



DECEMBER 2019
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF
THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA

FIVE WEEKS OF HOME MINISTRY TRAVELING

That is the reason you are receiving this in a different format instead of a full Christmas letter. Formatting the printed version is difficult while being on the road, but we do not want to miss the opportunity of sending you a BIG THANKS for your love, prayers and support. Our Home ministry itinerary is packed, but after four weeks on the road we missed only one couple who was on our visiting list. In that case we actually drove the same freeways but in opposite directions twice. So far, we have had 26 meetings in Denver, California and Arizona, meeting with mission people, supporters, friends and family.

We flew to **Denver** which we have not visited for 10 years. What a sweet reunion, with the supporting church and the same pastor we have known for 28 years. We met the new pastor in our home church while we lived in Littleton in 1980/84. We stopped by "our house" where we lived in those days, and we were cordially invited in. How sweet and lovely. We felt as if we were at home. During the week we stayed with our son Vit and visited Klara's brother who lives close by. We enjoyed time with friends from days gone by. Altogether we had 13 reunion events and a "business meeting" with our Reach Beyond supervisor and his wife at a restaurant in southern Denver, closer to Colorado Springs.

There was no idle moment while in Denver. The greatest lesson in Denver was how to downsize when the time for a big change comes. The Colorado weather was nice to us. The week before and the week following they had snow, but we enjoyed sunny days.

California travels

From Denver we flew to **Oakland**, picked up rental car and spent two nights at Pavel's cousin's place. From Oakland we continued on to Santa Rosa. Going there we were quite concerned because of recent fires and evacuations in the area. However, everyone was safe and our meetings in Santa Rosa went very well.

From Santa Rosa we continued on to Central California. **Madera** is the place of high-tech agriculture. We stayed with a host family we have known for 28 years. We remember the days when their 5 boys were outgrowing their high chairs, and now are married. Both of us had a ride in their little Porsche. What a excitement! We drove with them in our car to Monterey and Carmel. What a beautiful area. The hospitality in Madera is always very cordial. Thank you all.

The next destination was **Simi Valley**. All day, warnings about a winter storm and the possibility of severe driving conditions for the next day were a little disturbing. Nothing worse hit us than rain on the way and a big storm after we arrived in Phoenix. We spent caring and sharing time with our host family, and visited two of our former Jewish neighbors from the first and second time we lived in California. It was enjoyable and cordial, but sad that we were not allowed and specifically asked not to talk about Christianity.

Arizona travels

In **Phoenix** we had more meetings, more driving from one end of town to another, to see everyone on our list. It all went very well. In the churches we are encouraged that our ministry is valued and important not only to us but to mission-minded people. They showed us a lot of love and care.

Our last stop in Arizona was **Tucson**. Tucson became for us our "support base" before we returned to Czechoslovakia 28 years ago. We have one remaining supporting church here. The lady who was most helpful in promoting our ministry passed away 6 months ago. We will never forget her. This time we were hosted by a new family in Tucson. They served with Wycliffe Translators in Papua New Guinea for 23 years. What a joy it was to meet someone who has experience from that part of the world, since we lived in Indonesia for 4 years.

A day before Thanksgiving we had a meeting with the remaining supporting church in Tucson. Thanksgiving Day we enjoyed with the Wycliffe family and friends.

Texas travels

On "Black Friday" we will drive from Tucson AZ to Midland TX, the longest distance in one day. We are looking forward to reuniting with our friends and supporters in Texas that we know from Indonesia. They encouraged us to leave our engineering position with an oil company to become full time missionaries. They were instrumental in sending us to the mission field. We also plan to visit in Austin the founder of the HCJB Czech Christian broadcasting from Quito, Ecuador.

As we are counting our blessings, we want to thank you all for your hospitality, love, generosity and encouragement. Your prayers are essential.

We live in a world which looks on the surface happy and prosperous, but underneath is a spiritual wasteland.

Best wishes and blessings during the upcoming Christmas season.

PRAYER NEEDS

- For traveling mercies, safety and remaining connections.
- For unbelieving friends with whom we reconnected.
- Our church's greatest burden is for unbelieving families and friends.
- For spiritual growth and outreach to Czech and Slovak nonbelievers.

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

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

<pavel.steiger@gmail.com>

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