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Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." (Matthew 18:19-20)

APRIL 2018

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

MINISTRY HEARTBEAT

The first quarter of the year is already behind us. All administrative tasks like tax issues on Czech and U.S. side, annual board meeting report and other administrative governmental requirements



and regulations are taken care of. All this is necessary but burdensome as winter and flu season.

At the annual ministry board meeting, we went over last year's accomplishments, activities and analyzed the financial situation. We have considered next year goals, opportunities and plans. One of the challenges we dealt with was the question whether we should or should not conduct our next Annual Winter Conference(s) rather in Prague than in Brno. Why not? After one year in Ústí and eight years in Brno, we concluded that this change makes sense. There was board unity to conduct the 10th Annual Conference in Prague. We agreed that changing our conference location will give opportunity for new volunteers and helpers since the churches working with us are located closer to Prague than Brno.

Our two-year old Prague Bible Church plant is doing well. Our Lord is

with us. Its web pages are an extensive source of teaching and video presentation of Sunday messages and different conference topics.

Sunday worship and preaching in “Black Theatre” goes on regular basis as well as Wednesday Bible study in the Church office. Once a month our Church directs theology studies in the office. Men meet in the morning, ladies in the afternoon. Magazine and book publishing ministries continue to reach out.

We rejoice in unity and bond willing to serve and desire to glorify His name in this country. We praise the Lord for the feedback from people who study and enjoy our online sources. They live in places where there are no Bible teaching churches. In addition, Czech speaking compatriots living abroad visit our web site frequently. We have words of appreciation from the US and Canada.

The cooperation between our three churches (Prague, Ústí, and Kladno) and seven preaching men is bonding us all together. Several times a year the Church partakes in joint activities and fellowship. It is encouraging to see the ministry impact how we all grow and mature along the way.

The latest joint event was The Easter family 8-mile trek. It was on the first really spring day. About 50 people participated. We all had a great time together.

The trek was concluded with a resurrection message. All this brings us hope and renewed energy for challenges ahead of us.

ATHEISM RULES AMONG EUROPEAN YOUTH

The British daily “The Guardian” published results of a European Social Survey from 2014-2016 among young people from twenty-one European countries including Russia about existence of Christian God. Atheism was predominant in twelve countries; 91% of Czechs from 16 to 29 years do not believe in any kind of god. Next 81% were young Estonians, 75% Swedes and 49% Russians. On the other hand, 83% young people in Poland and 75% Lithuania believe in Christian God; 11% of young people believe in other god/s in Austria and France.

This means that Christian standard or cultural heritage, as it is often called, is in Europe gone for good for at least the next one hundred years.

According to German daily “Die Welt” within the next 20 years, Christians in Germany will become a minority. The reason for rapid decline of Christianity is coined as “self-secularization”. The next stage seems to be a German cultural and religious landscape dominated by atheists and two minority religions:

Islam and Christianity. If the secularists do not take Western civilization and Christian heritage – or at least the Judeo-Christian values from which it sprang – more seriously and start defending it, both atheists and Christians will soon be dominated by the rising political and supremacist religion, Islam. A prominent Muslim fundamentalist organization in Germany, banned by the federal government, calls itself "The True Religion" (*"Die Wahre Religion"*). They apparently think they are overtaking Judeo-Christian values.

Excerpts from *Der Spiegel Magazine*,
Jan Fleischhanauer,

THE BREATH OF SECULAR FRESH AIR

The Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan took an advantage of Spring break in Congress and came with his family on a private visit to Prague to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the establishment of U.S.-Czech relationship. While in Prague, he held two-day meetings with Czech politicians (but not with the President) and addressed a session of the Czech lower house of Parliament. In his words:

"It is wonderful to be in Prague to commemorate this milestone in relations between the United States and the

Czech Republic. Our countries continue to enjoy strong ties, made even stronger by our commitment to democratic ideals and the NATO alliance. I look forward to meeting with Czech leaders to discuss ways we can expand our security cooperation and economic partnerships in the years ahead."

He talked about solidarity, loyalty, cooperation, pledge, assurance, NATO commitments, and opportunities in the Czech-American trade, part of United States Congress and role of President Woodrow Wilson at declaration of independent state of the first Czechoslovak Republic 100 years ago. He mentioned historical, spiritual, economic, political, strategical ties in critical moments, about responsibility, security, peace, freedom and cultivation of democracy, and furtherance of friendship and cooperation between Czech Republic and United States. He mention 1.5 million of Americans of Czech origin and their contribution in many fields to the United States. The list of positive praises did not omit to mention one of the oldest Harley-Davidson clubs here. There were so many compliments and praises, without mentoring or criticism it led to a standing ovation at the conclusion Paul Ryan speech. We need more examples of politicians who conduct their business with dignity and respect.

In atmosphere of recent and ongoing political attacks in our country, deception, lies, rudeness, vulgarity, ignorance, positive and kind words and assurance coming from America were truly like breath of fresh air. The European crisis and sanctions relating to recent collusions with Russia issues demand courage and wisdom.

OUR GOAL

The firm conviction of importance to preserve Christian values in Europe as they are under attack:

- **B**ASIC
- **I**NSTRUCTIONS
- **B**EFORE
- **L**EAVING
- **E**ARTH

WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you.

PRAISE AND PRAYER NEEDS

- Praise for the ministry outreach.
- Praise for all the talented and equipped men teaching and preaching in our three churches.
- Praise for all of you faithful partners in Czech and Slovak ministries. Thank you all.

- Pray for those who attend the Prague Christian Church.
- Please continue to pray for Slovak ministry.
- Pray for multiplication of willing servants.
- Pray for children of those in leadership position.
- We are looking forward to several of you coming to see us.

**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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