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***If the world hate you, ye know that it  
hated me before it hated you.  
If ye were of the world, the world  
would love his own: but because  
ye are not of the world, but I have  
chosen you out of the world,  
therefore the world hateth you.  
(John 15:18-19)***

***March 2013***

**Dear Friends and Partners  
of the HCJB Global  
Ministry to the Peoples  
in Czech Republic and Slovakia**

Once again we will start with an anniversary. It's an infamous one, however, still an anniversary. In February it was 65 years (1948) since the communists took over the country for nearly the next 42 years. The dictatorship of the working class brought fear, mutual distrust and a double faced life. Time of repression, secret police, confiscation of private property, agricultural collectivization, thousands of people ending in prison or labor camps, numerous death sentences, and



the intelligentsia were transferred to manual labor camps, to coal mines, etc. The slogan of those days was "I am a miner, who is more". Those were our teenage and young adult years.

Higher education was closed to all who did not have the proper working class genesis. The Church was crushed or controlled by the State. The route to higher education was closed to believers.

During the first years of the communist takeover more than 200,000 people escaped to the West. Then, after the Soviet occupation in 1968 more than 250,000 people, mostly professionals, left the country. For the next 40 years families and friends were separated by the iron curtain. People learned to trust nobody.

It is amazing that after 22 years of freedom and free elections, the communist party is alive and once again they are working to be a politically active and powerful force. Western Europe and especially the European Union are flirting with socialism, redistribution, entitlements, rules, regulations and other experiments leading to more oppression, control, loss of freedom and human dignity.

## **BOARD MEETINGS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

February is the time for our annual board meetings. We discuss our broadcasting, publishing activities, and plans for the next year. One of our discussions was to evaluate our winter conference. Several interesting points came to our attention. About one third of those who attended were from Baptist churches, another third from independent churches, all new churches. The last third came from different denominations. It is a great encouragement that we have new blood and the ministry continues to be staffed with the nationals.

Another exciting fact is that, for the first time, by God's grace, we managed to cover almost all the conference expenses by the offering that we took during the conference. The conference is free of charge, though all participants get a book and refreshments. We also strive to reward the preachers for their faithful ministry – this definitely isn't common in the country. However, we believe that this is the biblical way. In addition we can see that God supports the effort. The conference video recording is now available on our web page. We also plan to publish a collection of text topics as we've done in previous years.

We are pleased that all ministry activities are spiritually and financially sound. Some moments remind us of the orphanage ministry of George Miller. Funds for the magazine and book printing were provided on time and in unexpected way. How great a Lord we have. We are praising Him for the encourage-

ment and loving care we feel step by step.

Planning for the next winter conference is already underway. Our theme of the 2014 conference is "Man is not God" pointing to His sovereignty and our total dependence upon His grace. We also have contacted speakers. What a joy to have such a great team.

The next challenge ahead of us is renting a bigger conference auditorium. We have found one but the cost is three-fold the rent we pay to the Baptist church in Brno.

Since our board meeting was on Saturday, next day we visited the independent church in Usti that is pastored by Jarda Kernal, our board chairman. One of the church members was preaching. This was his third preaching service. He was scared, however, shared such a deep biblical message that is seldom heard. What a joy and encouragement. The Lord is blessing.

## **REJOICE WITH US**

The Slovak ministry was started and registered in 1993. The magazine, *Battle for the Soul*, was for many years translated into the Slovak language. Ten years ago Milan Hudec began preparing radio programs for which we provided texts. At that time he obtained an FM broadcasting license in Banska Bystrica under Trans World Radio's legal registration umbrella. We were buying time at Radio Lumen. Programs were broadcasted also on TWR Slovakia. Later on FM and additional licenses brought changes in the format.

## OPENING AND CLOSING DOORS

You may remember the year 2002 when, after 30 years on the air, HCJB Global's "good news" short wave broadcasting in Czech and Slovak from Quito was shut down. This event opened the door for a better way of broadcasting locally.

The next news about our local FM broadcasting might sound like a disappointment. After 10 years and over 500 programs on Catholic Radio Lumen, this ministry came to its end. The reason is the cost. We used to pay \$60 for each 30-minute broadcasting segment. Recently the price was raised to \$260. This cost, well over \$1000 a month, is out of question with our budget.

Once again we can confirm when Lord closes one door He opens in His time another and better opportunity. The best news is that internet Radio LOGOS is a reality. Czech and Slovak people around the world can listen to:

[www.radiologos.sk](http://www.radiologos.sk).

We have a large archive of programs and texts. Some of the series are continuously rerecorded with new voices to achieve the best technical quality. Linking together all our ministries is the pinnacle of our 24 years of service.

## REGIONAL RETREAT

In January we were invited to HCJB Global's Europe/Eurasia regional retreat in Turkey. One third of the attendees came from the U.S. and others from vari-

ous places in the Europe/Eurasia region. The retreat agenda was very similar to our annual regional meetings of the World offices. We did not present regional reports but shared about our ministries and learned more about the changes within the mission. Jim and Trish Allen took care of our spiritual feast. Our regional executive director, David Uhles, informed us of ministry changes in Ecuador as well as in our headquarters in Colorado Springs and our other regions, concerning the visions and goals for the mission, where we are going and what and how we want to accomplish our ministry goals. The highlights of the retreat were an Istanbul sightseeing tour and our fellowship and prayer times together!

We extended our stay in Istanbul by three nights. We crisscrossed the town up and down and walked our "100 spring kilometers." Walking 100 kilometers used to be a popular spring activity during the communist era. We explored many interesting sites. Pavel liked especially the Archeological Museum. By now Klara can do "show and tell" like an interactive travel guide.

The history of this place is absolutely incredible – Istanbul is the only city located on two continents. Its history spans from centuries BC, representing civilizations and empires, and is among the world's 10 largest cities. So far we have visited eight larger cities than this megalopolis. We enjoyed very much its sunny days. Prague has had, since December 21, only 40 hours of sunshine!

Our shuttle ride to the airport was a true adventure. Streets in this historical

city are narrow and winding, curbs and sidewalks are blocked by cast iron or stone blocks to prevent cars from parking. We were backing, going forward with gas pedal on the floor and the next second breaks on the floor, forward, backward 20 times to make a turn. It was bumpy rides over cobble stone, going through one way streets as well as driving like an "escape" car after a bank robbery.

### ***PRAISES and PRAYERS***

- Praise the Lord for Milan's expertise and faithfulness. The annual technical budget for internet radio, licensing, authorship, DSL connection, rental of stream server and technical support comes to about \$1500. This cost is partially covered by funds previously used for Radio Lumen.
- Our pastor Daniel is back home after the second bone marrow transplant.
- The church is now without a pastor. The pastoral search has gone on for more than two years.
- Our children and grandchildren are coming next month to visit us. Filip and Lenka will celebrate their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. There will be seven of them all together and we will be brave hosts.

Well, in Czech Republic we have a new president. The Catholics have a new pope. The Czech president said that he

is an atheist, but reads the Bible. The new pope will be more involved with the social needs. We experience here in Czech Republic that Catholics and established Protestant denominations are getting closer to each other. The ecumenical movement is quite strong. The Protestant leadership prays together with Catholic bishops for political martyrs of the communist era. The general population is talking about deep faith and scorns organized religion and God's Word. Some Czech established Protestant churches need to focus on HIS Word. Surely there are many smaller churches that are well anchored in the Bible.

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

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