



As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:16)

JUNE 2016

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

WE HAVE A NEW PRESIDENT

REACH BEYOND, formerly HCJB Global, recently announced the appointment of Rev. Steve Harling of Foothills Community Church in Arvada, CO, as its new president effective Sept. 1, 2016. Rev. Harling has spent 36 years as a pastor in churches of up to 4,500 members and has served for the last eight years as lead pastor at Foothills Community Church. He has led staff teams of 90 or more employees and thousands of volunteers. The son and grandson of missionaries, early in his career Rev. Harling served internationally as a missionary with SIM and as pastor of the Khartoum International Church in Sudan. He has more than 25 years of mission board experience with SIM, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Global Refuge and Bethany Home.



Rev. Harling and his wife, Becky, have been instrumental in mentoring and training many who are now serving around the world. "Perhaps one of Steve's greatest qualities is his ability to motivate and mentor people to maximize their God-given potential in ministry and missions," said Jack Harrison, a member of the Reach Beyond board and chair of the presidential selection and transition team. "We're thrilled that God has risen up Steve to lead us into the next era of ministry to those who have never heard the name of Jesus."

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2016

You can imagine that we were very curious to find out more what changes we all can expect. Usually we do not know ahead of time who will come to European conference from headquarters in Colorado Springs. This time it was current president Wayne Pederson and International VP Curt Cole. We are happy that we had an opportunity to thank Wayne for his 8 years of leadership during difficult times and numerous transitions especially in Ecuador. Topics covering goals can be summed up in one sentence:

DECLARING HIS GLORY TO THE NATIONS

The first European conference was held in 1974. The hosting country, Sweden, celebrated with all of us 50 years of ministry with HCJB –

now REACH BEYOND SWEDEN. The surprise and highlight of the first day at the conference for Klara was to meet Sonya Pearson. When we joined HCJB in 1990, we lived in her Quito apartment while she was on home ministry leave in Sweden. It was such surprise that Klara felt like entering the heavenly gates. Sonya served in Ecuador for 40 years. She is now 86 and doing remarkably well. We have many memories related to her and all the other wonderful people who influenced our lives.

It is always amazing to hear reports from each region about new challenges, hindrances and opportunities. Most of the European ministry partners consist of small groups of dedicated volunteers working closely with missionaries. As we looked on the 50-year involvement of the Swedish board, it was amazing to see how few servants it took to accomplished great things. They started broadcasting in the late 1930's. In addition to that, Swedish Christians were involved in major projects, like building Shell hospital on the edge of the jungle. They participated on numerous community projects, provided technical support on many locations in remote areas of the world, sent a number of doctors and nurses to Ecuador, provided water pumps to 70 Ecuadorian villages. After a major earthquake, they sent 120 000 wheel chairs, etc. to Haiti. Once again we could see that no matter how small a ministry looks, the impact and end result is very visible. Only Lord can accomplish such miracles.

Regional offices and missionaries came from different parts of Euroasia. Each country has very specific needs, challenges and opportunities. What applies to one country does not apply to another one. In some countries, the political and economic situation is full of surprises. A number of our missionaries do not know from day to day when they will have to leave their field. Visa situations and local laws limit their involvement in communities. Needs and spiritual condition, living standard and access to basic social services are very diverse.

A lot of our attention was focused on emerging media. With digital technology, social media usage, mobile applications – Facebook, E-mail, Twitter, Instagram, Paint brush, Virtual reality applications, and Video/audio, etc., it all is mind boggling. The access to Google translation functions is likewise amazing; translating Ear buds – The pilot systems allows one to communicate with other person without knowing the language. The world's first 'smart' ear-piece that translates between users speaking different languages became reality. Isn't it incredible? All these technologies are opening new opportunities to new audiences. For example do you know what the fastest growing group of users of Facebook is? Seniors over 65! In these days of new technologies, there is no reason that someone should be left behind.

THREE BAPTISMS

Sunday, June 6th 2016, we rejoiced as three new believers were dipped into the river Vltava (Moldau). The testimonies of the three men were really special. All of them had several things in common. All of them had the same experience and involvement with esoteric and new age teaching. All of them were on their long journey when touched by new media such as the Jesus film, web pages, Facebook, reading and listening to internet sermons, being invited by others and finally coming to join us. It is interesting that in one case, our path crossed twenty-four years ago when we started our Czechoslovak ministry in Luhačovice in 1992. At that time, he was one of the students we knew about from their warden. It would never cross our mind that some 24-year later, prayers were answered. We always marvel how the Lord works in the lives of individuals. It was an awesome day. Where else you can see a car driving on the water, "Hop-on – Hop-off" boat and traffic jam of all kinds of floating devices circling the baptism place? It all was happening in front of our eyes on the Vltava river island in beautiful Prague. Here is the YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lywOyiEaIW8&feature=youtu.be>

We are happy to report that HIS new “Biblická církev Praha” (Bible Church Prague – BCP; <http://www.krestanepraha.cz/>) is alive and growing. Thanks for your prayers. Actually, we can see how church planting is instrumental for ministry expansion. New people have an opportunity to serve along and with us. As of June 19th 2016, we will meet at a new place, the “Presidential salon” at the railroad station right at the Subway station. We Praise the Lord that Faith Community Church of Prague “took us under their wing”. They meet in the afternoon and we have the mornings.

WHERE IS MY HOME?

It's time for another report from “Czechland”. Recently there was a big discussion on how to call Czech Republic in a shortened name. It seems that we have an identity crisis even after 25 years of independence from Russian occupation, communist's domination and the peaceful breakup of Czechoslovakia in 1993. Thus far, there is no shortened single name for Czech Republic. The wise men have proposed to call the country – Czechia. They recommend using this single name in English for situations when its formal long name is too inconvenient. A one-word alternative name should make it easier for companies, politicians and sportsmen to use on products, name tags and sporting jerseys.

Historically the largest part of the country is known as Bohemia (“Čechy” in Czech), but there are also other parts, Moravia and Silesia, so one name is needed that does not exclude those historic lands. But not all Czechs are keen on the change. One of the reasons why the new name is not welcomed is that the sound of it is too close to “Chechnya”, making it prone to confusion. It sounds to our ears as some petty province north-east of Moscow. The whole problem why Czech Republic does not have its proper name is historical. The land

used to be for centuries inhabited by Czechs, Germans, Jews plus some other peoples as in a large multilingual nation like Austria-Hungary used to be common. After WWII when Germans were expelled and Jews disappeared in concentration camps the land became ethnically monocultural as 99% Czech. Bohemia was the geographical name not derived from inhabitants' ethnicity. We think that Czechland is the most suitable name.

The Czech National anthem starts with the words: “Where is my home?” It was written in 1834 and it became a very popular song among people. It was accepted as an informal anthem of a nation seeking to revive its identity in the Austria-Hungarian Empire. Czechoslovakia was formed in 1918 and the informal anthem became the Czech part of the national anthem. Here it is:

Where is my home?

Where is my homeland?

Water roars across the meadows,

Pinewoods rustle among crags,

The garden is glorious with spring blossom,

Paradise on earth it is to see.

And this is that beautiful land,

The Czech land, my home,

The Czech land, my home!

SUMMER BIBLE CONFERENCE

Czech Bible Institute invited a great speaker again, Dr. Steve Lawson, to present on the needed topic, “Christians and discernment”. We really appreciate the cooperation and continuity of the teaching ministries of US pastors and teachers. They are used to speak to thousands of attendees at conferences; here we have much smaller crowds, just around 200 souls. One of the reasons is that there are so few solidly grounded Christians. The majority prefers what they want to hear, not what the Bible says. We rejoice that the young generation is coming and hearing solid teaching. Each opportunity we have for networking, finding new contacts, often coworkers and helpers, is

part of harvesting. It is important to know personally likeminded people or at least to know about each other.

FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITY

The Reach Beyond (formerly HCJB) donations department announced that during the period of May 15, 2016 – September 30, 2016, for every new monthly partner we recruit, we will receive \$100 for our ministry fund (after they have given for two months) **up to a possible total of \$1500!** That would be a total of 15 new partners. This is for new monthly partners only (one-time gifts or annual gifts are always welcome to you of course, but do not count for bonus dollars). At an average partner gift of \$50/month—that would be approximately \$750/month or more of new support plus a bonus of \$1500 if we get those 15 new partners!

PRAISE AND PRAYER TIDBITS

- 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, premarital counselling, visa issues, etc.
- PTL – we have a new church meeting place for Sunday services.
- 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 for Milan. Slovak radio ministry will be ceased as of July 1st because of changes in legislative and additional related costs of running the broadcasting.
- Please pray for all of us as we bear the load of ministries.

- Pray for the summer conference, summer programs and teams who are coming.
- 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 helping ministry in the land of great need.

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

**In His Sovereign Grace
Pavel and Klara Steiger
pavel.steiger@gmail.com**

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