



© Ivan Steiger MMIX

So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;..."
(Acts 17:22-24)

May 2009

We are sending you a lot of greetings from a busy place and busy people ministering in Czech Republic and Slovakia. The spring is the most beautiful time of the year. It has however a disadvantage—it's the allergy season! Days are longer and time goes faster



Spring highlights

In April we ministered in our favored place in Czech-Silesia. It is a region whose much larger part is now in Poland and a small part in Czech Republic. Before WWII the Polish part belonged to Germany. Klara spoke there to about 300 ladies at their annual conference. Pavel held a very intense 7-hour talk with 15 local theology pundits. We are always pleased when we find a strong Christian community in this country. We have been returning to this Silesia area for the past 15 years. What a joy to see the young generation stepping into various active ministries.

The hundredth issue of our journal "Battle for the Soul" was prepared by our new team. The young editors are moving full speed ahead. We are excited about their new design of our web page that is friendlier to users, especially with search tools and downloads.

During Easter we had public Bible readings in over a hundred different locations from a newly completed translation now called "Bible of the 21st Century." The head translator Alexandr Flek said:

This is a new Czech Bible translation, building on the spirit, strength and beauty of the traditional "Bible Kralická" version of 1613 ...

We recommend you watch the Czech Bible history presentation in English on:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_J8GbiUMo0&feature=player_embedded

The most exciting thing is that the Czech public media, including various radio hosts and Czech TV, are paying attention to it. More than a half of the circulation was sold within a few days after the official release. As of now the first printing of 52,000 is sold out and the second printing of the same number will be out within weeks. This is just 100,000 Bibles per 10 million people or one Bible per 100 Czech people, including children. Praise the Lord!

April 17th was our 44th wedding anniversary. Pavel used www.click4sky.cz months ahead of time to plan a five-day trip to Athens—an under-two-hour flight. We stayed at hostel Zeus, on Sofokles Street, right in the downtown. In that location you surely learn what the real Athens is about! Among young backpackers we felt almost like newlyweds. Next to us was a Chinese “depot” where a number of gigantic containers were unloading their cargo. Most of the merchandise sold in Europe is of Chinese provenience. As we passed beyond these Chinese entrepreneurs, it seemed like we entered Africa. African refugees or immigrants are specializing in counterfeit purses, glasses, watches and other trinkets. They display their goods placed on white sheets either on the sidewalk (so you can’t walk) or on cardboard tables. Thus they can pack up and change their location in seconds. We came to the conclusion that the government tolerates their business. On the corner was a bird market and roosters were crowing every morning. About 100 yards from the hostel was a big meat market. Because of the orthodox Easter (a week later than ours) we could observe preparation for Easter family feasts. We must say that lots of food pro-

ducts in Greece are really organic and locally grown even though Greece is otherwise as globalized as the rest of the Europe. Athens’ museums are fantastic! It is amazing to see objects which are almost five thousand years old. So many exhibits are over two thousand years old. Most of the showpieces were dated before Christ. We climbed up a very slippery stairway at the Areopagus where the apostle Paul preached to the Athenians. See Acts 17:22-31. These verses are inscribed on the rock next to the stairway. We were on our feet from morning till dusk and enjoyed every minute. It was strawberry season and local strawberries at the market were so ripe that their color was almost black. Two pounds of them with yogurt was our daily breakfast for two. The air was fragrant from orange blossoms. Our 44th honeymoon could not be timed better, before the heat makes Athens a hot and smoggy spot.

New Challenges

In our April E-PRAYER & PRAISE REPORT we wrote about a meeting with Christians from the U.S. interested in Radio planting in Czech Republic. We had an extensive talk about regions, possibilities, and the spiritual situation in the country. The following Sunday we met a visitor in our church whose father had asked our HCJB World Office in 1992-1993 to take over the former jamming station in Litomyšl. He is now retired and when we mentioned these new radio plants to his son, he told us that his father might be interested in helping us since he worked his lifetime for radio communications. Please pray for His leading, timing and guidance to succeed and glorify Him. The need is great. We Christians owe the presentation of the Good News to non-believers.

Encouragement from Slovakia

* Dear Steigers, how wonderful it is to observe how our Lord prepares opportunities and people to accomplish His purpose. Your e-mail about new development for broadcasting is exciting. As I mentioned before my desire is that the Lord will bless our Czech partners as He blessed us in Slovakia. I pray that Lord will guide every step you make to find enthusiastic partners to acquire new radio frequency. In the meantime, in Slovakia we have a real possibility to obtain a broadcasting license in Žilina. A similar situation is opened now in Nové Zámky. This is a Slovak southern flatland with excellent broadcasting range. An enthusiastic team is ready to start. I am praying for clear recognition of His will for you. I hope to hear from you more good news ... In His love, Milan

Czechs and Religion

University of New York in Prague writing contest for High school students:

Few believers is no disadvantage

Religion was invented by people who could not explain phenomena. I see there is no role for religion in the world as time passes by. Lightning is no longer seen as God's wrath, but an excess of electrical power in the atmosphere; a flood is not the result of human sins, but melting snow or continual rains. I am not saying that religion is the result of man's foolishness; it is just a lack of general knowledge. What people did not understand or did not want to understand in the past was caused by God's hand. What they did not want to face and be responsible for was called God's will. In God's name the worst atrocities were done. I am not sure why religion in Czech lands has ba-

sically disappeared. Perhaps it was WWII when people lost their ideals; perhaps it was the communist regime, which was not in favor of religions. One thing is for sure, in our country there are just a few believers. I do not think that this is to our disadvantage. Personally, I do not know a single Christian. I only know some fanatics who discuss the topic on the internet. Their world view is totally different than mine. Just like in the past, they "preach water and drink wine." They talk about love toward your neighbor and tolerance, but woe to us if we do not agree. Immediately we deserve God's wrath, curse and everlasting damnation. Instead of trying to understand others, they immediately judge, because their truth is the only one and nothing else counts. This internet world is very different than the real world. Christians should look at what the real world is all about. President Bush justified war in Iraq by stating that God told him to invade. Islamic extremists lead holy war in the name of their god, and the end result is a bloody mess, which is far away from the ideals of both religions.

I am not convinced that religion is always bad. I believe that people are happy and fulfilled if they can believe in something higher, supernatural, in goodness which will come, even though right now it is hard to find. According my understanding, the blame lies with the religions because they have influence over believers and they are abusing their power. As I see it, the religions are useless institutions. Maybe I do not understand the Church's purpose, but I do believe that we can live without religious influence. The world would immediately have fewer problems and conflicts.

— Katerina Martinkova —

**Godless? Maybe.
Unbeliever? No way.**

When someone asks me if I am a believer, my answer is yes. When I am questioned further about what I believe, I do not reveal my beliefs right away. I will not say I believe in Jesus Christ or in Allah. Most of the time my answer is that I believe in myself or that I believe that one day I will achieve something big and meaningful. I am not an unbeliever. I only do not believe in God; I believe in the strength of an individual. I believe that I am unique; I will achieve something important. I believe the world belongs to me, at least as long as I am young. ... I do not believe in God, but it does not make me an unbeliever.

— Cenek Sklenar —

Global Crisis

It is spelled in many different ways. The major question is how to solve it and how long it will take before everything goes back to normal. What is the cause of it? The following is a statement by Tomas Bata, a world-renowned Czech shoemaker, made in 1932:

Is there a predictable turning point in economical depression? I do not believe in any turning points in themselves. What we have gotten used to calling economic depression is nothing else than another synonym for decadency. Moral poverty is the cause, economical downfall is the effect. There are many people in our country (Czechoslovakia of 1932) who believe that restoration of an economic depression to health is possible through shots of money. I dread the effects of this error. The situations we now face do not require any ingenuity, extraordinary turnaround, or strategic

combinations. We need moral standing toward people, work, and public property. We must not support bankruptcy, make debts, shell out money for nonessentials, and exploit workers. We must do the same things that put us on our feet from the WWI misery—to work and save, and make work and saving more profitable and desirable than laziness and waste. Yes, you are right, we need to overcome the crisis of trust by technical interventions. However, financial and credit interventions are condemned beforehand to failure. Confidence is a personal matter that can be restored only through moral viewpoints and personal example.

Unfortunately we do not have any contemporary Bata, so we all are on the same boat.

We are grateful for each of you who continue to invest in Czech and Slovak ministries in prayer and financial support.

*With love and appreciation,
Klara and Pavel Steiger*

<°))))><

You may mail your U.S.

Tax-deductible contributions to:
HCJB GLOBAL
P.O. BOX 39800
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80949-9800
U.S.A.

You may mail your Canadian

Tax-deductible contributions to:
HCJB GLOBAL
3 - 44 SALTSMAN DRIVE
CAMBRIDGE, ON N3H 4R7
CANADA

Attach to your check
the following note:
FOR THE CZECH PROJECTS MINISTRY
ACC # 577850