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***For even though they knew God,
they did not honor Him as God or
give thanks, but they became futile
in their reasonings, and their sense-
less hearts were darkened. Claiming
to be wise, they became fools,
(Romans 1:21-22)***

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

Amazing colorful autumn is here. Central Europe is full of deciduous trees and the color range is enchanting. Just as there are many varieties of people in the world, the ambiance of fall beauty is endless. This is the time to begin with, praises. What we wrote in our last electronic Prayer Letter came to pass.

The all-inclusive weeklong fellowship retreat in the pleasant family hotel Hills, in the High Tatras mountains, was awesome. The exclusive atmosphere, friendly resort facilities, and exceptional wellness center were nothing short of VIP treatment.



The autumn atmosphere was just beginning to change colors and the Slovak rich history of different towns, churches, cathedrals, synagogues and of course, beautiful High Tatras was fantastic.

One of the oldest wooden churches in Slovakia from the 16th century has a tiny wooden statue of a seated, contemplative Christ on a portable altar. There are supposedly only three known little images like that in the world. We added an inscription from another location to the photo book, but it brought Christ's message to life:

*He who has lost possessions
has not lost much,
He who has lost his freedom
has lost much,
He who has lost faith
has lost everything.*

Our next experience led us to the High Tatras on the Polish side, just a few miles over the Slovak border. The place reminded us of the splendor of the Canadian Rockies. The border is formed by a stream. There is a parking lot on the Polish side of the bridge, and on the Slovak side are restaurants. To get to the

Sea Eye lake takes about 2.5 hours uphill hike from the parking lot or, by a horse-drawn carriage, just about an hour's ride. From there it is about a mile hike to the final destination.

According to legend, the lake underground was connected to the sea.

Interestingly, AquaCity in Poprad, Slovakia, uses geothermal energy from an underground lake to keep the resort's pools and saunas warm all year round.

Before changing the subject, here is the explanation for the VIP treatment of six Christian couples in Slovakia. It all relates to the following story:

FROM RAGS TO RICHES

Story of Jan Telensky, born in communist Czechoslovakia in 1948.

Jan left for England after the Russian occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968. He was just 20 years old with no money and unable to speak English.

Jan arrived in the UK with £2 in his pocket. He had to sleep in Dunstable cemetery. A family friend then found him a job on the assembly line at an auto parts factory.

He seized his new opportunity and became a millionaire by the time he was 29. When communism collapsed in 1989, Jan returned home and expanded his operations into what is now The Czech Republic and Slovakia. Now the property tycoon owns hundreds of flats in London and Prague, along with hotels and AquaCity, the world's most environmentally friendly resort in Slovakia.

Recently Jan was awarded, in the UK, the Lord Dahrendorf Award for Responsible Capitalism, recognizing successful business leaders who apply the principles of moral and social responsibility to the management of their businesses, combining social commitment with business acumen and innovation, and creating a coherent philosophy for the success of their companies. Award winners are judged over the long term against criteria that include sustainability and moral fairness as standard financial benchmarks.

Believe it or not, in October 2008 at the end of her State visit to Slovakia, Queen Elizabeth II dropped the puck for the face-off in the exhibition hockey match between Slovakia's Poprad AquaCity and British Guildford Flames.

<https://jantelensky.co.uk/about/>

ONGOING EVENTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND EUROPEAN UNION

Of course, we follow closely events and news in America; those relating to disasters like tornadoes and floods are reported on local TV regularly. The magnitude is horrific. Possibly you noticed on European international news, the role of the Czech Republic in current events. The first meeting of the European Political Community brought together over 40 leaders from across the continent to Prague. The main topics of meetings were the war in Ukraine, the energy crisis, inflation, and the bleak economic situation. Czechia recently assumed the next six-month EU presidency. The ongoing war in Ukraine, the destruction, and the

agony of the people, from time to time are overshadowed by the ongoing cost of the war and the rising cost of living. Attempting to solve the social impact of a combined crisis brings more questions than answers.

Winter is around the corner, and concerns about how to pay for gas and electricity are major worries for the industry as well as for individuals. It took our governments and green deal policies quite a few years to get us to where we are now. How sad.

Why is the price of electricity skyrocketing? The situation after total dependence on Russian gas and partly on oil, and German distribution of gas to the Czech Republic, just multiplied the seriousness of the energy crisis. The price of emission allowances in the EU is one of the green policy instruments that make fossil fuel power generation more expensive. This is an example of how the European Union works. Emission allowances account for up to two-thirds of the price of electricity! The production cost of electricity is only a fraction of the price to the final consumer. It consists of the cost of emission allowances, distribution fees, renewable energy support fees, electricity tax, VAT, and distributor's profit. Europe is trying to wean itself off its dependence on Russian gas while closing coal and nuclear power stations. The Czech Republic has the most expensive electricity in Europe, even though it has long been one of the top ten electricity exporters in the world. The energy exchange in Leipzig often comes in for

criticism. However, the Leipzig power exchange does not in itself cause the high prices but merely responds to the growing demand for electricity and gas. CEZ sells 95 percent of its electricity production directly bilaterally or via electronic trading platforms at prices that are based on the Leipzig exchange price. European dependence on Russian gas and the ongoing war with Ukraine form a major part of the huge problem in Europe.

The energy crisis is the result of unwise European internal energy policies, costly green deal policies and all kinds of renewable taxes added to those.

SMALL COUNTRY, BIG DREAMS

Another hard-to-believe event, the Czech National Baseball Team has qualified for the prestigious World Baseball Classic tournament in 2023. The win was all the more impressive considering that the Czech team consists entirely of homegrown players who play in Extraliga – which only plays from Friday through Sunday. For example, Schneider's firefighting job requires him to work 24 hours before getting 48 hours off, meaning that he misses at least one game with his team every week.

"It shows the world that the Czech league overall is competitive and that we get better, year by year, which I'm very proud of," Chlup said. "Most of the guys have to go to work, and then afterward show up to practice and show up to games and compete. It takes a lot of time and it takes a lot of hard work."

A SOCIETY THAT KNOWINGLY BECOMES GODLESS EXISTS

WITHOUT God, WITHOUT Christ, WITHOUT the Bible, will be: WITHOUT orientation, WITHOUT plan, WITHOUT purpose, WITHOUT meaning, WITHOUT love, WITHOUT heart, WITHOUT grace, WITHOUT scruples, WITHOUT attachment, WITHOUT country, WITHOUT loyalty, WITHOUT children, WITHOUT shame, WITHOUT morals, WITHOUT education, WITHOUT limits, WITHOUT strength, WITHOUT motivation, WITHOUT peace, WITHOUT justice, WITHOUT law, and WITHOUT backbone.

It is doomed to extinction and eternal separation from God. How sad to be WITHOUT! (Internet source)

ACHIEVEMENTS, PRAISES AND PRAYERS

- The Lily comic project is printed. Historical editing was done by brother Tomas Fedorovic, a historian from the Terezín Memorial who worked there for over 20 years. He managed to discover an authentic document about Lili's admission to the concentration camp. The price for printing 1.200 copies came to about \$4.250.
- Our recent stop in Zilina, Slovakia, on the way to our retreat was fruitful and encouraging. The translation of a book from Slovak that analyzes the materialistic and biblical worldview in the Czech and Polish languages can be done; however, finding a publisher willing to distribute this book is a

big challenge. Most publishers are under the control of men who have no problem with teaching theistic evolution. Prayers and wisdom are needed.

- We got acquainted with several unbelievers, people untouched by the gospel. We would like to follow up on them. People like that are all around us.

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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