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You know this, my beloved brothers and sisters. Now everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger; for a man's anger does not bring about the righteousness of God. Therefore, ridding yourselves of all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:19-21)

**HOME MINISTRY JUNE 2023
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF
THE REACH BEYOND
MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES
OF CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA**

The impressions of America after four years filled our hearts and souls with the melody from the beloved hymn,

*"How wonderful, how beautiful ...,
all creation bows to worship You ...,
name above every name ..."*



Most of all, we want to thank all of you who hosted us during those special days spent first in beloved Arizona:

The flight from London to Phoenix was long. To get an aisle seat we paid extra. It was a good investment; we had three and four seats for ourselves.

Reunion with friends and their hospitality and loving care was nothing short of feeling at home. We met with three supporting churches, one Sunday school class, four pastors, several mission people, our supporters, and prayer partners. We praise the Lord for mutual encouragement, inspiration, motivation, and most of all opportunity to spend brief moments with so many.

Our friends and supporters we met more than 30 years ago in Indonesia just moved from Midland TX to Good Year AZ. This led to an unexpected trip to the Grand Canyon. On the way back we visited our dear and longtime friend pastor Steve Cole and his wife in Flagstaff. The day's last stop was in Prescott to see another couple of long-time dear friends. This time we covered ba-

ses in Phoenix, Tucson, and Sierra Vista.

A reunion from Virginia, a lady of a couple who picked us up at the airport in Phoenix some 33 years ago was unexpected. This couple planted us into their extended family. This was the way Arizona became for us home base. What memories, blessing and lasting friendship.

We noticed the change. Our attention caught now an informal image of pastors in traditional churches. In the auditoriums, ministry buildings, administration, the number of pastors, professionals for various ministries, and age groups, the activities are overwhelming. Most of the local churches here have one pastor and one or two elders. A worship team is normally a small group, with three to five musicians and a few vocalists. The size of church parking lots in America is often larger than the size of an entire old town square in Prague.

Traffic, new highways, and many cars, trucks, endless trains with truck trailers stacked two levels up, pulled by four or more locomotives; two in front, one in the middle, and two more at the end look to us like a mirage. Everybody's in a hurry and everything is heading somewhere.

To compare, we live in a little sleeping kingdom. With Europe's concerns about global warming, tropical heat here means that the temperature reaches about 90 F. We left Phoenix at 104 F, just the beginning of summer

heat. The air conditioning is used everywhere. It looks like there is no energy crisis since inside temperatures are freezing. On the airplane, I was freezing and lost my voice for three days. The short supply and cost of energy with consumption like that would bring Europe to a standstill.

In many ways, America looks like an economic Power House. Our jaws dropped seeing the new Phoenix free-ways, housing developments, construction sites, and so many changes just in four years. Despite its, and global problems America is a young country with great potential while the European continent is limping behind; limited by size, resources, energy dependence, aging population, social system, environmental regulations, etc. However, Europe is a Powerhouse of innovative social experiments. Most '-isms' started with good intentions, leading to world disasters. One of the latest are ideas on how to create a sustainable world. Recently published a warning to our generation in the newspaper sounds like the "writing on the wall":

"German economics professor, philosopher, and social scientist Helge Peukert has compiled a list of steps that must be taken to stop economic growth and save the planet from destruction. His report is addressed to the Last Generation. These people and organizations have received from Professor Peukert a scientific basis and a practical guide on how to fight back. The list includes a rationing system for

private consumption of gasoline and diesel, reduced to zero over a period of five years. Airline tickets are rationed; once for three years. The demolition of most roads, highways, and airports, the introduction of minimum and maximum income, high inheritance, and estate taxes, possibly capping the maximum wealth allowed, banning all new construction, introducing a rationing system for energy, banning all 'non-essential machines', elevators should be for invalids only; banning the consumption of meat and sausages; ending money creation by banks in favor of money creation by the state ... Peukert has scientifically worked out the effects of the EU directives already adopted."

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

As long as we were not up-to-date on how critical and politically unstable the world is, back in our mind came the biblical warning, "*as in the days of Noah*," the day of reckoning will come.

Speaking of Noah's days. In our early days of ministry, we were heavily involved in creation ministry. It was a time when only a few local "fundamentalists" believed that Adam and Eve is not a myth. Darwinian evolution teaching was a scientific fact that penetrated the church. Our wish to see Noah's Ark in Kentucky was another highlight of our ministry. Four nights stay in Cincinnati, three full days at Noah's Ark and the Creation Museum, and a day at the National Air Museum in Dayton, Ohio was unforgettable.

As we shared our ministry in Czech and Slovak countries, the greatest difference is that our churches are small and generationally integrated. Independent church plants are meeting in rented places. We do not have traditional or contemporary services, numerous special programs for different groups, not all the churches have special programs for kids, youth or young adults, single, engaged or married, nurseries for babies and toddlers. This is an opportunity for teenage girls 'to be' moms. On the other hand, here and there, even dogs come with their owners.

PRAISE AND PRAYERS

- Our last stop was in New Hampshire to connect with our older son, his wife, and four grandchildren. We did not see them in person for seven years. Then teens turned into young adults. Interacting with them is much more than Skype calls. What a joy it is to see how they are walking with the Lord, and how mature and hardworking they have become. This is parental joy and a reward for grandparents. The next step in the family is to see them as they get married. So far, it looks like we have to wait.
- Institution of the family is the best plan for believers. How exciting it was to see along the way loving families, happily married couples; those we knew as youngsters, now raising their kids. To see those who

remained married for up to 60 years or more in our days is like a miracle. There are many broken relationships, marriages, families, and loneliness ...

- Not to forget, in Arizona, all aches of joints and muscle pains left us. It felt almost like having a new body.
- Three days after we landed at home, we joined a group of faithful friends and believers from several churches with whom we spend time almost every year. This year's topic was self-control. Despite several losses, it was a time of spiritual renewal.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCE

- First week of July, our church has family vacation week to build unity and relationships.
- While we were in America Pavel was asked to be one of the four speakers at the upcoming October conference. The purpose of the conference is to try to bring some calm to the turbulent level in the CR brought on by some teachers who have calculated the date of Christ's coming (or the range of it) and sometimes denounce anyone who disagrees with their system. He would like to demonstrate that there are centuries-old systems espoused by respected figures in history. And also that there can be a different view of eschatology while maintaining respect for Scripture and salvation by faith in the Lord

Jesus Christ through grace. The conference's purpose is not a reason to slander each other and that one can agree and criticize respectfully. It is not to convince or confront anyone about anything (though even that can happen unintentionally). The motto of this conference is the verse:

If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known, as he ought to know.

**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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