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***So then those who are of faith are
blessed with Abraham, the believer.
For as many as are of the works of
the Law are under a curse;
for it is written,***

***CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES
NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS
WRITTEN IN THE BOOK
OF THE LAW,
TO PERFORM THEM.***

***Now that no one is justified by
the Law before God is evident; for,***

***THE RIGHTEOUS MAN
SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.***

***However, the Law is not of faith;
on the contrary,***

***HE WHO PRACTICES THEM
SHALL LIVE BY THEM.***

***Christ redeemed us from the curse of
the Law, having become
a curse for us -- for it is written,***

***CURSED IS EVERYONE
WHO HANGS ON A TREE***

(Galatians 3:9-13)

November 2006

Greetings from the Steiger's to all of you in the Name of our wonderful Savior, Lord Jesus Christ. Several expected as well as unexpected events and changes happened during the last two months. Some of them were exciting; about others we have mixed feelings.

STUDIO IN SLOVAKIA

Let's start first with those dealing directly with our ministry. After five years of prayer we have the answer for the Slovak studio:

Dear friends,

It is hard to explain in a few words the events we are experiencing these days. God started to act concerning our studio facility. We were offered a facility very suitable for our needs just five-minutes walk from our house. The rental price is a great miracle. It must be a miracle when God started to act... The rent is less than a half of a usual rent in this area. Tomorrow I have a negotiation with the owners of the property and it seems they are ready to sign the rental contract. Please, pray with us for Gods guidance and wisdom for the negotiations. Yours in Christ, Milan

So far, the results of the negotiation are: the rental is about \$150 per month and cost of studio reconstruction is estimated to be about an \$8,500 capital investment. We, the HCJB Prague World Office, pledged to bridge the cost of reconstruction, to build the studio as soon as possible. Raising the funds is the part we all

understand well and it's quite simple to describe. The other consideration we leave to the experts and goes like this:

Correct use of a cardioid or hypercardioid microphone, particularly for speech work, can assist in getting consistent results, even if the acoustics are not 'text-book perfect'. This is not to say that we should not aim for a high standard acoustically, but simply that every studio project is a compromise between cost, complexity, performance and also effort (time) in construction. If we had a budget of \$100k then we would have a different approach to having a budget nearer to \$10k! For me, the trick is how to get the best results for nearer \$10k, whilst aiming for the kind of results you might get if you paid someone else \$100k !!:)

This is just beginning. We praise the Lord, that opportunity for Slovak ministry is wide open.

HCJB EURO CONFERENCE AND OUR CAR

The annual HCJB Euro Conference in Zurich, Switzerland was encouraging, challenging and an inspiration how to develop ministry in the European region.

Normally we drive to the conference; however, the week before the trip, on Sunday morning, while driving to the church, our car failed to take us there. About half mile from our home at a dizzying speed of 20 miles per hour, the engine started rattling. It sounded bad and when Pavel opened the hood we could see engine vibrations. A broken valve chopped up a cylinder and head in the engine. There were only 75,000 miles on the car – so much for German engineering precision and Czech golden hands!? It is a miracle that 20-30-year old Škoda cars are still on the road when new models are having serious troubles. We have to admit that till that Sunday we did not have one problem and we were fully satisfied with our car. Now we know why people trade new cars so early and so often.

For several days we faced the decision to sell the otherwise beautiful "wreck", risk the costly repair or buy a new car. One of the me-

chanics solved our dilemma. Since the car was otherwise in such a good shape he gave us an acceptable offer, took care of all the paper work and we sold it to him. Last time we saw the car there was a sign on it reading "no head".

From that moment we became aware of other cars and new models. We decided to buy a new Toyota Verso (in the US it's called a Matrix). The difference in the cost of the same car here and in the US is quite high – close to 40 %. Over all the base cost here is higher (no dealer competition) and 19% value added tax makes a big difference. There was a four-month waiting time to get one. The Lord took care of that. Our dealer located the model we selected in another town. After all we got the car in two weeks. We are praising the Lord that this stall-down happened close to our home, two kilometers from our regular service garage and not on the way to the HCJB Conference in Switzerland. Because of this, Pavel had a wonderful train ride through a spectacular fall display in Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. It was like a ride through Disneyland. The name of the train running from Vienna to Basel is "Transalpine." What more can you ask for? One just stands in the car hallway and takes picture after picture!

In the meantime, Klara "lost" her (misplaced and later found) driver's license. She became the owner of our new car but without driver's license. She could not even take a test drive; she took just a test ride.

TRIP TO WESTERN UKRAINE

Pavel's September trip to Western Ukraine was a big blessing. The Brethren Church's ministry team took some humanitarian aid to Christians in this remote area of Western Ukraine. It used to be part of Czechoslovakia between the wars. Till 1918 it was the territory of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. During WWII it was Hungary. After 1945 it became part of the Soviet Union and now it is Ukraine. Between 1918 and 1991, people of this Carpathian area were citizens of five different countries without leaving their village. Because of

this unnatural situation, their life is quite simple. Life expectancy of men is about 48, many people have no money, no jobs, and they are “isolated” from the rest of the Europe, though geographically they border the European Union. Common things in Europe are not as simple over there. A retired local doctor at Mizhgorye needs medication which costs monthly the same amount as is his pension. Most shocking were visits to the Gypsy’s camp in Mukachevo – their living conditions are very primitive but they have a Baptist church.

October and November is the time of the fall classical music festival in Prague. Along with it there are other music festivals. One of them is Swing Festival. Pavel could not miss and we treated ourselves with the real Count Basie Orchestra from the USA. It was back in Prague after 32 years. What a performance! We have two more concerts ahead.

PRAISE AND PRAYER:

- We praise the Lord that we did not lose our car due to accident or far away from our home.
- Gabi’s shipment is in the UK, she finally has broadband Internet. We are grateful that she is helping us with the programs for TWR.
- Translation of Pastor Cole’s messages from the book of Hebrews is completed – 59 parts. It is available in text on our web pages. Now the second blessing comes as Klara prepares the text for Slovak translation to be recorded and broadcasted in Slovakia. The third blessing is to be prayed for – that it would touch hearts of listeners.
- EXIT 3:16, a TV program for young people, started in September on a weekly basis in prime time on Public TV. Response from the secular audience is very positive; however, some representatives of the local Church are rather critical, especially about influence of para-Church ministries.
- On the same note one of the Canadian short term missionary couples shared with

us their comments to issues concerning para-Church organizations. They said:

Our experience is similar. Those, who did not know Christ respected us, diligently listened to the teaching. However, some exposed members of the local Church showed signs of envy or were critical to our evangelizing methods. One of the local pastors said to us: ‘We had a great opportunity for evangelization, however, missionaries from North America made it impossible for us.’ We are not sure if such comments have a real basis. We are aware of serious attitude problems within the local Church. We are convinced that without close cooperation efforts the local Church will only limp along. We can say that we had support of most common people we worked with.

OUR CONCERNS

To imagine the local situation, let’s look at a recent survey of how society values different professions. At the top are listed: doctors, scientists, professors. At the bottom are priests, politicians and cleaners. To underline this situation, here is another survey:

According to CVVM more than 70 % Czechs trust most the radio followed by TV and press. Army scored good with more than 60 %. Police gained only 47 % of respondents’ trust. The worst ranking got trade unions and Church.

Keep in mind when “Church” is mentioned in Czech Republic 99 % of people think of Catholic dignitaries. The rest of the Church, Catholic or non-Catholic, however, has not much more credit anyway. No wonder there is spiritual vacuum. The question remains – who will tell them?

Disunity is present everywhere. Czech Republic held an election five months ago and has had no new government in the office till now. The politicians are trying to put together a temporary “rainbow coalition” i.e. all parties will rule. Social Democrats want to include Communists; the other three parties want to exclude them. The Left and Right do not agree almost

on anything and both have 100 seats in 200-seat parliament...

- Search for Publisher – our special friend wrote a book "Is anyone of you sick?" The author is a devout Christian and respected MD. The book is excellent. The major Christian publisher is not satisfied with the length of the book. It is difficult to cut the text down. We feel that a book like this deserves much wider circulation, especially among non believers. Please help us to petition this matter with our eternal Healer that we can find secular publisher or find a way that this book can be another tool to glorify our Creator.

CENTRAL EUROPE STRONGHOLDS:

We have to say that Mike and Ellen Dworak are a great asset to the region. They travel a lot and as they gather information and experience they are in the middle of preparation for an organized day of prayers and fasting for the region. Here are some topics to pray for:

Atheism:

There is no God" left from decades of Communism.

Despair:

No jobs, families destroyed, trauma of rape, murder, stealing and other war atrocities.

Hopelessness:

The promise of a better life has not happened it is worse than before in some places.

Independence:

Decades of being controlled and told what to think, do and be has left millions with the attitude that they do not want to affiliate with anything, or anyone.

Paranoia:

Bloodshed, rapes, lies, propaganda etc., have left a deep-seated fear and paranoia in the people's hearts.

Lust:

Many have turned to sexual pleasure to fill the ache in their soul. Central Europe has the fastest spreading rate of HIV/AIDS than any other place, including Africa.

Envy & Pride:

This really is the heart of the matter.

Victimization:

From all the bloodshed and horrors that are a part of the history here, there is an overwhelming victim mentality.

Nationalism:

With 17 distinct cultures within the region, each has a passion for their own. This has lead to land wars, ethnic cleansing etc.

Prejudice against evangelical Christianity:

In many of the countries, Evangelical churches are labeled as 'Cults'. So much propaganda has been leveled against them...

Traditional religion (Catholic and Orthodox): These are the biggest proponents of the prejudice just mentioned.

Materialism:

Decades of having nothing has now been replaced with an unbelievable thirst for material wealth to feed their souls. Exchanging one lie for another, Satan is crafty.

Corruption:

It has become a 'learned' way of life and it is at all levels, personal and governmental.

*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*

You may mail your US.

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