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My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is. So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Co 2:2-8)



**DECEMBER 2018
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF
THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY
TO THE PEOPLES
IN CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA**

Another year is winding down. Days are shorter, darker and cooler but our hearts remain warmed by love and friendship. Visiting Prague in the last days of November is not the best idea. However, our friends we know and keep in touch since our Indonesia days, now living in Texas, brought us joy and happiness in spite of the bad weather. The day we spent with them in the city was cold, windy, and with some snowflakes. Raindrops chased us from one warm place to another. The final break was in a chocolate museum. Hot melted chocolate was splendid. Christmas music and decorations were so inviting. It was also a shopping place for grandkids.

OUR DELIGHT

First, let us share with you some information from our Electronic Prayer Letter that we sent in November to those with whom we have e-communication:

- On November 8, we celebrated the third anniversary of The Bible Church of Prague. What a blessing. In the past, we used to be involved in established church denominations. Church planting has been for us a new experience and challenge. It feels that our steps forward are small but as we look back, the outreach is remarkable: conferences, magazine publishing, book publishing ministry, web ministry, bible teaching, bible studies, summer family camps and many other activities keep us busy.
- Praise the Lord: By the end of this year, we added three more new titles. Among them, John MacArthur's "Slave" will be out by Christmas. This joint publishing ministry has produced already 51 publications.
- You are invited to peek in our recent conference "Blessings of the New Covenant" and listen to Pavel and Jan translating from English into Czech. Here we go:
www.reformace.cz/video

MINISTRY HEARTBEAT

Usually we share with you what is happening on our side of ministry. Very seldom, we mention what is going on in Reach Beyond and the regional team. Here are a few recent concerns or matters for prayer:

It seems during this time at Reach Beyond things are changing more than is easily tracked. As more comes to light regarding finances, reports from the

Board meetings reveal a strain on cash flow, etc., etc. There are more revisions to what was true just a short while ago. ...Constant changes are taking withdrawals on our trust accounts and we need some good deposits into the bank. But the bottom line is we can trust our Lord. And it helps us to have Him as the anchor instead of all man-made structures we could look to. Isn't it like Jesus to keep drawing us to walk in Faith with Him?

Our Czech and Slovak ministries are not getting any support from the Reach Beyond budget. Our ministry support comes from you, the faithful churches and individuals. Thank you all.

Our next year's calendar is shaping up. We plan to take part in Reach Beyond's conference in Colorado next June. We will keep in touch and plan accordingly if we are nearby you. We would love to see some of you to express our gratefulness in person.

PRAISES

- Recently we conducted our annual board meeting concerning the final planning for our annual Winter Bible Conference. We also determined the conference topics until 2021. Our team is dynamic and talented.
- Our 10th Winter Bible Conference will be held for the first time in Prague (instead of Brno) on January 26, 2019. We hope to reach new folks and give opportunity to those from the central

and western part of the country to attend.

PRAISE THE LORD

A few months ago, our joint publishers received the following letter:

*... Now, the second reason for this letter. You have Pavel and Klara Steiger on your team. I know them more than 30 years and I feel unpaid debt to them – big thanks and gratefulness. In 1986 our family lived first year in Australia, as we illegally left communist Czechoslovakia with three children. I was 50 years old chemist, my wife 9 years younger medical doctor. At that time my interest in Bible had started. My wife showed no interest and scolded me that I am wasting my time instead of learning English we studied at that time. I heard about Pavel Steiger book *The Battle for Soul in Czech language* published in Canada. I ordered book and read it with one breath. I praised the book to my wife and the same evening she opened the book. First look lasted all night. With Bible in her hands unbelieving happened. Next morning tired wife embraced me with words: "after reading the book from Canada and checking references in the Bible she exclaimed "I believe in God of the Bible." This was 32 years ago and we walk together in faith.*

The great Christmas gift is coming. Next Tuesday we will meet with this couple in our place. They returned to Czech Republic and now live in Brno. We will spend a day together.

This story reminds us of an old listener to our radio programs and reader of the magazine we publish. She was 94 about 20 years ago when she had a special Christmas wish—to meet us in person. Her children, much older than us, living in Germany, brought (carried) her over. What a joy; what a remembrance!

We treasure these lasting gifts our Lord gave us.

THANKSGIVING

Dr. Peter Hammond from Frontline Fellowship in South Africa recently shared a few thoughts on Thanksgiving that we translated for our magazine. There is a couple of paragraphs below:

Taking God's Blessings for Granted

Dr. Martin Luther observed that we exhibit a degree of thankfulness in life in reverse proportion to the amount of blessing we have received. In *Tabletalk*, Dr. Martin Luther wrote: "*The greater God's gifts and works, the less they are regarded.*" The blessings of life, health, freedom and food are not really appreciated unless they are lost, or threatened. Because sunrises and sunsets occur daily, they are taken for granted.

A Biblical Command

There are at least 138 passages of Scripture that deal with the subject of thanksgiving. We are commanded: "***Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His Name.***" (Ps 100:4)

PRAYER NEEDS

- Please pray for the church in Czech Republic. In November five churches declared independence from the Brethren Baptist Union. Paul Washer described the situation of the European churches as follows:

I can say with confidence that there is more light of the gospel in jungles of the world than in the very churches of Europe where some of the greatest preachers in the history of Christianity once preached."

Europe is losing its identity. European Union is creating more and more declarations and regulations, which makes Christianity very vulnerable. Another issue is the Istanbul Convention to counter domestic violence and implement concept of "gender" – female and male, but the "socially fixed roles, behavior, activities and characteristic that a certain society considers appropriate for a woman and a man". Half of the European countries signed the Istanbul Convention. Gender "antidiscrimination" agenda is so far reaching that our civilization is being transformed in front of our eyes. With remnants of believers, we face two enemies – godlessness of people and far reaching political and social experiments of our days.

- Pray for the Czech Church so it may teach Christ and only Christ.
- Pavel is working on another book: "They Shall Reign with Him a Thousand Years."

***But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
(Mt 6:20-21).***

The magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence. May you have the gift of faith this Christmas and many blessings throughout the New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**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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