



© Ivan Steiger MMXX

*For though the fig-tree shall not flourish,  
Neither shall fruit be in the vines; The labor  
of the olive shall fail, And the fields  
shall yield no food; The flock shall be cut  
off from the fold, And there shall be no  
herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in Je-  
hovah, I will joy in the God of my salva-  
tion. (Habakkuk 3:17-18)*

**APRIL/MAY 2020  
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF  
THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY  
TO THE PEOPLES OF  
CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA**

### **MAYDAY, MAYDAY**

With the coronavirus pandemic, my brain cells were affected. In April we indeed e-mailed our short Wedding Anniversary YouTube; however, we forgot to send out our regular printed letter.

Well no wonder, the coronavirus quarantine had started. No social gather-



ings, no visiting, and staying at home were enforced, especially on the elderly population. It was not 100% compulsory for seniors. We could get out to grocery stores, to the post office, or the pharmacy during certain hours. Most of the medical appointments were canceled. We could go to the doctor's office only after a phone appointment or consultation. Most people stopped using public transportation as they had to stay home since most of their employers were closed down. We were able to take daily walks, soak in the spring sun, and keep in shape. Facemasks became compulsory. Most people made their own since disposable ones were not available.

To overcome social isolation, we focused our attention on on-line preaching and immersed ourselves in special projects. Klara finished the translation of the book "A Refuge of Love" by Steve Cole.

We electronically transcribed the Good Friday message of Ed Moore titled "Are you Washed in The Blood?" Another extensive project was a transcript from Together for the Gospel – T4G20 March on-line conference. Pastors and church

leaders from over 25 denominations, all 50 states, and 62 nations proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We chose to transcribe and translate Ed Moore's message "Encouraging Pastors" into the Czech language. His messages are always challenging and inspirational.

While we were isolated from the church family, we could concentrate our attention on the health and wellbeing of the Bible Church of Prague.

The latest event related to the wedding of our pastors' son. Two churches stood by the young newlyweds and against the will of the pastor who was not willing to attend and celebrate wedding events in the church from which he was sent. After "pressure" from the congregation, a wedding reception for the newlyweds was held. It was very disappointing as we tried to deal with cumulative problems. Our pastor was not willing to confront or talk. He is a wonderful preacher, and an excellent teacher; however, after four-and-half years we see growing tension. His autonomous leadership is causing some church isolation.

As we got involved in church planting, we were spiritually starving for true biblical teaching. The pastor who was sent to Prague from Ústí in the northern part of the country showed a unique ability to expound and teach the Word. He is doctrinally sound. His organizational skills and his hard and productive work are exemplary. On that side, there is nothing

to add or suggest that would need to be improved or changed. As time passed, his shepherding ability, his relational skills toward people and other pastors and churches, showed a lack of pastoral heart and skills.

We are sure that we are not the first to find out the hard way that managing an independent church requires much greater attention and responsibility. We were not forewarned of the lack of the pastor's ability to manage his family. Finally, we realize that biblical knowledge should go hand in hand with biblical character and deeds. Our church is not growing. Up till now, we do not have elders, which shows the pastor's strong leadership abilities without accountability.

We asked the pastor to open those personal matters and their effects on the wellbeing of the church, but he refused. He felt no need to discuss anything. That refusal led us to deeper ministry evaluation. At the time we put together a 16-page written document about our concerns. Once again there was no written reaction or response that we asked for from his side. We took the next biblical step; we shared our concerns with the two elders of the Ústí sending church, an elder of Kladno church, and an elder here in Prague church, as we have worked very closely together in the past. Our hearts are broken.

We are praying that amid the quarantine, the elders of the sending church

will have the courage to deal with the situation. We are counseling on this issue with other pastors here and in the US who are familiar with this situation. At this time, we are waiting to see if the pastor will be willing to openly face the elders involved.

Lord is good and He is showing us the direction for this time of trial. Our goal is to rebuild broken relationships with other churches, pastors, and unbelievers. In the meantime, we will focus more on publishing and media ministries. All this was brought to our attention by coronavirus quarantine. We do not have to ask why? Great is the verse from Romans 8:28,

*And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)*

We are looking forward to changing the direction for the time being. Lord willing pastor of the Bible church will get his act together.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **Origins of Remdesivir**

Remdesivir was created and developed by Gilead Sciences, under the direction of scientist Tomáš Cihlář who was born 1967 in Plzeň, Czechoslovakia. He graduated from the University of Chemistry and Technology, Prague, majoring in fermentation chemistry and bioengineer-

ing. As a student, he assisted another Czech scientist Antonín Holý in developing Viread, the primary drug used to fight HIV/AIDS infection.

Tomáš Cihlář is today known for developing the hopeful anti-COVID-19 drug Remdesivir. Cihlář developed Remdesivir, originally intended for the treatment of Ebola. However, the Ebola epidemic ended before the new drug could be tested. Remdesivir has since shown considerable promise in treating coronavirus infection, and as of April 2020, the company has provided 5,000 doses for experimental use in China and four hundred patients in 50 other countries (one patient was successfully treated in Prague). Remdesivir was effective in treating a 35-year-old male coronavirus patient in Seattle. The patient, on returning home from a vacation in Wuhan, was the first confirmed case of coronavirus in the U.S.

Tomáš Cihlář concomitantly holds the positions of Senior Director, Biology, and Vice-President at American pharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences. As part of Gilead's research and development program on treatments for Ebola virus disease and Marburg virus infections.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

- This is our "mayday, mayday" call. Please pray with us for wisdom, guidance, peace, and unity to bring the Bible church of Prague back on track.

- We repent, as our truly gifted preacher “blinded” us with his outstanding biblical knowledge. The big lesson to us is: Biblical church leadership starts at home. We were well nourished scripturally, but in relationships we became under-nourished. We paid more attention to his gifts and organizational skills and did not see the deficiency in his personal and character qualities. The church family needs a leadership example to strive for family unity.
- Personally, for us, it is a difficult time, but our goal has not changed. There is much to do in the field of writing, translating, and editing, as well as rebuilding the broken relationships with other churches and individuals. We need wisdom and patience.
- are not allowed to sit down at the table; it works.
- It is wonderful to get out and roam the empty city wearing masks. Prague is a charming and inspiring city.
- We are communicating with believers as well as nonbelieving friends. We are watching and listening to messages of like-minded pastors of churches here as well as in the USA. Thanks for being on the internet.

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

**In His Sovereign Grace,  
Pavel and Klara Steiger**  
<pavel.steiger@gmail.com>

<°))))><

## **PRAISES**

- “Ban on the Ban” partially loosened coronavirus restriction. Now gatherings of 15 people wearing masks, spaced about 2 yards apart, is allowed.
- Distancing is required. Big malls remain closed but some smaller stores are opening. Restaurants and coffee shops are serving drinks and meals through the window or delivering orders home. The first coffee cup and MacDonald’s maestro burger tasted fantastic. Except for the fact that you

**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**