to think and process information down to

my soul. There is no other place or opportunity where I feel the same excitement and enlightenment.

I am not sure where the error is, but often I feel that what I hear in the congregation is repetitious all the time. As a child of believing parents and for as long as I can remember, I know what each brother will say and how he will pray. Where is the error? Do I know? No, I do not know. But I know that I need God and experience Him daily. This is the adventure we all long to have, exploring what He prepared for us. This is the reason I am excited by Pavel's article and words saying we should be possessed by Christ, because he is the only challenge and excitement for believers and non-believers who are getting to know Him. Languishing church traditions and repetition distorted our view of Christ.

***Thank you to those who faithfully support
Czech and Slovak ministry. It is a privilege
to be your partners for His glory.
In His Grace and Service***

pavel and klara steiger

Pavel & Klara Steiger, Hostalkova 1b
16900 Praha 6, Czech Republic
Phone & fax: 011.420.233.350.230
E-mail: psteiger@hcjb.cz
<http://www.hcjb.cz/newsletter/>

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