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Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: (Mathew 7:13,14)

DECEMBER 2015

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

**COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS
DAY BY DAY**

December is here and what we like most during the pre-Christmas days is the music. Last month we listened to romantic Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff performed by Czech Philharmonics at Dvorak Hall; followed by "My Heart Beats in the Rhythm of Swing" in the National Theatre. With our Spokane "semi-in-law" family" we enjoyed medley of classical music performed by a



small chamber orchestra. Then we sang Christmas carols with Trans World Radio team in Brno; we are starting our 27th year of broadcasting with them. On the 6th we enjoyed an evening boat ride with "Body and Soul" session. On the 10th, we attended another fantastic event Mozart Gala concert in the Prague Cultural Center. Two days later we took part at Christmas "Chorea Bohemica" event at the Prague Castle. On the 13th, the gala commemorative concert of the 100th birth of Frank Sinatra called "Sinatrology" in the beautiful Municipal House. We will be there with four pairs of our friends from Slovakia and Moravia. The event was hopelessly sold out.

As you can see our December days are as busy as was the whole year. We want to Praise the Lord for the opportunities to serve, to learn, to give, to share, to be with our family, friends and our new church.

ALL IN THE HOUSE

November the 8th 2015 was the day we met in our new "Bible Church Prague" (BCP) the very first time. This date is marked by several significant historical events. This day is celebrated in some Protestant countries as a "Day of Reformation." Until the 20th century it was accepted as fact that on October 31, 1517,

Luther posted the Ninety-five Theses, which he had composed in Latin, on the door of the Castle Church of Wittenberg, according to university custom. Today, this day is known as the International Day of the Persecuted Church. However, for the Czechs, November 8, 1620 is the most significant—when Protestants were defeated by Catholics just about two miles from our home. This was the end of the Protestant Reformation in Bohemia (the Czech Republic is made up of Bohemia in the West and Moravia in the East). Read more:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_White_Mountain

We meet each Wednesday night for Bible study. We have about 12-18 people, some are from other churches. So far we have about 34 people who attend either Bible study or Sunday worship service. About half of the people are regular; others are either from other churches or unchurched. The BCP is composed of students, young adults single or married and five young-at-heart seniors like us.

MAJOR EVENTS OF 2015

It was a good year. In **January** we held the 6th Theological Conference in Brno.

February was a work month as usual and quarterly meeting of the board.

During the month of **March** we hosted several visitors from far and near, and worked on translations and programing.

In **April** we enjoyed a concert in Mirror Chapel with our ministry friends from Malasia. Ty is a musician and his remark about contemporary and classical Christian music was amusing. In his words, the contemporary music is pathetic. Ty and his wife celebrated their wedding anniversary in Prague. Praise the Lord we quietly celebrated our 50th one. We have attended

numerous lectures and hosted our Canadian friends as well as relatives from San Francisco, attending a memorial service for one of Pavel's cousins. By the way, the late cousin attended our Bible study for one "semester" to find out what Christianity is about. She was informed but not transformed. She departed on her terms...

In the beginning of **May** we enjoyed the 70th anniversary of liberation in Pilsen. May is the traditional month for the European Reach Beyond Conference. This time we all met in Budapest. The third event was the purchase of the office space we now use for the church planting. Our three-year prayers for church planting have been taking concrete shape.

June was a work as usual month, taking possession of the office space, painting and getting ready for the new adventure. We attended a summer theological conference on Expository preaching in Brno hosted by the Bible Institute in Kroměříž (kind of a Masters Seminary Extension). Our dear friend and mentor Geoff of IDS ministries from Phoenix spent some time with us and Yarda our pastor. Klara finished proofreading the translated text of MacArthur's book "Slave." The publishing hangs in the air. We know that the Lord will move things ahead in His time.

July was our vacation time – we enjoyed "Hotel bus travel" with non-believers in Scandinavia. Yarda and his family are temporarily living in the office space waiting for the apartment (our former office) to be ready. After five years of battle with cancer, our former pastor Daniel died. He was a very special and dear friend to us. One chapter of our life closed and the new one opened. Now, looking back, his departure was a natural transition to the church planting.

In **August** there was a family reunion in Spokane. We could show our grandchildren where their dad and favored uncle Vit grew up. Our sons reunited with their babysitter after about 38 years. We reconnected with old friends and classmates in the US and Canada. The only flaw on this trip was smoke from fires which followed us up to Calgary and further north to Edmonton. All national parks and the scenic beauty was practically hidden from us.

In **September** Jarda (Yarda) spent most of the summer working in Prague. Our statement of faith for church planting is ready, legal registration is on the way (all was approved and registered). Immediately after our return, numerous moves took place. Pavel's logistical skills were amazing. The new Bible study started "in house." Another quarterly meeting related to the Winter Theological Conference took place. Klara attended a weekend retreat with our former Church. Once again we were reassured that it was the right time to leave and start the new church.

October, Klara is 70 years young. Every morning she wakes up and thanks God for giving her another day to live. Another friend from Canada visited us. He used to mail our "Battle for the Soul" magazine to Czech Canadians while we lived in Indonesia.

November, good attendance on the first day of the "Bible Church Prague" is encouraging. We spent a lovely afternoon and evening with our new "semi-in-laws" visiting Prague from Spokane. Early bird Christmas greetings started to land in our mail box.

December is the time to look back and praise the Lord. Especially this year we can see His hand in so many unexpected blessings and events. He protected us, He

provided all our needs and more, He gave us our family, friends, prayer partners and supporters. We can clearly see that we are not alone and we can rest in Him. It is not us, but Him who governs our lives and days. To Him belongs all glory.

Without mentioning current political events our letter would not be complete.

MIGRATION CRISIS

There is hardly a day when we do not hear and see how the migrant crises affect the European Union. The civil war in Syria has stretched on for five years; at present time there are almost three million Syrian refugees living in Turkey. Among them are practically no Christians. For a while we could think that this is a humanitarian crisis. However, people smuggling in Turkey is a well-organized business.

Migrants from Afghanistan, Iraq, Bangladesh, Pakistan and other Islamic countries as well as Balkan countries (Kosovo, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia), numerous African countries (Algeria, Eritrea, Nigeria, Somalia, Mali, Congo, Senegal) are finding other routes, taking advantage of this crisis. Once they are in the Euro Union, even if they do not get asylum, no one will get them out. It is not hard to imagine what is ahead of us. The ethnic civil war of the 1990's in Yugoslavia could be just a prelude to what may eventually flare up in Europe.

The German newspaper Die Welt (The World) quoted the German secret service analysis declaring the integration of a million illegal immigrants is impossible due to their number and already existing parallel society. The document is critical of the fact that Germany is importing Islamic extremism, Arabic anti-Semitism, ethnic conflicts and different views on law and order com-

mon in western society. Authorities will not be able to guarantee safety and enforce the law.

In this atmosphere, politics of emotion will not help anyone. Global fear of terrorism, tyranny of dictators as well as a growing number of terrorist attacks, (very little is mentioned about persecution and loss of Christian lives) is signaling that democracy and the world we knew till now is in grave danger. Once again Germany is playing a major role in what the new Europe will look like. It may very well end up with turbulent events like we know from the Bible. Men can try to unite racially, culturally and religiously, however our Lord will not allow any new tower of Babel to be built.

In the meantime He is giving us plenty of time to focus on His kingdom and His children. Never before have we had so many tools, opportunities, and challenges to serve Him faithfully.

ALL IS UNDER HIS CONTROL

- Please pray with us that our labor and your prayers will bring fruits in the land of thorns and thistles. The day of reckoning is coming. How sweet it is to know that we are never alone.
- We praise the whole team and sister churches and ministries who are with us building His kingdom.
- Please pray for the upcoming Winter Theological Conference – we will meet at a new location.
- Please pray for faithfulness, endurance and partners.
- Please pray for the events of next year which are filling our calendar.
- Please pray for Czechs living abroad to read this prayer letter and log in and listen to the Sunday teaching:

<http://www.krestanepraha.cz/>

- Please pray with us for the leaders who govern over us as well as for Reach Beyond leadership.

All our web books, magazine and articles have received a new, more sophisticated feature. See for yourself, just page using your mouse:

<http://knihy.reformace.cz/books/bjmm/#p=1>

**Thanks for your participation
In our life and ministry**

**In His Sovereign Grace
Pavel and Klara Steiger
Your Missionaries
In Czech Republic and Slovakia
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