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Blessed is that slave if his master when he returns finds him doing it. I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his property. But if the slave says to himself, 'My master is not coming back for a long time,' and begins to beat the men and women slaves and to eat and drink and get drunk, that slave's master will come back some day when he does not expect him, and at some time of which he does not know, and will cut him in two, and put him with the unbelievers. The slave who knows his master's wishes, but does not get ready or act upon them, will be severely punished. (Luke 12:43-47)

January 2013

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

There is no better way to start New Year but with the best wishes and

PRAISES

To summarize last year we are amazed by rich blessings we experienced through our ministry in this part of the world. He gave us a great team in so many places and areas. How rich we are in friendships, generosity, inspiration, adventure, sharing, caring, loving and



most of all to be carried by your prayers and love. Our days and minds are filled with His Word, writing, translating, editing, searching for new ideas, listening, teaching, fellowshiping, encouraging and personal involvement with many. What is produced individually and collectively is reaching near and far.

HOLIDAY REFLECTIONS

Last Christmas was back to normal. We can say that since Klara's mom died four years ago, just before Christmas, we lost enthusiasm to go through Holiday motions. However, this time it was different. On the 22nd of December Jameson from Phoenix arrived and became part of our family till the 31st. We were amazed how much he knew about Eastern Europe, how many writers he knew and how many books we know about that he had read. On top of it, he loves music. You should see him and Pavel watching old naïve movie musicals like "It happened in Sun Valley." They just had fun together, while Klara prepared delicious and traditional meals.

Thank you all for your greetings, letters and family pictures. Children are maturing, some of them are getting engaged or married, and grandchildren are growing. What a joy to be connected with all of you through Christmas greetings, letters and e-mails. We praise the Lord that we could be joyfully reunited with some of you last year.

Another joyful occasion was the visit of our friends from southern Moravia. We have known this couple, Dusan and Jarka, and their extended family for 20 years, and feel a special bond to them. We are happy to report that they are very close to being drawn to Him by Him. Jarka already accepted Christ at a ladies conference. We are cautiously optimistic, since years ago they were so close but the attachment to the world was stronger. This time we see that the Lord is working on their heart level. They signed up to be part of our Winter Conference on January 19th.

Our next milestone is the **“Joyful Salvation Conference” in Brno**. Well over 200 participants already registered. Our prayer is for the weather, driving conditions and for good health for the speakers and attendees. The flu season is in full swing.

Speaking of health issues, our pastor Daniel has been battling a bad cold for several weeks. Since his immune system is already weakened, he is having a hard time overcoming this one. He should undergo a second transplant in the near future. Also, the pastor search took a setback, since our elders did not find unity.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN CZECH REPUBLIC

Vaclav Klaus, the leaving president, in his final New Year's speech announced wide amnesty to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the “Velvet Divorce” when Czechoslovakia split into two present-day countries. About 1/3 of all prisoners were released within a few days. The amnesty included some of the fraud and corruption cases that originated from lax regulation of banks and the capital market under Klaus's government in the 1990s. Most of the people are in disbelief about this decision: The Prague Post, January 9, 2013 penned: *“We consider it scandalous that the amnesty will set free the protagonists of big financial crimes, including the siphoning off of banks' and firms'*

assets, fraud during privatizations and tax evasion worth billions of crowns.”

The January presidential pre-election atmosphere is tense. Out of nine candidates the most likely choices are between two former communists and hopefully one aristocrat. Another respectable candidate looks like Avatar since his whole body and especially his face and head are tattooed like New Zealand's Maori warriors. Among the candidates we had three ladies. Their outcome was really poor. Several of the candidates have dual citizenship and six out of nine family names are of German origin. The first round left two candidates. One communist whose name is Zeman that translates to mean *Squire*, and the other whose name is Schwarzenberg, and he is a real *Duke*. Now we are expecting the clash of two Titans in the second and final election round. This time it should not be about right and left but about values. What is amazing is that many young people support the 75 year old Duke.

Two quotes of Franz Kafka (1883-1924) who describes unpredictable events quite well: *“Every revolution evaporates and leaves behind only the slime of a new bureaucracy.”* Or: *“It is often safer to be in chains than to be free.”* We shall see which quote will be more accurate. Kafka was born into a middle-class, German-speaking Jewish family in Prague. He was the most influential existentialist. The term *Kafkaesque* has entered the English language to describe surreal situations reminiscent of his writings.

DECISIONS

In January it has been 10 years since we started Slovak broadcasting. For 10 years we were charged the same price for air time. Milan is currently negotiating the cost of a contract extension with Radio Lumen. In the meantime he is working on Internet Radio Logos (the domain is already registered). His goal is to be ready with the start-up project by May/June.

Financially it looks like Internet broadcasting will be about the same cost as buying broadcasting time now. We know that all is in His hands. At this time we can only expect this new door to be opened. We continue translating and producing radio programs and the broadcasting format without interruption. Let us share a November note from Milan, Slovakia:

Klara and Pavel,

With a grateful heart I acknowledge the bank transfer of \$3,582 to our Broadcasting account. I pray that this gift will be a blessing to the givers as well as the listeners. Not least I believe that it will encourage all involved in radio broadcasting ministry in Slovakia. Thank you for your unceasing cooperation and support during the past 10 years as well as your trust and confidence in the field of my mission outreach. Our cooperation has had a major influence in my daily spiritual life as well as on my family. In His love, Milan

We knew that one of the broadcasting hardware parts “burned out beyond repair.” We were happy to help to replace it. Also Milan will have the broadcasting help of two seminary graduates. Radio programs that Milan and his team prepare are broadcasted also in Serbia to the Slovak minority living there. What more can we ask for? Our prayer is that our Lord will give sufficient strength and endurance to all involved.

PAVEL’S LETTER TO JOHN MacARTHUR CONCERNING HIS BOOK “SLAVE”

Dear John,

This is Pavel Steiger. My wife Klara and I enjoyed very much your presentation in Lage, Germany. It was nice to see you and shake hands after about ten years. When we met the first time in L.A., I was 37. Now I am 70...

Your topic was “Slave.” Let me expound a bit more on the etymology of the word *slave*.

Slavs are peoples. The western Slavs are Poles, Czechs and Slovaks. The eastern Slavs are Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians. The southern Slavs are Serbs, Croats, Slovenes and Bulgarians. Those under Rome were Catholics and use the Latin alphabet (*Poles, Czechs, Slovaks Croats and Slovenes*). Those under Constantinople were Orthodox and use a modified Greek alphabet—Cyrillic (*Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Serbs and Bulgarians*).

In all Slavic languages the word for *word* is *slovo*. Since all these peoples could to a certain degree communicate among themselves using *word—slovo*, they called themselves *Slovane—Slavs*. On the other hand, Slavs could not exchange *word—slovo* with Germanic tribes to the west, hence all Slavic peoples call Germans to this very day *Nemici* that is derived from Slavic word *nemi* that simply means *wordless, tongueless, dumb, mute, voiceless...* The following link confirms it:

<http://bit.ly/UwdRel>

Otto the Great (912-973) Holy Roman Emperor consolidated Germany, maneuvered Pope John XII into crowning him Emperor and later deposed him and set Pope Leo VIII in his place. Such a consolidation took a lot of fighting by Otto and his successors. The empire expanded eastward. Many resisting, fighting Slavs were taken into captivity and consequently sold for forced labor. Thus the word *sklave—slave*, came into existence.

SLAVE (n.): late 13c., "person who is the property of another," from O.Fr. esclave (13c.), from M.L. Sclavus "slave" (cf. It. schiavo, Fr. esclave, Sp. esclavo), originally "Slav" (see Slav), so called because of the many Slavs sold into slavery by conquering peoples.

This sense development arose in the consequence of the wars waged by Otto the Great and his successors against the Slavs, a great number of whom they took captive and sold into slavery. [Klein]

The following link confirms it:

<http://bit.ly/XGdzIR>

So, the word *slave* is, unintentionally, according to present thinking very politically incorrect term. It is derived from the name of an ethnic group of peoples. When we lived Stateside I was always joking that I would sue the English language for using words such as *slave* or *slavish*.

One last very interesting remark: For Slavic ears, in opposition to western Germanic or Latin ears, the word *slovo* that looks and sounds similar to *slave* is probably the highest one. Many other noble words are derived from it. For example, *fame, glory stardom etc.* is *slava*. Famous or glorious is he, about whom, are spoken *words—slova*. Many popular Slavic names have ending *-slav*. Jaroslav glorifies spring, Miroslav glorifies peace, Bohuslav glorifies God etc. The English name of King Wenceslaus who was actually Duke of Bohemia (921-935), in today's Czech Vaclav, formerly Veceslav simply means *more glorious*.

A Slavic Bible-knowing Christian who understands the etymology of the English word *slave*, German *sklave* or French *esclave* etc. has a very strange acoustical and visual association when reading for example John 1:1 in his own Slavic language:

In the beginning was the Word (SLOVO), and the Word (SLOVO) was with God, and the Word (SLOVO) was God.

This is all. I hope I did not occupy too much of your time. Thanks for your teaching.

In His Sovereign Grace
Yours pavel Steiger

P.S.: Slavic languages use for *slave* words *ot-rok, rob, rab*. Forced labor in Czech is *robota*. Hence, a Czech writer Karel Čapek, rather his brother Josef, coined the word *robot*. Read this interesting story, just click:

<http://bit.ly/WKuwsu>

PRAYER REQUEST

- Continue to pray for Czech Republic.
- For our team and speakers at the January conference in Brno. Registrations are pouring in and weather predictions show snow through the whole week.
- Please pray for the support of this ministry.

We wish you a close encounter with our Savior Lord Jesus Christ and a lot of God's providence during the entire year 2013. With love and grateful hearts, Klara and Pavel

***Your HCJB Global Missionaries
In Czech Republic and Slovakia
Pavel and Klara Steiger
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