



Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (Ephesians 6:13-16)

APRIL 2016

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

As you receive this letter, another busy month will be behind us. There are times when we feel that a week has only 24 hours. We praise the Lord that he gives us time to realize that we are on this world for a while, while His eternity has no end.

As we mentioned in our Electronic Prayer, our recently planted "Biblická církev Praha" (Bible Church Prague – BCP;

<http://www.krestanepraha.cz/>) is a joint ministry with another independent Church: "Biblické společenství křesťanů" (Bible Christian Assembly – BCA;

<http://www.cirkevusti.cz/>) in Ústí and an independent church "Biblický sbor křesťanů" (Bible Christian Body – BCB;

<http://www.bskk.cz/>) in Kladno. All three churches cooperate in a number of ministry activities. Pavel was preaching for a year in the Kladno Church some ten years ago. As we are involved in the new ministry, it seems like everything is going faster. Since our Church planting, our activities are closely related to the Church in Usti. We function on a kind of rotating basis. Between the two churches, we have 5 men involved in preaching and teaching and if needed, Kladno is ready to help.

In the meantime we are working on a book and article translations, publishing magazine, web page ministries, personal correspondence, counselling, and translating radio programs.

As you can see, we are not idle for even one minute.

Each Sunday and Wednesday we have one or two people come to see what our ministry is about. We have two baptisms scheduled for the month of May.

Pavel, Jarda and Jan, the three key men are going to attend Conference in the UK. Geoff Volker of Mesa, AZ will be the main speaker. At the end of May, we will have the Reach Beyond Conference in

Sweden. We are anxiously looking forward to getting together again to find out all the news and info about recent events in Colorado Springs as well as in Ecuador.

The next important event on our list is the Summer Conference in Kroměříž, Moravia. We, BCP in Prague and BCA in Ústí, conduct a January theological conference; the BJB Kroměříž, under the associate pastor Dr Lance Roberts (Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, CA), conducts June conferences. The main speaker in this Pastoral Conference will be again Dr. Steve Lawson. We really appreciate the cooperation and continuity of those teaching ministries since they are attended by visitors from Czech and Slovak places. This is a great time for networking, finding new contacts and often coworkers and helpers. Our countries are so small that soon we will know the "key people" personally or at least we will know about each other. On the other hand, it is true that there are so few solidly grounded Christians that when we start to work with some of them we have to overcome so many issues related to the foundation of the church, and that is part of hard labor.

Another exciting project worth mentioning comes from the Kroměříž ministry. It is related to the recently completed and published *MacArthur Bible commentary on the entire Bible. There are very few things you can invest in financially that will bear fruit for generations to come. Investing in the publication of a Bible commentary is one of those things.*

On our side, a translation of John MacArthur's book "Slave" into the Czech language is almost done. As soon as we can obtain the publishing rights and gather together the funds, it can be published. Lance is working on an invitation for John

MacArthur to visit the Czech Republic next year. You can join us in praying for this.

EARTHQUAKE IN ECUADOR

We praise the Lord that Reach Beyond's (formerly HCJB) 76-bed Hospital Vozandes-Quito in the capital city was undamaged by the quake and is also receiving patients being airlifted by the Ecuadorian government from coastal towns and cities. Reach Beyond ministry workers throughout the country confirmed that they were safe, though they were concerned for the quake victims. "We are praying that the ground will stop trembling and that people who survived can receive the help that they need," said one worker. One of the Quichuan radio programmers learned that five members of his wife's family perished in the hard hit Pedernales. Meanwhile the ministry's local radio stations and repeaters in Ecuador—seven in all, including three in the quake zone—are broadcasting a message of hope to the traumatized population.

MIGRATION CRISIS

The migration crisis in the European Union is not getting any better. It looks like the EU has completely lost direction. The Schengen territory of the EU used to guarantee free movement of the people, goods and capital from the Baltic countries to Portugal. Now it is a wide-open gate for refugees, migrants and terrorists. More and more desperate countries are building fences and patrolling former border crossings, but it is a few against many. The situation is going to get out of hand this summer as the number of those who are crossing daily will increase. Tension in the detention places is growing and travelling through Europe will be hindered by long

lines at the border crossings. The closest popular tourist destination at the sea will lose lots of visitors. Numerous touristy destinations are not safe anymore: Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia, and Greece. The Balkan countries are swarming with migrants. It is only a matter of time before more unrest and troubles will spark some serious civilization clashes. Europe is expecting three million refugees in 2016 – nobody knows, rather no one is willing to take a stand regarding how to handle this situation; meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of undocumented migrants are getting more radicalized and angry. Europe has lost the ability to protect its own territory.

SOME FACTS ABOUT CZECH REPUBLIC

1. Largest castle complex in the world:

You can't visit Prague without seeing the spectacular Prague Castle. You'll be exploring the largest castle area in the world, a whopping 70,000 m²! Dating back to the 9th century, Prague Castle has been the seat of the Kings of Bohemia, the Holy Roman Emperor and the presidents of Czechoslovakia and is currently the residence of the Czech President. Be sure to visit St Vitus Cathedral, the biggest and most impressive church in the country.

2. Charles University is one of the oldest in the world: Founded by King Charles IV in 1348, Charles University in Prague is among the oldest in the world and the oldest in Central and Eastern Europe. Its acceptance rate is a striking 1 in 400 – all the respect to the accepted students!

3. 90%+ secondary education attainment rate: According to OECD's 2013 'Education Policy Outlook' report, "the Czech Republic has one of the highest up-

per secondary education attainment rates for the 25-34 year-olds (94%, compared to the OECD average of 82%) with most students completing vocational education and training".

4. Prague: Europe's best-preserved old towns:

Prague is one of the few cities in Europe that remained intact over the years, having survived both World Wars, so what you will see is all original. Make sure you visit the Old Town Square and watch the 'Procession of the 12 Apostles' taking place every hour on the Astronomical Clock of the Town Hall. Also soak up the atmosphere of this magical city by strolling along the narrow cobbled streets and enjoy.

5. Škoda, one of the oldest automobile brands:

Founded in 1895, Škoda is one of the very few automobile brands with a history of more than 100 years. And by the way, did you know that 'Škoda' means 'damage', 'shame' or 'pity' in Czech, so kudos to the marketing people!

6. Ever wonder, "Who invented this?":

Modern soft contact lenses were invented by the Czech chemist, Otto Wichterle in 1959. It was a Czech doctor, Jan Jansky, who first divided blood into four types in 1907. The first sugar cubes were made in the Czech Republic in 1841 after a sugar factory director's wife got injured while trying to cut some pieces of sugar and suggested finding an alternative. The word 'robot' is Czech and it was first used in 1920 in a theatre play by Karel Capek, Rossum's Universal Robots. The play was about a robots factory and the playwright's brother suggested calling the working machines 'roboti' from the Slavic 'robota', which means 'labour'.

7. One of the most peaceful country splits in the 20th century: As you might

already know, until 1992, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic were a federal state, Czechoslovakia. Due to growing nationalist tensions in the government, the country was dissolved and on 1 January 1993 the two states become independent. The dissolution, also called the 'Velvet Divorce', was one of the most peaceful country splits of the 20th century.

PRAISE AND PRAYER TIDBITS

- Praise the Lord that Santa Rosa Bible Church is financially helping with the Slovak Radio ministry deficit.
- Please pray for Milan and his health.
- Pray for the summer conference and summer programs and teams who are in the preparation process.
- Praise the Lord for all three Churches standing and serving together. Please pray for men who are bearing the load of church existence.
- Praise the Lord for the new people of Bible Church Prague. Please pray for them to grow in closeness and togetherness as well as for their numerous needs. Health issues, job situations, family problems, marital issues, pre-marital counselling, visa issues, etc.
- Please pray for the space we can rent for Sunday services, since our space is sufficient for Bible study and office but on Sundays we are already crowded.
- Please pray with us that our labor and your prayers will bring fruit in the land of thorns and thistles. The day of reckoning is coming. How sweet it is to know that we are never alone.
- Please pray for a hostage situation of a Czech Christian we know who has

been detained in Sudan since Christmas.

- Please pray with us for the leaders who govern over us as well as for Reach Beyond leadership.
- Please pray for Czechs living abroad to read this prayer letter and log in and listen to our Sunday teaching:

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

Here is the link to our publishing efforts:

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

Those of you who receive this hard copy Prayer Letter and not by email, let us know your email address so we can mail it to you electronically.

**Thank you for your prayers,
support and participation in our life and
Czech & Slovak ministry**

**In His Sovereign Grace
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