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For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. (Romans 12:3)

August 2014

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

100 YEARS SINCE START OF THE WWI

July 28, 2014 marks the 100-year anniversary of the assassination of the successor to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Franz Ferdinand d'Este in Sarajevo. It ignited, but not necessarily caused, The Great War. "Contemporaries called it The Great War because it was literally greater than any war ever waged before that time. In numbers of soldiers involved, in numbers of casualties, in terms of the disastrous consequences, it was the most catastrophic event in the history of European civilization. Of



the 65 million European soldiers who were mobilized from 1914 to 1918, over 9 million were killed, 9 million permanently disabled and 15 million were seriously injured." (Peter Hammond)

It was the first time when poisonous gas was used, airplanes and submarines entered on scene, and women left their homes and started working in war factories. Since then Europe went from being a majority church attending population to a continent where most people do not go to any church. A hundred years later grandchildren of those involved are discovering remnants of personal documents, diaries and film negatives in attics.

Once again the recent summer events are reason for concern. We are in the middle of an information war which culminated in the Russian takeover of Crimea, Ukraine, the downing of a Malaysian plane full of civilians over Ukraine, unrest in the Middle East after the "Arab Spring" leading to numerous civil wars, a refugee crisis in Iraq, conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Growing unrest should be a sufficient warning that one wrong step can trigger a spark just like the Sarajevo assassination, and the powder keg may explode.

After a number of US and EU sanctions and Russian counter-sanctions, countries caught in the middle of that "war" are alarmed and counting their economical losses. Concerns about manufacturing, agriculture and trade stability is

growing. It looks like a new world power struggle began while a solution is not in sight. The “Cold war” between Russia and US – EU is back.

GOOD, BETTER, BEST

Describing our summer activities goes in many ways and directions. After we finished our Bohemia summer camp tour, we moved from the most northern to the most southern area of former Czechoslovakia. From there we drove southeast of Bratislava, the capitol of Slovakia. We visited an interesting couple, their children and partners. As the Czechs in the past endured their turbulent times with Germans, the Slovaks were in a similar situation with their Hungarian neighbors. Now, living in the EU feels like the time right after the Tower of Babel. We were communicating around one table in Czech, Slovak, German and English. Each of us was involved using a language we could translate to those who did not speak the other language. No Hungarians were with us.

During all that travel we had good and loving fellowship with number of friends from the past days of our ministry before we moved to Prague. We can clearly see better days and a growing number of new people involved in the church planting and teaching ministries.

STEPPING OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE

While in Bratislava, we and a number of Slovak speaking friends were invited to listen to the lecture about the situation in Syria presented in Slovak by two Syrian men who have lived in Slovakia for a number of years. Their command of the Slovak language was very good. Both of them formerly belonged to the Syrian Orthodox Church. This was a most informative, interesting and tricky insight into a different world. They explained how a person becomes Christian in Syria. If someone is born to a

Christian family he or she is automatically registered as a Christian. In Syria, as in several other countries, all legal documents or identification must include one's religious affiliation. Usually it is Muslim, Christian or Orthodox. No one can remain or be labeled an atheist. How do you recognize who is who? Christians do not use Arabic names. To hold the classification “Christian” does not mean in this case that one is a believer. The “Christian” umbrella can include doubting persons, nonbelievers in any god, humanists or even communists. Their name makes them “Christians.” This explains how it can happen that a Syrian “Christian” can present you the Koran. The host family was given one in Slovak. We were presented a text book of Arabic phrases. According to the Koran, a person is born sinless. As these Syrian “Christians” said, Islam and Christianity are equal and we all have the same god regardless if we are “paper Christians,” atheists, or communists. However, they have common enemies: the state of Israel, and the United States, which one of them called a “plague.” They believe that world powers and capitalism have to be destroyed.

As we were surrounded by unbelievers, it was interesting to observe how easy it is to stir irrational emotions. Hate unites people much faster than the message of love and forgiveness.

ENDURANCE HIGHLIGHT

Klara attended Christian counselling seminar and instruction with two excellent speakers: George C. Scipione and Richard Ganz, author of “Psychobabble”. In four half-day sessions we had twenty-two 40-minute lectures with two to six minute breaks and no coffee time. George C. Scipione and his wife Eileen have been faithfully coming for the past 13 years to teach how to use God word in Christian counselling. It was breathtaking to use only

scripture for counselling in all situations. Christians do not need to look for “wisdom of the world,” His word is sufficient. Over 250 people from all around the country and Slovakia were present. Klara would never believe that it is humanly possible to endure something like this. Yes, it is possible. This just proved that sermons do not have to be cut to 20 minutes. If there is a powerful message, time does not count.

Team of young people from the US and locals took care of the children’s program. They did a super job. Their small presentation at the end of conference was another highlight. To see kids singing in Czech and English, fluently communicating in both languages, was wonderful. What a joy it was to see the next generation, new and young people eager to listen and learn without compromise. Praise the Lord.

MORE HISTORY

As we mentioned, during our recent trip to Bratislava a part of our cultural program was a visit to Chatam Sofer Memorial. Almost every town in Europe had synagogue and Jewish cemetery. However a very few of them remain intact. On the Danube bank used to be an old Jewish cemetery. In 1943 when the nearby tunnel was constructed Germans issued an order that the cemetery must go. However even Germans at that time were corrupt and a large bribe allowed the dead to be exhumed and buried in a communal grave. The small part of the cemetery where prominent rabbis and scholars were buried stayed in place. It was covered by concrete slabs, sealed and covered by cobbles. The trams and cars were running over it for almost 60 years. In 2002 the underground remnant of original cemetery was restored and the Memorial became opened to the public. Apparently this is the second most holy place for one of the sects of Orthodox Jews. As we were told,

one of the tombstones belongs to a rabbi who is an ancestor of Karl Marx—very interesting.

http://www.chatamsofer.sk/chatam_sofer_memorial_introduction/

RECOMMENDED VIDEOS

Czech Republic
UNESCO – World Heritage:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3ezBXebEtc>

You all know, Pavel is a big jazz fan.
Before you read any further, just click:

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/IXKDu6cdXLI?rel=0>

LETTERS

Dear Pavel, allow me to share a few lines with you. The Lord called me to faith in 1990. Since the beginning I have tried to know Him from all angles—who He is. For a long time I have tried to grasp teaching about predestination. First, I ignored this issue. Next I was trying biblically to get around it because it scared me. Are we just puppets in the hands of a heartless God? Why did Christ die? And how you can harmonize predestination with God’s love? Articles in the magazine “Battle for the Soul” did not help me, they rather irritated me. It all sounded theologically without compassion. This year, the Lord showed his mercy to me through a book by J.M. Bianchi: “God Chose to Save,” and after that I downloaded your teaching on Trans World Radio about God’s provision, providence, and creation. This was like drink of living water to me. Finally, thanks to His grace, I could accept that truth by heart and embrace it by faith. I feel like God lifted a huge burden from my shoulders which I was dragging in my Christian walk for many years. I am full of joy as I am uncovering deep and precious truth in the Scripture. I want to thank you. God used you. In eternal God’s mercy, your brother Jaromír Jandl.

What now follows is a note mailed to us by someone who has been receiving our magazine since November of 2001:

Islam is the only true religion. Go to AH you ghost exorcist. Why are you mailing your junk, you spiritual savage!

Prayer request from close friend and ministry partner:

Join Us in the Battle

We are facing resistance on every side with the institute. People are being encouraged to not study the Word at our institute, to not continue, and to beware of us...the fundamentalists. Even the Baptist Union, which our church is a member of, is at work against the institute. Please pray with us that the Lord would send two full classes of students for this coming school year. We are praying for a full class in the Bible Foundations Program and for a full class in the Pastoral Training Program. Please pray for God to call men to the ministry to preach His Word and shepherd His people in this atheistic nation. Pray that God would lay a deep burden upon pastors, elders, and men's hearts that would move them to sacrifice, and to study the Word of God, to study preaching, and to strive to be the best shepherds and preachers they can be for the glory of God!

We live in days of deception, compromises, lukewarm-ness and loss of judgment. To live for Christ is not the same as a Christian lifestyle.

PRAYER REQUEST

- Health of our church. The denomination our church is part of is drifting and becoming unbearably liberal and ecumenical.
- The plans for our annual Winter Conference are underway.

Please remember, whenever you get any mail from "Reach Beyond," it is not junk mail but rather the new name for the HCJB ministry we have served with for the past 22 years. All mailings pertain to us, Pavel and Klara Steiger. It will take some time to get used to the new name—even for us.

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

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

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

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