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Therefore I say unto you, be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than the raiment? Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye of much more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto the measure of his life? (Mathew 6:25-27)

**APRIL 2019
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF
THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY
TO THE PEOPLES
IN CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA**



Spring and nature around us bursts with amazing transformation. Spring beauty culminates with the Easter reminder of His resurrection. Traditionally the Monday after Easter we celebrate the time with three sister churches. We praise the Lord that we made an eight mile hike. What a joy to be together and see the number of likeminded people. This summer we plan together a family week retreat.

A QUESTION

We often ask this question: *What is the difference between unreached groups around the world and Post Christian Europe where multitudes of lost souls are perishing daily?* True, it may feel more spiritually attractive to focus on needs far away. However, the ongoing spiritual battle around us, and especially in Europe, is fierce. De-Christianized Europe is becoming forgotten. The commission to go and reach the world is not geographically, culturally, demographically or politically determined. Europe has been losing faith, culture, and in some respects sovereignty. Christianity and associated "western civilization" is disappearing in front of our eyes. We so vividly remember tiered society by often alleged exploiters and the exploited in socialist Czechoslovakia in the 1950's and 60's. Pavel's father ended up in a coal mine since he "exploited"

five employees of his before 1948. That was classical Marxism. Now we see creeping neo-Marxism that stratifies people by their identities as if we are not equal before God.

Christian Churches and cemeteries are vandalized in rampant numbers especially in Western Europe and Asia. Easter church and hotel shootings resulting in over 300 deaths in Sri Lanka tells the ongoing story.

Generally speaking the world is openly becoming more and more hostile to our Savior, his children and his servants. The question of our day is how to transform opportunities and abilities given to us for His Glory?

We see such need all around us; we are in the middle of a spiritual battle. The urgency and understanding of the task goes much further. What can we do?

As we serve in Europe/Eurasia Region, let us see what the Europe/Eurasia Region is. Historically Eurasia has been the host of many ancient civilizations. The continuous belt of civilizations stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This belt became the mainstream of world history for two millennia. Originally, „Eurasia“ was a geographical notion: in this sense, it is simply the biggest continent; the combined landmass of Europe and Asia. However, geopolitically, the word has several different meanings, reflecting the specific geopolitical interests of each nation.

„Eurasia“ is one of the most important geopolitical concepts. About 75% of the world's people live in „Eurasia“, and most of the world's physical wealth is there as well, both in its enterprises and underneath its soil. „Eurasia“ accounts for about three-fourths of the world's known energy resources.” The term „Eurasian“ is also used to describe people of combined „Asian“ and

„European“ descent. This usage is comparable to how Americans use the „Western Hemisphere“ to describe concepts and organizations dealing with the Americas.

Now comes the catch. Europe was dominated by the Roman Empire since the 6th century BC through the 15th century AD. The Roman Empire was remarkably a multicultural conglomerate of diverse peoples. The Roman long endurance influenced the religion, architecture, philosophy, law and legal system, art, education, language (Latin and Greek) ... the Western Roman Empire began to disintegrate by German migration in the 5th century.

As an outcome of the 2nd World War, Europe was politically divided into East and West. The Russian concept of „Eurasia“ corresponded initially more or less to the land area of Imperial Russia in 1914, including parts of Eastern Europe. One of Russia's main geopolitical interests lies in ever closer integration with those countries that it considers part of „Eurasia.“

Because of this Eastern Europe became dominated by the Russian empire and communism.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasia>

We have a tendency to look behind the horizon, while we overlook what is happening around us. Spiritually speaking Europe is generally considered a conglomerate of reached countries. Yes, this was an historical truth in remembrance of the great reformers' legacy. You can see numerous church buildings and cathedrals; however, there is no life in them. State supervised church structures are not the gospel-centered churches of Jesus Christ.

Europe has been losing faith, culture, identity, and sovereignty. With the help of committed partners, the unreached can be

reached. Eastern European countries understand what it is to be under domination of an "Evil Empire." They are ready to serve; but the church has limited resources to place anyone into full time ministry. Our president Steve Harling urged us with those words:

Bottom line: disciple-making is a long journey that begins before salvation and carries on all the way to Christlikeness. It's our task to pick up on where a person is right now...and then lead them deeper into union with Christ.

LATEST MINISTRY REPORT

Few words about the past quarter and 10th Winter Conference: The topic of the conference was "By Grace Alone" – The Sola Gratia. The next Winter Conference in 2020 should be focused on "God's love." This time we paid attention to where the attendees came from. The pie breaks down as follows:

Fifteen percent of those who came have no church affiliation (usually there is no church where they live, or the teaching is not nurturing)

Twenty-five percent came from denominational churches (40 registered church denominations, out of that number only twelve percent are of Protestant confession)

Sixty percent independent churches (we had people from eight small independent Bible Churches).

The conference cost break down:

Auditorium rent (\$1,100)

Conference book and materials for attendees (\$800)

Travel assistance for five serving pastors (\$600)

To organize a Biblical conference is never a money making project. The total cost for the conference was \$2 500, the offering was \$ 1 000. We are happy to cover the rest from our overall ministry budget. Similar statistics pertain to the church budget, publishing, one week Summer Family Outreach or broadcasting in Slovakia. This is just an example how the Church in Central Europe can benefit from collaborating ministries.

PRAISES AND PRAYERS

- Continue to pray for Pavel's brother Ivan and his wife Eva. We met them mid-March. Eva has an excellent palliative home care. She is weak but more or less comfortable. The Lord provided two Slovak caretakers. One of them is a Catholic. Her presence is beneficial for them. At this time, it is spiritually one-sided communication.
- Pray for the local church. There are many places with no church life or it is so liberal that people have nowhere to go. We added another family who makes over a two-hour one-way trip every Sunday and Wednesday. PTL.
- Our grandson Samuel was accepted to Norwich University in Vermont.
- Recently we were contacted by our friends' friends in Spokane to help them in finding their ancestors. Pavel is an amazing detective. He successfully located lineage and links to the name of the person who immigrated to America in 1857. He found and contacted living ancestors here in the Czech Republic. Only four people carry this surname in CZ. They met and feel the strong bond. Research with help of computers and digitized records are amazing tools.

FROM OUR MAIL

I enjoyed reading your letter and hearing about your own life journey. There were many ways in which our Heavenly Father spoke to me through your letter, and encouraged me as I read. I am sorry to hear about Eva and Ivan's difficulties, but I pray that the Lord will use these to draw them to himself.

May the Lord give Reach Beyond (and the global mission community as a whole) His divine wisdom & guidance as to what missions should look like as we continue into this century. Indeed, many things have changed over the past 50 years. What we do know and rejoice in is that He knows our steps, and He is a faithful provider and protector of His children. What a blessing to know that we are truly in the best hands!

May you have a lovely evening, and may the Lord continue to meet all your needs richly through Christ Jesus, as He has promised to do.

– Elisabeth –

Dear publishers,

I am sorry to report that for the second time I did not receive your magazine, or you stopped mailing it to me, or did you stop publishing it? I have no clue why I do not get one. Since I do not have access to electronic format please mail me the missing issues.

There is nothing better published and I did draw much inspiration from your texts. Your articles helped me in my personal testimony and witnessing.

Greetings, His blessings and peace,

– František K., Slovakia –

Beloved Klara and Pavel,

Life has a beginning, a middle and an end for all of us. No one escapes. Life is like

a vapor, although in the middle of things, it does not seem so. However, this is NOT our home, this is a journey and we can trust God with it. God is Sovereign, Merciful, Gracious, Powerful, Victorious, the list goes on and on. One could name the names of Jesus and have more than enough for a sermon just reciting them. God's strength and peace are here and I do attribute it to the prayers of the saints like yourselves that bring us before God. May our spirits be so filled with HIS that though the way is rough, the way is hard, we can find solace in HIM and face the challenges in each moment. ...

In Christ alone, Katherine

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS,
SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION
IN OUR LIFE AND
THE CZECH & SLOVAK MINISTRIES**

**In His Sovereign Grace,
Pavel and Klara Steiger**

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