



© Ivan Steiger MMXI

*Ye have heard that it was said, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, resist not him that is evil: but whosoever smiteth thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man would go to law with thee, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. Ye have heard that it was said, thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy: but I say unto you, love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you; that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust. For if ye love them that love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the Gentiles the same? Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

*(Matthew 5:38-48)*



**September 2011**

**Dear Friends and Partners  
Of the HCJB Global  
Ministry to the Peoples  
In Czech Republic and  
Slovakia**

**<pavel.steiger@gmail.com>  
<klara.steiger@gmail.com>**

#### **VISITING WITH VISITORS**

The last days of August we made a two-day road trip. Our dear friend and Pastor Jeff from AZ stopped over from his teaching ministry in Belarus. This time we covered with him a territory about the size of LA county or Phoenix from Litchfield Park to Apache Junction, and visited cities like Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), the famous spa town now dominated by Russian clientele and investors.

Cheb (Eger) was our next stop. It is a very nice historical town just on German border. The town celebrated the 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its existence. You can follow major historical events engraved in sheet metal long strips in the walking zone. It starts with the first church, era of reformation, counterreformation (recatholization), several wars, fires, etc., German Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, end of the WWII, expulsion of Germans till the fall of communism. Normal life is returning to the town which is about 3 miles from Bavaria, Germany. It is interesting to see how many Germans are enjoying local restaurants. Two more famous spa towns in the Western Sudetenland are Mariánské lázně (Mariendbad) and Františkovy lázně (Franzensbad). It is difficult to figure out if these spa towns are going through their rebirth or requiem. Medical insurance is not as generous as it used to be under the communist/socialist era. The socialist government used to take care of the "well-being" of the working class until the moment all collapsed economically and physically. Open frontiers, traveling, change of life, pace, lifestyle and structure of society make health spas useful only for elderly patients who can afford them and need some rehabilitation. To run a health spa is a very expensive business. These beautiful places were built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for high and royal society. Medical treatment is now too expensive and for the spa operators, not as lucrative as other wellness enterprises.

A short trip over the border to Germany (about 6 miles in) was one of the highlights. In Waldsassen, we saw a basilica and beautiful convent library with interesting wood carvings of life size people depicting human faults.

## **PREPARATION FOR CONFERENCE**

We just overnighted from this short trip to drive again a full 50 miles (!) to the Northern Bohemian town of Ústí (Aussig) to spend a weekend there. On Saturday, we held a day-long meeting concerning our January Struggle-for-Soul-digest conference in Brno. We expected about 200 participants. We were excited about all the "brain storming" and great ideas about how to expand this ministry. God is great for giving us a young team of committed servants. Pavel was preaching on Sunday and a new season of Bible study is here.

## **MORE HISTORY**

It looks like that we are constantly in history lessons. However, this month is the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the start of WWII.

After the war in 1945, about 3 million Germans had to leave the Sudetenland that was a Czech territory, better Bohemian territory. They lived in the area for 700 years. They left with only 20 lb per person, meaning their properties and farm land were confiscated.

Next, the Czech nobility became the "class enemy". Their castles were nationalized and the most valuable ones were used as tourist attractions. Those

of lesser value were used for the working class's recreation.

The third targeted group, who were stripped "naked" were all "capitalists." Pavel's father was one. He used to exploit five employees ... and ended up in coal mines with black lungs and premature death.

The fourth targeted group of confiscation was related to the Church (mostly Catholic). Most church land and a number of properties are still state owned after 21 years since the fall of communism / socialism.

One can see to what degree this unimaginable wealth was mismanaged and brought to literal ruins during the 42-year leadership of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat. We remember that the word "proletariat" was later replaced by "Victorious Working Class," since "proletariat" sounded to the Czech ear more derogatively like "plebs."

The present government is not able or willing to return some properties to the former and legal owners. Often it is very difficult, especially in case of the (Catholic) Church. The Church's income that it used to have from agricultural enterprises is gone today. The church has very little means today to properly manage and fix the property in ruins. This always happens when continuity is disrupted. Without proper ownership, numerous architectural treasures are in a hopeless state of disrepair and ruins. Anything that reminded of past beauty, luxury and life style of landlords was looted, stolen or destroyed during the past 60 years. During the communist era, the castle buildings and churches were used as

army barracks or mental institutions in the better cases and in the worst cases, as pig farms, fertilizer storages and maintenance stations of collective farm machinery. This is heart breaking testimony about the ugly face of the socialist era.

## NEW PROJECTS

Klara prepared for publishing Maria Anne Hirshman's presentation in Dobruška that is a small town not far from the place she was born at. She wrote the book "Hansi, the Girl who Left the Swastika."

The next project on Klara's list is to prepare history of Czech broadcasting from Ecuador connected to the life story of Mrs. Kladensky. She and her daughter, Georgina, were instrumental in starting shortwave broadcasting. It is a fascinating story, since Mrs. Kladensky, as a Jewish girl, survived concentration camp in Terezin.

## HAPPENINGS

- American Cultural Center prepared numerous programs to remember 9/11.
- Our pastor continues in Reformation history classes. Last lecture was focused on protestant persecution which lasted 190 years – a time when to have a Bible and a hymn book was sufficient to be imprisoned, tortured, to have property confiscated and to end up in exile. Their faith was tested by fire. Herrenhutt, count

Zinndendorf and Moravian Bretheren became cradle of mission work.

### WHAT IS AHEAD OF US

We are concentrating on writing, translating and recording radio programs, articles and speeches.

### LETTERS



*Thank you. I am so glad that I listen to your programs on Radio Lumens. Sorry for my spelling.*

*Since the last Sunday on, I will listen to your weekly lessons. I am glad that there is someone like you who shows the way to God, since I, myself, am all the time seeking the way to God, though I am a practicing Christian. I am 57 and still do not understand so many questions. I googled out your web page; and I am pleasantly surprised by the number of audio recordings that are placed there. I am about to listen to them all.*

*Thank you, I will pray that your programs will be listened to, by many more people.*

*Regards Lubo*



*Dear Radio, you broadcast excellent themes about Heaven. We ask the Highest one to provide all necessary strength to you; and that we, the listeners, clearly understand that all earthly pleasures are only a dim shade of Heaven.*

*Thanks and have a nice afternoon  
Ján*



*Dear friends in Christ. Thank you for very positive broadcasting that is touching each of us. Personally, it touched me, and my mind and heart responded by searching my conscience... Again, lots of thanks for your broadcasting send your listener*

*Katka.*

### PRAISE and PRAYERS

- For summer English camps
- For summer visitors
- Please pray for the Czech broadcasting license hearing – the application is in final preparation phase.

***In His Sovereign Grace with love  
Pavel and Klara Steiger,  
Your HCJB Global Missionaries  
In Czech Republic and Slovakia***

<9)))><

#### **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 MINISTRY OF  
PAVEL & KLARA STEIGER  
ACC # 100-110329**