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But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema. As we have said before, so say I now again, if any man preacheth unto you any gospel other than that which ye received, let him be anathema. (Galatians 1:8.9)

# **FEBRUARY 2015**

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

## CONFERENCE REPORT SOLA SCRIPTURA

Thank you for your prayers regarding good weather, driving conditions, the good health of all speakers, volunteer helpers and those who planned to attend. God was merciful. All worked out greatly; the number of children in the group was the only thing affected by the incoming flu season.



It all changed in the following days and weeks. Weather became treacherous, roads icy, flu closed down a number of public places.

As we all know, the enemy never sleeps and we had to deal with a few issues. One of them was the building where the conference is held. The history of this place is quite colorful. The original plan from the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was to build a seminary for Catholic priests. As soon as the project was realized it was forcefully "rented" in 1943 till the end of the WWII to SS-Waffen Police Academy. During war time, a branch concentration camp, called Camp Brno, was established there. Some especially skilled prisoners from were placed here to work in arms research and laboratories while the less fortunate were sent to the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. After the war, in April 1945 the camp was evacuated. From May to August 1945, the site became a Russian military hospital. When they left, the building remained in total shambles and disrepair for several years. In 1950 the building was confiscated by the Communists and was turned into a Communist Military Academy. Later on, parts were used as a Technical University. After the fall of communism, as a result of restitution claims by the Catholic Church, the property was returned in 1990 to the original owner. At the present time it is used as Bishop High School. The Catholic Radio Proglas and TV Studio Noe (Noah) are also stationed in the building.

We well know that God does not dwell in buildings but in our hearts. Regardless, some people do not want to attend our conference since it takes place in a building that is in Catholic hands no matter how convenient it is. Now you know the whole story and our dilemma. As of now it is a matter for prayer. We would rather find another place in Brno, but only a few churches have capacity for about 300 people. It is difficult to find such a suitable conference place for reasonable cost: a place with classrooms for children and dining facilities willing to accommodate us on Saturday. We do not charge a fee for the conference and all is financed through voluntary contributions by those who attend. We doubt that we could have such attendance in a Hotel or other conference facilities. Most of the hotels are out of question anyway because of the ball season. When we add all these factors together, the site at the Bishop High School remains most suitable for our needs.

The theme of our conference was "Sola Scriptura" and all the whole team did an outstanding job. What a joy to greet old friends and meet numerous first comers. It is a Czech and Slovak event. Those attending were of different ages, denominations and locations. We are pleased that many young people are interested in deeper truth than most other conferences offer. We are rejoicing that interest and attendance is undiminishing.

All adults who attended the conference received the "Pocket Theology Edition" of a book entitled "Profiting from The Word," by Arthur W. Pink.

After each conference we receive a number of personal letters and reguests for advice. Most of them are relating to current situations in the local church. Through the conference, the eyes of some people are opened as they see the importance of a proper respect for God and our Savior as well as the Gospel. The opportunity to minister to people with our magazine, webpages, radio, preaching, teaching and writing is endless. Our speakers were once again outstanding and we pray for those who are growing into the ministry. Our team is praying for a possible church plant in Prague.

If you want to immerse yourself into the Conference atmosphere, enter the following link into your browser or just click if you are reading this report online:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RI3BYFYXqE

#### **RADIO LOGOS MINISTRY**

We met in Brno with Milan Hudec, our Slovak Radiologos.sk man, and talked about the future of this ministry. It is well established among small format internet radios, however there is no one to carry on. The future of this ministry is in the Lord's hands and determined by how the Slovak Christians will respond and participate.

## TURBULENT EVENTS ARE ALL AROUND US

As we mentioned in our electronic Prayer letter (E-PPR) the New World (dis)Order is on the rise. The serious situation east of us makes most of Europe very concerned. Russia is leading an undeclared war with Ukraine. No one knows exactly who is in charge and no wonder it is called by some a "hvbrid war". Cold numbers: 6.000 dead, countless wounded, one million refugees. We do not see any peace protests anywhere. Russia is determined to regain the status of a world power regardless of cost. Since we know the mind of people in former Russia quite well, we see only more suffering ahead along with hatred for both legitimate and invented enemies.

Concern and fear of the neighboring Baltic countries is real. No one wants to be once again under the Russian dominance. NATO is about to deploy some armed units in Baltics, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria as a defense against potential Russian invasions. However, in Russian eyes, this is a clear offensive activity attack.

The terror coming from ISIS and Islamists is spreading fear all over the world. It is gruesome to witness current killing of hostages, terrorist and commando attacks and other dangerous actions. No one is safe or immune to terrorist attacks anymore. The number of those willing to kill and to be killed comes from many different countries.

Last time we mentioned that it is most interesting that Islamists are recruiting young people from secular circles; 90 % of them come from atheistic families, only 4 % come from Christian or Islamic families. Secularized Europe raised its own enemies. It is easier to recruit young persons who have no religious upbringing. The next interesting fact is that 90% of potential terrorists have been recruited through internet. Only small numbers were recruited directly in Islamic centers and mosques. Many people in numerous European countries that opened the door to Muslim immigration are scared.

Serious economic and financial crisis is at the door. The rising national debt, diminishing buying power, inflation and pressure of other side effect signals big troubles. The monetary crisis in Eurozone is corrected by "monetary quantification" – which means that Euro-union Central Bank turned on the printing presses. Escalating troubles in Greece (largest national debt after Japan in relation to GNP) and their turning to socialism is an inspiration for other southern European countries to follow.

This practically worldwide turmoil on so many fronts leads to serious troubles and the loss of the post WWII stability. Masses of people from affected areas are on the move. Some are looking for safety, others to conquer.

We start realizing that new world trends are not necessarily the most valuable tools to peace and prosperity. It looks like every generation is determined to reinvent wheel. It is interesting that a number of personalities among secular thinkers as well as godly men were born more than 100 years ago. Their influence, good or evil, remains present with us up to the current day. The empty words and proclamations of today's world leaders are falling on deaf ears in so many conflicts and crisis. Nothing other than the foolishness of man and the limit of worldly wisdom and power is showing the need for His wisdom. What a precious source we have in Scripture.

#### **PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Our team is already focusing on the next January Winter Conference.
- The topic Work of Triune God in Salvation.
- To seek and address new potential speakers.
- Search for other options for conference place.
- Place this year's conference video on our internet site.
- Pavel is finished with his part, now he interacts with those who read the book and adds their comments. The next step is the final editing and preparation for printing.
- The book is getting closer to finalization. To write a theological book that can be understood by laymen is not an easy task even for "skilled outsid-

er". To write something what can be understood by "fisherman" and yet withstand the criticism of "professional insiders" requires very careful consideration.

 Last but not least are the publishing finances. The lower the price of production, the lower the price we can offer to our readers. Our prayer is that we can subsidize with help of special sponsors at least half of the printing cost. Any proceeds from future sales will be used for further publishing projects.

# 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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