



© Ivan Steiger MMXXII

*Where is the wise? where is the scribe?
where is the disputer of this world? hath not
God made foolish the wisdom of this world?
For after that in the wisdom of God the world
by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by
the foolishness of preaching to save them
that believe. (1. Cor 1:20-21)*

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

What else should we call the June report but an amazing summary of days of hard labor in the Czech and Slovak ministry. Our current ministry can be called: Be available.

PROJECT LILI LIFE STORY

In a previous communication, we asked for prayers for a comic-book adaptation of



the testimony of Lili Kladensky. She, as a seventeen-year-old girl from a Jewish family, not only survived imprisonment in the Terezín concentration camp but came to faith upon her return. Shortly before the communists took over and the Iron curtain was built, the family emigrated to Ecuador.

The story, "From Death Camp to Camp New Life," describes the amazing journey of the Kladenskys in Ecuador. Georgina, their daughter, was instrumental in the Czech and Slovak Good News shortwave broadcasts of the Voice of the Andes. It all started in 1970. Lili, her mother, maintained correspondence with hundreds of listeners during the Communist era for over 20 years. Broadcasting in Czech and Slovak languages is part of the HCJB's rich history of broadcasting to the former communist part of the world.

We came to Ecuador to replace Georgina and Lili in 1990. After the fall of communism, we returned to then Czechoslovakia the place of our birth, and 24 years later, after we emigrated to the US, the work continued and expanded in both countries.

Our heart's desire was first to share the life story of Lili and publish the book. However, the Lord had another idea. We met Ales, a brother in Christ who is a talented comic-book artist. He works with a publishing company that we work closely with. Klara translated the story and the young artist

created the comic-book version. These are very popular, especially among young people.

This book is a timely project for several reasons. The personal presents a unique way to encourage believers as well as nonbelievers. The war in Ukraine is too close to live carefree lives or ignore the situation. We live in a time when everything can change from day to day as in the days of Nazi Germany.

Finally, yet importantly, the goal is to get this comic book into the public school system. Young people need to be aware. As of now, the draft is out. It consists of 110 graphic sheets. The next step is the final layout, proofreading, and, Lord willing, publishing and distribution.

Lili (b.1923) will be turning 99 years old in July. This should be the best tribute to celebrate and thank the Lord for her faithful service.

By the way, Lili is one year older than Queen Elizabeth II. The recent celebration of her Platinum Jubilee with "The Paddington Bear" video was innovative as well.

FAITH IN TROUBLED TIMES

Another wonderful "harvest experience" was the conference in Kroměříž. This time we did not have any prominent guest speaker from America. Two local missionaries, one from the USA and the other from Germany, have been serving, among others, in this country for years. They did not need translators. The other three speakers were Czech pastors of now independent Baptist churches. They studied in seminaries in the U.S. At this time, they carry on the work of the American missionaries who planted seeds among young people after the fall of communism.

Looking back over the past 20 years of cooperation, the harvest has brought blessings to the Czech and Slovak churches. The Kroměříž team set a high standard this time.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

This conference region is traditionally a strong Catholic stronghold. It used to be the principal residence of the bishops and archbishops. The Gardens and Castle in Kroměříž were added to the UNESCO list in 1998.

The first documents about the Kroměříž settlement were written between 1107-1125. The opulent archbishop's palace has on display the mythological painting (horribly violent scene) The Flaying of Marsyas by Titian: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flaying_of_Marsyas_\(Titian\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flaying_of_Marsyas_(Titian))

CENSUS AND REALITY

Every ten years, a census is held in the Czech Republic, which also includes statistics about church affiliation. Since the fall of communism, traditional churches have lost most of their membership. The older generation is dying out and the younger ones see no reason why they should join a church. They attend services only at certain moments in their lives, such as traditional holidays, weddings, child baptisms, provision before death, and occasionally funerals. The situation is somewhat better in evangelical churches. But active, radical Christianity, a life of obedience, is too demanding for today's man. What accounts for this decline?

Maybe the following letter will bring some light:

LETTER FROM A DEAR FRIEND

I greet you very much, time flies by and frankly, I'm so busy - at work - and finishing our new apartment - including taking care of my disabled wonderful wife - if I cloned down to 2, I could manage it with my tongue on my vest, what all is coming at me ... and there's a whole host of co-workers everywhere to help (ha, ha). I always think at that moment of how Noah had great difficulty convincing his own family to come into the Ark with them ... so 8 souls yeah ... or the

Lord Jesus, the eternal Word of God who sees into the heart of every man ... found only 12 people at that time who were somehow able to follow Him and help Him in His ministry ... and yet one of them was the devil.

So I remember when I used to go around lecturing on creation and exposing fraud upon fraud.... and persuading people in Christian communities to get involved ... so hey ... in 10 years of prayer and persuasion I found 2 young men who helped me with something here and there - like translating something or putting it on the web or whatever ... and today they can't even do that ... so I'm left alone again ... Yeah, if I opened a dining room and an amusement park at my house, that young "Christians" could come to our house to eat and have fun ... we could have a so-called group every day ... and surely after a few months someone would even be free to help us with something, but when we are able to invite people to our house like that, we won't need their help anymore ... and this brings me to the cardinal question, does one always have to start by cutting off another limb or losing another pint of blood to find someone who will take a moment to notice that I need a haircut? ... somehow it seems so strange in the Christian practice ... and of course, the preachers and pastors who rub honey around people's mouths in congregations, ... and just entertain them ... to make them feel better than at MacDonald's... and then anything more demanding these people refuse which is why there are relatively full congregations everywhere, but no real Christian who would be able to notice directly that someone needs help ... but is led by the Spirit of God himself to actively seek out that person.

Just a brief reflection that comes straight from my heart. I don't harbor any bitterness, rather I'm sad about it, and I see all the more the need for a REAL Christianity that

doesn't turn people into consumers of spirituality who go to church to have fun and form feel-good clubs, but that under God's guidance we begin to seek out people who are prepared to die for Christ and His people and not just deny themselves a Sunday outing with their family or an expensive restaurant lunch or a holiday by the sea ...

May God be glorified in all things!

PaL

ENERGY SUICIDE

For 77 years, Russia and the Western world had built an illusion of peace, until Putin publicly declared that Russia was fighting against the US and NATO. He began threatening the West with nuclear weapons and, through the mouths of Russian commentators, declared that Ukraine was only the beginning. So it was not NATO that made Putin an enemy icon, but Putin himself who put himself on the pedestal of the enemy of NATO and, indeed, of the entire West.

The unthinkable became reality. Europe and especially Central Europe's energy policy is dependent on Russia and Germany. The Czech dependence on gas from Russia is almost 60%. Supplies that flow into our homes come through German infrastructure.

The energy crisis is now becoming called energy poverty. The raise in all utility and interest rates on mortgages are crushing household's income and budgets. Inflation exceeded 15 % ... fuel is about \$8-9 per gallon.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

The war in Ukraine has had many negative side effects. In addition to radically increasing fuel prices, economic hardship experts warn that the related food crisis could also be a problem.

Ukraine in particular is widely considered one of the world's largest breadbaskets, with up to 2/3 of its territory covered in extremely

fertile black soil. Its national flag is yellow grain with blue sky above it. This belt of fertile land then continues into Russia, while it is declining towards the west. Ukraine and Russia produce almost a third of the world's wheat and barley, and half of its sunflower oil. This means that Ukraine provides food for 400 million people. The food supply for millions of Ukrainians and millions more around the world "has quite literally been held hostage by the Russian military", which is using food as a weapon to accomplish what its invasion has not – breaking the spirit of the Ukrainian people.

The Ukraine refugees coming in our direction are 40 % children and minors. In the context of the war, the Czech Republic is supplying arms to Ukraine, while at the same time, paying for the Russian war by buying gas, crude oil through Germany, and nuclear fuel for nuclear power stations directly from Russia.

Ukraine's crippled agricultural exports are threatening food shortages in poor countries, especially Egypt and Yemen. According to Ukrainian sources, the Russians are diverting/stealing grain and blocking 22 million tons of grain in Ukrainian ports.

As of now, we do not have any food shortages, and prices continue to be reasonable to careful shoppers.

PRAISE AND PRAYERS

- We praise the Lord that after more than two years of COVID restrictions we can meet again. Our team had hosted 12 winter conferences, Kroměříž hosted the summer conferences. After 2 years we are planning the 13th conference for the end of March 2023.
- We met with Milan and his wife in Prague, while they came to celebrate 50 years of JAS – singing group. Our cooperation goes back 20 years. Internet Radio Logos is on the air.

- Pavel's voice on "Ask Pastor John" is on the air (an internet radio). He's recorded 24 programs so far. He plans to record more, since he has many old forgotten sermons in his archives.
- We have now two volunteers to edit the German translation of Pavel's book "My Glory will I not Give to Another". Pray for a Polish pastor who edits the same book as he is facing some obstacles (his health and liberal attacks in his denomination).
- Continued unity of leaders involved in governments dealing with the crises we face and people who are seeking refuge.

**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**

<°))))><

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**