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***So because thou art lukewarm, and
neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee
out of my mouth. Because thou
sayest, I am rich, and have gotten
riches, and have need of nothing;
and knowest not that thou art the
wretched one and miserable and
poor and blind and naked:
(Revelation 3:16-17)***

**May 2011
Dear Friends and Partners of
the HCJB Global
Ministry to the Peoples in
Czech Republic and Slovakia
<pavel.steiger@gmail.com>**

On April 8th our son Filip, his wife
Lenka and their four children came to visit



us here in Prague. You can imagine that everything else was put aside, and together we enjoyed perfect weather, numerous activities and great time being together. We were able to explore Martin Luther's land, visited a real castle in Germany, enjoyed a historical medieval battle of two kings at small town near Kladno where almost 1000 armored men fought the battle: You can see sample on YouTube by searching: "Czech Medieval battle war historical fight Libušín 2007."

Another memorable trip was our visit to the town of Lidice, which was leveled and all but 17 inhabitants were killed. This was eye-opening to our boys, since they are at the age that they can well understand that. In our family only blond Emma would have had a chance to survive (being adopted by a German family and raised as German). Men and boys were shot to death, women and non-blond girls ended up in a concentration camp. When our grandchildren saw the group of bronze statues of perished children they were touched. Search YouTube for "The children of Lidice."

Now the Lidice story is being made into a movie which will be released in few weeks.

We visited National Ballet and Technical Museum which was great fun. The boy's favorite was the model of planets in motion and they were able to name planets as grandpa checked their accuracy.

We enjoyed visiting several of Lenka's friends and their offspring. The generational baton is passed on. And of course the Easter family get together was a great event. Three first cousins and their spouses and nine second cousins communicated in three languages. We had to laugh as we heard them calling: "Jo, schnell" (fast in German). To see some activities of our grandchildren and all of us, visit posts from April 8, through May 2, at:

<http://thesteigerclan.blogspot.com/>

We enjoyed every moment of this family reunion. It took us almost a week to return car seats, store all the bedding and get our apartment together. Now we have only two weeks to get ready for our trip to Colorado Springs to attend the HCJB Global 80th anniversary celebration and annual conference. We are looking forward to seeing our younger son in Denver and many of our co-missionaries that we have not seen for a very long time. We have not visited Denver nor the HCJB Global headquarters in Colorado Springs since 2004. Simply, there was no time in our busy schedule.

BROADCASTING DEVELOPMENT

During the last week in March Pavel and David Uhles, whom we report to, drove first to Brno (CZ), then to Bratislava (SK), and finally to Banská Bystrica (SK) to visit TWR and HCJB Global broadcasting sites.

As we informed you in our previous letters, two more frequencies were assigned to Radio 7 in Slovakia. After carefully and prayerfully studying the project we are not sure whether we will be involved in this project. The issue is broadcasting format. This is a dilemma all Christian broadcasters must face outside of the U.S. especially in small countries like Czech Republic or Slovakia. Briefly, the first format is predominantly evangelical with no commercialism, the second more or less commercial with some hints to the biblical Gospel. The first survives on gifts and is listened to mostly by Christians; the second is financially more self-dependent, the deeper teaching is however missing, and is listened to mostly by the general public. So far we are involved solely in the first format that is broadcasted by Internet, satellite and by one FM station in Banská Bystrica that is owned by HCJB Slovakia.

Now, TWR Slovakia intends to make a change. The first format would stay on Internet and satellite only in both countries as of now, and the second format would be used for the three FM Slovak stations in Banská Bystrica, Bratislava and Nové Mesto. We pray about the situation and for wisdom about which way to go. However, since our fiscal and personnel ability is rather limited, we tend to believe that buying broadcasting time on secular and catholic stations is spiritually, financially, and organizationally more effective in spreading Good News. We want to stay faithful to the Word.

As we ponder over this issue, a new situation is developing in Czech Republic. A new frequency is on site in Kutná Hora. This town is situated about 40 miles east of Prague. It could cover a larger area, since there are no mountains as in Banská

Bystrica. At this time we are again in prayerful mode for opening Czech – Radio 7 broadcasting.

MORE INSIGHT ABOUT THIS LAND

*God and faith, yes or maybe,
but organized church NO!*

This is the general attitude of Czech people who are convinced that for their life with God they do not need church. On one side most Czech unbelievers are not total atheists but measured by the same meter, a minority of believers are not strong in their faith, even though both sides are convinced they are enemies of each other. The majority of Czech society's "anti-church or anti-religion" attitude is not based on their atheistic conviction. In the same way, large numbers of believers are not Christians because of their conviction, but they are upholding their family tradition and customs. No wonder that after the fall of communism alternative religions and cults filled a certain vacuum left after "goulash socialism". The church remains a marginal part of society similar to an exclusive club. The Czechs generally prefer non organized religion, personal spirituality or internal differentiation in established denominations. According to the previous census, 61% of respondents do not trust the church and the same attitude is expressed by about 29% of church members. Regardless of church membership, about 11% of respondents believe in the existence of God, 40% totally deny the existence of God and the rest (about half) stand someplace between both "extremes." Those people believe in some kind of transcendence, supernatural powers, which

can influence their lives and posthumous life or existence, but they do not relate this to any Christian tradition or teaching. A plurality of the population somehow believes in something, but this cannot be categorized as believing in the existence of God; no matter what, their attitude toward the church remains negative. A growing number of Czechs are no longer as militant toward religion as they were during the communist era. However, their knowledge about Christian teaching remains negligible. To most of them religion is dealing with something out of this world. They are not familiar with "religious talk" and do not understand what it is good for. Most children come out of the home with no religious training or knowledge whatsoever. Due to a demographic decrease of population, the number of church members is steadily decreasing. New converts are coming mostly from a non-church background, mostly from student ranks.

To explain more graphically the weakness of church members, take as an example our latest experience:

In March there was a seminar with Dr. James Cecy: "A revival for purity" (dealing with sexual issues and marital unity). JARON Ministries International of California was established to help pastors and lay leaders in "Equipping for more effective Christian service". When this seminar was held in other places, attendance is usually in hundreds and thousands. In Prague we had three people from our denomination (one of them organized the seminar) plus two men from another denomination! All five of us were blessed, and since Klara got a new assignment to work on family matters for our magazine and broadcasting, this was an inspirational intro into this topic.

Looking back we praise the Lord that our theological conference in January was attended by more than 150 people. In the same way we thank the Lord that our Bible study class is attended by about 20 faithful students of all ages, backgrounds and denominations. This country needs lots of prayers, endurance and commitment to keep going forward. Ministry in Czech Republic is not about numbers but about faithfulness. We can see some gems which were polished in the past 20 years.

LIBERATION DAY CELEBRATION IN PLZEN

May the 9th is a state holiday in remembrance of end of the WWII. The beer city of Pilsen, which was liberated by General George Patton's 3rd Army, conducts the Liberation Celebration. See for yourself how the Czechs celebrate the U.S. Army—it's a must:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mhal6BYnsY>

WHAT IS AHEAD OF US?

May 13th we fly to Denver. After the conference we will drive quite a few miles – from Denver up North to Idaho where we started our life in America in 1970. From there we will drive South to Northern California and spend a few days with our two supporting churches. Previously our visit was limited to one day Sunday appearances. From San Francisco we will fly to New York where Pavel should celebrate his 70th birthday (Klara celebrated her 50th there). We are looking forward to being

with North Shore Baptist friends for few days. We will spend the last few days with our grandkids in New Hampshire. When we return home at the end of June, the second half of the year will begin.

PRAISES AND PRAYER

- As we shared so many happy occasions we realized how many reasons we have to praise the Lord.
- We will visit three of our supporting churches during this trip. Please pray for traveling mercies.

***Thank you for your faithful support,
prayers and loving kindness.
In His Sovereign Grace with love
Pavel and Klara Steiger,
your HCJB Global Missionaries
in Czech Republic and Slovakia***

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