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*Be kindly affectioned one to another
with brotherly love; in honour prefer-
ring one another; (Romans 12:10)*

FEBRUARY 2022
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS
OF THE REACH BEYOND
MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES
OF CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA

DEAR GOD'S SERVANTS

In recent weeks, we have made a more personal contact with individuals and small groups of those who are praying for the work in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Renewing contact is a great encouragement to us. Thank you.

If you are not on our EPPR – Electronic Prayer list, email us your email address. This way you will have a personal monthly update on events and YouTube clips we create, and you



can see where we are and what the Czech Republic is all about.

Although February is a shorter month, it is full of events and strategic plans for the month ahead of us. One of the upcoming events is the March conference of the Eurasian Region of Reach Beyond in Istanbul since for most people, Turkey is the place with direct flights. Because of covid and other reasons, we did not have a regional meeting for a couple of years. Lately, we have been communicating with Colorado Springs via Zoom meetings.

Reach Beyond is being the voice and hands of Jesus all around the World. With a network of strategic partners in media, medicine, and community development, the goal is to reach unreached people everywhere to hear about Jesus, see Him in action, and learn how to follow Him.

- Distributing radios to unreached people in Asia
- Connecting with listeners in Eurasia
- Using English to share the Gospel in southern Europe
- Creating a fire safety video for radio stations in Africa
- ... and in many other ways. We are part of this.

A LETTER FROM THE SLOVAK MINISTRY

Last year we had to change our accountant three times. In August, our long-time bookkeeper passed away from Covid. In October, our second bookkeeper told us that she had been diagnosed with cancer and was entering treatment. In December, we finally reached out to our third accountant. She didn't want to take it - it was the end of the year and she was busy. I told her who we were, so she finally took it. I believe God moved her...

Our new associate, Dano R. from Poprad, willingly began retrieving John Piper's reflections for us. He did it very well and with good quality. We recently learned that he was diagnosed with lymph node cancer. He is in great pain and suffering.

So we are starting the new year very dramatically. Into all of this, there is another wave of CVD with various limitations. I wonder what

God wants to tell us with all this... I feel very fragile and dependent on God's grace, more than ever.

Thank you for your prayers and support. You are precious to our work, while the time of grace still lasts.

*With gratitude
Milan Hudec*

EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS

The headlines of today are mainly CVD, booster vaccination, energy crisis, inflation, and rising interest rates... but the growing tension between Russia and Ukraine is gaining momentum. The Americans have provided several European allies with maps and satellite photos showing tens of thousands of troops, including heavy equipment, in the area.

Ukraine is worried about the Russian army moving to its borders. Russia has deployed several missile cruisers, anti-submarine destroyers, or submarines armed with cruise missiles in the Mediterranean.

Several MiG-31 fighter jets with hypersonic Kijal air-to-surface ballistic missiles have landed in Kaliningrad with a planned range of up to 2,000 kilometers. They are a warning to the West: if these missiles are launched from Kaliningrad (until 1946 German Königsberg), they could hit European centers within ten minutes.

While some commercial airlines are canceling flights to and over Ukraine for security reasons, Ukrainian oligarchs and executives are leaving Ukraine on charter flights. Some embassies are evacuating their staff.

Europe and America fear an invasion, annexation, the establishment of a pro-Russian government ... and not least the possibility of war. In Poland, NATO F-15 fighter jets are ready. We remember similar schemes when Russians invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968 and a similar scenario took place in Georgia, Chechnya, and Crimea... It is not hard to imagine that the Russians will take over the airspace and that is already a step towards an invasion.

DID YOU KNOW?

Everyone likes to brag about something amazing their country invented (Aussies claim they were the first to make note pads, yeah right!), and in the Czech Republic that nifty invention comes in the shape of the good old contact lens. Back in 1961, the soft contact lens was invented by a Czech chemist called Professor Otto Wichterle. The idea of sticking your finger in your eye might not seem like the nicest way to start your day, but over 25 million people do so instead of wearing glasses, all thanks to Professor Wichterle!

The Professor, with his assistant, developed a transparent hydrofoil plastic named "hydroxyethyl methacrylate" (catchy, right?), which was made largely of water, meaning it was soft and pliable when wet, but would become hard when dry. This was a good start to the contact lenses we know today. However, their design wasn't immediately ready for market as the fibers available in the day provided poor optical quality and other such issues, so it was back to the drawing board.

It was on Christmas 1961 that Wichterle hit the jackpot when he constructed a lens-producing machine using his son's toy building set and a small motor from a bike. It was with this nifty creation that the first gel contact lens was born.

The Czech communist government then sold the patent to an American entrepreneur and the soft contact lenses hit the markets, meaning no more four-eyes in sight... but everything else in sight was crystal clear and comfortable. Nice work Otto!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otto_Wichterle

PRAISE AND PRAYERS

- As we mentioned previously, we are reconnecting with churches and individuals. This brings mutual joy.

- Our favorite walks sometimes lead to the ZOO. We can't get enough of its beauty. Also, for seniors, instead of 250 CZK, the entrance fee is only 1 CZK, which is not even 5 cents.
- The National Museum has undergone several years of renovation and without exaggeration, it is a gem. No wonder Prague is one of the most popular European cities for tourists.
- Next on our walk wish list is spring in the Botanical gardens.
- Here is an example of what you can get if you are on e-mail communication *with us*. In January we spent a few days in Teplice hot springs (Teplitz Schöna) in Northern Bohemia. Enjoy it with us:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coJz9ggpBbQ>
- In our last prayer letter, we shared with you that our ministry has changed, like going back in time. It seems that this trend will continue this year. We never dreamed that Pavel would return to the microphone. The audio project "Ask Pastor John (Piper)" project gave Pavel's mature voice a new opportunity. What a privilege. Recording technology is amazing. A little box connected to the computer, a microphone, and that is all. No need

for a padded studio or sets of equipment, etc.

- The beginnings were not easy. After the third recording, the sound technicians complained about a hissing sound, which we didn't hear. With the help of an IT specialist, the problem was solved. Which meant transposition in input and output on the computer.

**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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