



© Ivan Steiger MMXVII

***Therefore bear fruit in keeping
with repentance;
(Matthew 3:8)***

**SEPTEMBER 2017
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS
OF THE REACH BEYOND
MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES
IN CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA**

We are shifting from the summer season and activities back into our regular schedule.

We have been following the violent weather including wild fires in California and Canada, and the hurricanes hitting Texas and Florida. Forces of nature have destroyed God's creation, people's homes and businesses, and



people's lives. Over the years, we have personally visited many of these places and we have friends in these areas. We too are praying for their safety and needs.

LOSS OF IDENTITY

We have also heard news about Americans clashing over statues and symbols of history. We have similar trends in the European Union. Bureaucrats are pushing political correctness and secularization to the point of cultural non-identity.

A German supermarket chain operating in 27 EU countries used pictures of typical Greek Orthodox Churches in its promotional materials. However, the supermarket chain altered the photos by erasing the crosses from the top of the churches' cupolas. This action caused great upheaval in Czechia in spite of the fact that most people are atheist.

The Archbishop of Prague called supermarket's decision "an unprecedented and immoral act."

"Today we are seeing a falsification of photos, tomorrow we could see the

real crosses removed.” Cardinal Duka wrote in a letter, which he said was a show of support for Greece and a manifestation of resistance to the falsification of history and an attack on the cultural heritage of the whole of humankind. “Our European civilization has a number of roots, and Greek democracy and philosophy are some of the most important ones.”

No doubt, that religious tradition play a major role in our largely atheistic country. It seems that even atheistic Czechs will never allow replacing baby Jesus by Santa or turn Christmas into neutered holiday season.

Saint Wenceslas played major role in Christianization of this area before his brother Boleslav assassinated him in 935. Cyril and Methodius, two Byzantine Christian Theologians and Missionaries, known as “Apostles to Slavs”, came in the 9th century (862) to evangelize Slavic subjects and expand Byzantine influence. Since they were fluent among other languages in Arabic, Hebrew and Latin, they translated the New Testament, Psalms and fragments from Old Testament. They devised the Glagolitic alphabet to use it in Slavonic manuscripts. They wrote the first Slavic Civil Code for Great Moravia. Until now, the Cyril and Methodius are commemorated on July 5, that day is a national holidays. (Pavel’s father was born on July 5, thus his middle name was Methodius.)

Churches and cathedrals are the main attraction and the reason why so

many tourists come to Prague. No one can imagine walking over Charles Bridge with no statues of saints and patrons. As one drives through the countryside, at many intersections there are crosses with the crucified Jesus Christ. Statues of saints or patrons are on stone bridges and at small chapels along the roads. All this survived two wars, two occupations and communist era. So far, no one is trying to dismantle or tear them off.

For Czechs it is OK to add or promote pagan traditions like Halloween or Gay parades, but they do not want people to take away their heritage.

As we look at the world around us, we see a crisis of Democracy. There seems to be little left of civil democratic discussion, negotiation, and truly free speech. Our society needs to ask important questions like “What will be left if we forget our heritage and our identity?”

JOY OF MEMORIES

The first part of September was full of surprises from the past. Scott is the son from dear friends who stood with us as we came to America in 1970. When we moved from Idaho, he was 17 years old. We kept in touch with his parents while they lived and his sister, the babysitter of our boys. We met her a couple of years ago. Now, Scott recently finished 950 km walk in 30 days the Route of St. James or El Camino de Santiago in Spain. While in Europe, he contacted us. We were

excited to meet him. Together we spent wonderful four days. He graduated from a mining college, and as his father and Pavel, he became geologist. He lived in all kinds of remote places, traveled the world around and around; we had so much in common. On top of it, our Czech Canadian friend stopped over and you should listen to their stories and some projects they both worked on just at different times.

Gary and Karrie from Phoenix visited us while Karrie was searching for her ancestors. We were quite lucky and found a lot of actual sites and records. Karrie was excited when we stopped at a local supermarket. She huddled over fruit dumplings, pastry, sweet braded cake, all the things she knew from her grandma and mom. Those are the best trips—ones with a purpose and a goal. They were able to join us for Sunday church. We think they enjoyed our dramatic theater atmosphere. It is quite exciting to see something at the birth.

PAVEL'S BOOK

- Our Jewish neighbor has been reading the book second time. Now we can have deep discussions with much better understanding. We pray that what he understands now will not add only an intellectual information but bring the life transformation change.

Another reader wrote:

- *I never thought that such thorough explanation of scripture could expose so much about Gods majesty and glory as this. Together with my wife, we grasp what is Gods Glory and mercy in all what is happening around us. Thank you, Jaroslav*

It is interesting to follow the readers "discoveries" in the text and better understanding on some unclear theological issues.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- We just finished series of preaching on 1. Timothy. What a treasure of wisdom and inspiration for holiness.
- We have a few new young men, college students. Next week we have another baptism.
- We are adding Saturday morning study for men followed by afternoon study for women who have been already meeting for months.
- Pavel is working on his second book.
- We are working toward the next Winter Conference in Brno.
- In our last electronic prayer letter, we mentioned the unplanned and unexpected visit of David Uhles from Colorado Springs, our immediate supervisor. David flew to Prague to meet with others involved on the way to Herrnhut. The village of Herrnhut, "The Lord's Watch," (Germany) came about because on

this day June 17, 1722 a little band of religious fugitives from Moravia (Czechia) asked Count Ludwig von Zinzendorf if they might settle on his land. The Count agreed. One Moravian leader was Christian David, a potter who burned with zeal for the things of the Lord.

- We can see progress in better understanding Scriptures as well as an opportunity to learn how to discuss biblical issues with others.
- Reach Beyond and David Uhles presented to us in person three longevity awards. The first one was for 5 years with the HCJB, the second for 10 years and the third for 25 years of service with Reach Beyond. Doesn't everyone like recognition? Yes, we do and we are thankful for the nice gesture.
- Several supporting churches asked us for a short video clip. It is unbelievable we are fulltime in mission for 27 years and for 25 years in Czechia. Watch our small video we made for one of our supporting church.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NM5gLI9Mq7Y>

PRAYER NEEDS

- We live in volatile days when it is important to pray for our countries, presidents, leaders, authorities and upcoming elections.
- Pray for spiritual growth and increase in numbers so that our church will become a self-sustaining body of believers in the near future.

Recently we covered:

- What does it mean to be an Independent Church?
- What are the characteristics of IC?
- What does it mean to be part of Bible Church of Prague?
- Please pray for those who are preaching and teaching in the sending and sister churches praying for this church plant.
- Pray that the Lord will give us opportunities to reach the un-reached.
- Please continue to pray for Slovak ministry.

**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>

<°)))))><

You may mail your U.S.

Tax-deductible contributions to:
REACH BEYOND
P.O. BOX 39800
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80949-9800
U.S.A.

You may mail your Canadian

Tax-deductible contributions to:
REACH BEYOND
3 - 44 SALTSMAN DRIVE
CAMBRIDGE, ON N3H 4R7
CANADA

**Attach to your check the following note:
FOR THE MINISTRY OF
PAVEL & KLARA STEIGER
ACC # 100-110329**