



© Ivan Steiger MMXIV

***But now is Christ risen from the dead,
and become the firstfruits of them that
slept. For since by man came death, by
man came also the resurrection of the
dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in
Christ shall all be made alive.
(1 Corinthians 20-22)***

April 2014

**Dear Friends and Partners
of the Reach Beyond
Ministry to the Peoples
in Czech Republic and Slovakia**

We are enjoying sunny days, budding green leaves and blossoms. Spring has come about one month ahead of its usual time. The summer season for tourists officially opened the last weekend in March. Recently "Trip Advisor" named Prague the 5th most popular tourist destination after Istanbul, Rome, London, and Beijing. If you have only five minutes to dream, here is another link to enjoy the beauty of Prague:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4pCJrYAYGYy>



TAXES ARE CERTAIN EVERYWHERE

Spring events, the income tax deadline and Easter are the three main activities of this month. Rising annual Income taxes require extra days every year before we reach "Tax Freedom Day." In the U.S. it is now April 21st, which equals about 30.2% of the nation's income. For Czech taxpayers Tax Freedom Day is June 27th. This is a classic symptom resulting from a socialist government with numerous entitlements and additional taxes. For example, in 2013 working retired people lost their personal deduction, which all non-retired but working people can claim. In our case this means an additional income tax payment of \$1200 each. As I was looking into historical materials about serfdom in the 16th century, the maximum labor required to a landlord was 3 days per week, 10 hours a day with a 2 hour break.

OUR BUDGET

Every April we publish our ministry financial situation. It is the first time in over 20 years that the Czech and Slovak ministry budget was in deficit. Ministry related expenses are as follows: Two half salaries for two full time people, professional translating, editing, and magazine publishing comes to \$18,000; publishing of the con-

ference book and related expenses \$2,700; office rent, internet, web pages, and office supplies are about \$3,700. As you can see, the major part of the expenses is related directly to the operational cost of the ministry. The budget remained the same this year, however contributions on the Czech side as well as US support were both lower than in previous years. The Czech ministry was short about \$10,000.

On the Slovak side, expenses for broadcasting exceeded the budget by about \$2,500. In 1213 the Slovak broadcasting had 26,000 connections overall. 58% of those were from Slovakia, 18% from Serbia, 9% from the USA, 5% from Czech Republic and 2% from Canada. The Slovak studio is under reconstruction to enable Milan to have live broadcasting entries.

We are not yet in the red. However, the ministry reserve is quickly diminishing. We already cut our personal office/housing allowance and mission longevity plan in order to finance the operational cost of the ministry.

OUR DEJA VU

With a great concern we follow the recent Russian takeover of Ukrainian Crimea and unrest in the East of the country. This has brought back our memories of Russian occupation in 1968. Almost 200 thousand Czechs and Slovaks fled and became refugees. We were one of them. The Russians and their Czech and Slovak henchmen ruled and continued devastating the country morally, spiritually and economically for the next 21 years.

As NATO, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the rest of the world suspends all kinds of Russian voting rights, they are tightening gas supply

valves for Europe. Tension is growing, a resolution is not in sight. It is hard to imagine, but BBC commentators are reporting that the conflict could descend into civil war. Once again we can see how untrustworthy and dangerous present-day Russia is. It has never gotten rid of its colonial mindset.

PRAYER CONCERNS

In our electronic letter last month we shared our burden regarding the lack of Bible study interest. Our church has over 200 people, and only a handful attend a Bible study. Half of those attending are from different churches.

We are concerned since many compromises have been made by the denomination leadership. We fear that some Christians are not well grounded in the Word and can be easily deceived. Since the believers are not well grounded in scripture, they have no legacy for the next generation. Passing on weak knowledge is the "best inoculation" resulting in "Christianity-resistant" adults. A number of church members are saddened that their children attended Sunday school and youth programs and yet, as soon as they are on their own, they are back in the world. Recently we talked to a man over 50 and he said to Pavel: "You sound like my father. I went to the Sunday school, and believe me; no one will get me even close to the church." He shared with us numerous bad examples of so called believers. All incidents were related to people's inconsistencies, not what he learned about God and the Gospel.

Without strong expository teaching and zeal for the Word, church is doomed. Our new pastor is a gifted man who likes to preach. However, in his last message he

questioned whether the Pentateuch was authored by Moses and whether the flood was worldwide. After the message Pavel told him that the Pentateuch was authored Moses and that the flood was worldwide. He said, "I am open to it." Our elders would not bet a dime on fundamentals like this. We are almost daily bombarded by hints and comments on TV and the Radio toward evolutionary "facts." We need to see commitment and courage to stand up not only for what the Bible says but also to counter the implications and the resulting prevalent doubts. When we reduce the Bible to storytelling, we have lost the battle.

THE CZECH BIBLE INSTITUTE

Pastor Steve Cole wrote: *Klara. I just saw that John MacArthur's The Master's Academy International is opening a training center in the Czech Republic. Are you and Pavel aware of this? It would be a good place for men from your country to receive training in expository preaching.*

Yes, we are aware of it. This development was mentioned at the last Shepherd's Conference a ministry of Grace Community Church in Los Angeles. TMAI – The Czech Bible Institute was recently accepted into The Master's Academy International. TMAI is an association of Bible schools devoted to training pastors around the world: www.tmai.org

We know well Lance Roberts and his wife Sandy from the days we lived in Los Angeles and while we attended Grace. Lance recently published a book titled "What to expect from your pastor." It is a based on his doctoral thesis about the Czech reformation. You can read or download an English version at:

<http://tinyurl.com/qhaztyn>

Actually our ministries are closely linked together in our "pastoral reaching efforts and conference coordination". We organize the winter conference; Lance is organizing the summer conference. We are closely working with three more long term U.S. missionaries. Our ministries are not in any way competing but completing. We help each other in many ways. Most of our coworkers are closely involved in this outreach and conference circles. We plan to attend "mini Shepherd's Conference" organized by The Czech Bible Institute in Kroměříž the first weekend in June. Jarda Kernal, our key man, is one of the speakers.

MINISTRY HEARTBEAT

- Pavel's is working on his book. Often he has to devote his time to other numerous responsibilities.
- With sadness in our hearts, we were informed that Norma Pederson, the wife of our Reach Beyond mission president Wayne Pederson passed into His glory. In May of 2013 she was diagnosed with cancer. Ten months later our Lord called her home. She was a lovely lady and great asset to Wayne. She will remain alive in our memories.
- April the 17th is our wedding anniversary. We praise the Lord that He has already given us 49 years of marriage. We are getting close to our 50th anniversary.
- Klara is finished last three sermons of Steve Cole's series on the book of Romans. It totals 108 messages. First Klara translates into Czech language. Next, with the help of Google translator, it goes into Slovak. From that it goes to our Slovak editor and

Milan produces programs out of it. Double translation is a great way to get the most out of every message. I can almost "read" Steve's mind. This is like having a personal tutor. What a privilege and joy. Check the broadcast at:

<http://www.radiologos.sk/>

- Please pray for Bible study revival among Czech believers.
- Pray for Slovak broadcasting encouragement and sponsorship.
- Whenever you get any mail from "Reach Beyond" it is not soliciting but it pertains to us, Pavel and Klara Steiger. It may take a time to get used to the new name—even for us.

COMING EVENTS

The most exciting news is that our grandsons, 12 and 13, will come in May. They will fly alone from Boston via Munich to Prague. They will stay with us for the whole month of May. Both of them are homeschooled and this will be a field trip for them.

The European Reach Beyond's Conference in Switzerland is scheduled for May 22nd and on. We are looking forward to re-connecting with the new name at the conference and meeting with the team. The boys will have some interesting experiences and sightseeing along the way. Some other missionary kids will attend, thus the young generation will have an opportunity to see what is going on in the mission.

Last but not least, without His blessings and your faithfulness this ministry would not exist. With your help we can REACH BEYOND and be "The Voice and Hands of Jesus. Together." Thank you.

Checks and Bill Pay payments should now be made payable to Reach Beyond. The bank will continue to accept payment to HCJB Global, but we would like to encourage the name change. Work is continuing on some other very cool features for our donors on our new website:
reachbeyond.org.

If you have any questions, you can contact Beth Tanksley 800-545-9394 or donor_info@reachbeyond.org.

For those of you who are already supporting us, nothing is changing. Address and account number are the same.

**Thanks for your participation
in our life and ministry.**

***In Czech Republic and Slovakia
Pavel and Klara Steiger
<pavel.steiger@gmail.com>***

<^)))))><

You may mail your U.S.

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

You may mail your Canadian

Tax-deductible contributions to:
REACH BEYOND
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**