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***It is He who changes the times and the periods; He removes kings and appoints kings; He gives wisdom to wise men, and knowledge to people of understanding. (Da 2:21)***

***This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and He grants it to whomever He wishes and sets over it the lowliest of people. (Da 4:17)***

**JANUARY 2021  
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF  
THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY  
TO THE PEOPLES  
OF CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA**

Instead of looking for New year resolutions, Klara went back to her Facebook entries. Not focusing on Covid lockdown isolation, canceled or limited



plans, it looked like a good year. And it was. The year 2021 is ahead and as we are looking at current events, it feels as though we are watching the film, "The World Turned Upside Down," but we already know how it will end.

We did not believe that we would see the fall of socialism in Central Europe in our lifetime since The Prague Spring was crushed by Russian tanks in 1968. The process of mild democratization and political liberalization that sought to build an advanced society, i.e. „socialism with a human face“ as it was presented to the people, did not work. The Baltimore Sun remembered those events with the heading, „Socialism with a Human Face: Another God That Failed.“

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-1992-11-18-1992323011-story.html>

The next chapter was called "The Velvet revolution." So, we saw the fall!

We also did not believe that the socialist agenda would be resurrected in the West in the 21st century. We never imagined that we would witness its rise

in Western Europe, and in the country that adopted us. After all, the United States was our refuge!

The year 2021 will go on, and we all will get used to the fact that the fundamental reshaping of the world is ahead of us.

***And the LORD will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. (Isaiah 58:11)***

- ◆ Despite many disappointments globally, nationally, and personally, we believe that He is in control.
- ◆ Despite corona isolation and quarantine, cyberspace enabled us to be in contact with people and events.
- ◆ Despite both of us being under corona attack, His mercy was everlasting.
- ◆ Despite the separation, we experienced much care and concern for our well-being.
- ◆ Despite having to change or postpone many plans, and learn to live according to His plans, we were able to express our care for others.
- ◆ Despite missing fellowship in the church, we are blessed by all the new opportunities to fellowship with those brothers and sisters we see only occasionally.

- ◆ Despite physical isolation, we had new opportunities in the spiritual realm.
- ◆ Despite the lockdown, we were able to reach near and far, through Facebook, sharing face to face concerns, blessings, and inspiration.
- ◆ Despite the fact that we could only touch keyboards, and displays to express our likes or dislikes, we were communicating with real people.
- ◆ Despite all the setbacks, we endured.
- ◆ Despite numerous inconveniences, everything is available.
- ◆ Despite travel restrictions, we can be in touch with our family and friends overseas.
- ◆ Each one of the „despites“ sounds like counting our blessings.

## **SOME CZECH CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD**

### **Sugar Cube**

Sugar cubes are food sugar processed into a cube. Until the middle of the 19th century, sugar was distributed mainly in the form of sugar-loaves. Jakub Kryštof Rad is considered to be the inventor of sugar cubes. He was the director of the Dačice refinery and patented sugar cubes in 1843. The privilege of producing sugar cubes was granted to Rad on January 23, 1843.

Juliana Radová, Rad's wife, injured her finger while trying to chip off a pie-

ce of sugar from a sugar-loaf. The sugar-loaves were hard and impractical, up to five feet high. Anyone needing sugar could not do without a hammer, pliers, or crowbar. The woman suggested to her husband, Jakub Kryštof Rad, the refinery director and an enthusiastic inventor, that he should come up with an easier way.

Rad's first cubes were in the shape of a cuboid with edge dimensions of  $\frac{1}{2}$  by  $\frac{5}{8}$  of an inch. Later, they began to differ from one manufacturer to another, and the shape also changed from a cube to various geometric shapes, such as the characters of the bridge card colors – clubs, diamonds, hearts, and spades.

### **Propeller**

Josef Ressel, a Czech-born inventor, was ahead of his time. Although he invented many different devices, he is mainly famous for being the first to invent and use the propeller.

The ball-bearing without oiling, press-roller for oil and wine, rolling mill, and steam engine with air cooling were just a few inventions introduced by the Czech inventor Josef Ressel. Ressel was born in the east Bohemian town of Chrudim in 1793. He studied at an artillery school in České Budějovice (Budweis) where he acquired outstanding knowledge of mathematics, geometry, and technical drawing.

At the Vienna University, Ressel attended lectures on forestry, chemistry, technology, and natural sciences. But due to a lack of money, he had to leave the university and became a forester after graduating from a forestry school. At his new job, he came up with many gimmicks, for instance how to measure areas of woods quickly and reliably. The job instigated an interest in sea navigation in the young man, as his duty was to care for wood from deforesting to the building of sea ships. So among many other inventions, Ressel became famous for the propeller. In 1826 he applied for an Austrian patent for what he called "*a never-ending screw which can be used to drive ships both on sea and rivers*" and he received the license in February 1827.

Ressel was the first to place the propeller between the helm and the stern so that the propeller worked under the water thus being most efficient.

But Ressel's authorship of the invention was put in doubt due to inertia of the Austrian Presidium of Imperial Sciences when in a suspicious coincidence, English traders Sauvage and Smith came up with the same invention. It is believed now that someone might have secretly sold Ressel's invention to Great Britain. But in 1865, at its arbitrary session, the National Academy in Washington decided the matter in Ressel's favor. Ressel died of malaria in

1857 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, where he's buried.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

- Our wish and prayer is that The Bad Times will become Good Times for The Spiritual Victory.
- Online ministries are great but not to replace fellowship heart to heart and face to face.
- Our calendar this year is empty except for a few medical checkups. Otherwise we have no binding or scheduled events or conferences. It is all in His hands.
- Please pray that the hearts of people will be softened during this trial.
- Our churches, bible studies, and fellowships are controlled by lockdown regulations.
- Pray that people will not get comfortable with staying at home and watching TV broadcasts from different churches. On Sunday we watch several of them.
- For fellow missionaries who cannot return to their places of ministry because of this pandemic.

### **PRAISES**

- At the present time we continue writing and translating without any interruption. Pavel is writing another book.
- Klara finished the translation of Lili Kladensky's testimony. She is 95 years old now and spends her days in Costa Rica. Her life story is most

unusual. As a young Jewish girl she survived the concentration camp, became a believer, and the Lord used her and her daughter to start Czech and Slovak broadcasting in HCJB Voice of the Andes Good News. It is amazing to follow the Lord's plans in our lives.

- As part of Pavel's covid recovery, he has been prescribed by the doctors a three-week special spa treatment. Klara will join him.

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

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

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