



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)

**HOME MINISTRY JANUARY 2024
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF THE
REACH BEYOND MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES
OF CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA**

Instead of New Year's resolutions, the goal of our return to normalcy begins with building strength. Since mid-November of last year, we have been experiencing a test of faith, hope, and gradual return. In the moments when an unexpected health awakening enters our lives, physical disability ceases to be a theory, a new life experience begins.

Pavel's double hospitalization in November and December, with all the side effects of heart surgery (two stents) and pulmonary function, the interaction of antibiotics and numerous medications can leave a person exhausted and weakened for a while. This is the time of total dependence on God. Previous perseverance and impatience have no place.

Even simple advice, such as gradually increasing physical exertion, proper hydration, the need for more protein intake, and at the same time fighting off appetite and upset stomach, takes the utmost of one's remaining strength.

Last year ended with an unusual numerical sequence, the date 12. 31. 23 resembles the marching pace of 1,2,3 - 1,2,3 as we enter the New Year with the hope of another year of activities, new events and expectations.

**2024 FAMILY GATHERINGS
AND CELEBRATIONS**

After the New Year, we learned that Emily, now the fiancée of our grandson Samuel (23), had said yes. Our greatest joy is that she comes from a large Christian family; she has five siblings, Samuel has three, so God willing, our grandchildren will become an integral part of an extended family of relatives. We even have hope that the Steiger family name will continue.

Our younger grandson, Nathan, will be graduating in May. We are looking forward to a trip to New Hampshire and a family reunion. We hope that by May we will both be full of strength and vigor.

**THE POWER OF BROADCASTINGS
RADIO 7, FORMERLY TWR**

There came a time when in my loneliness I was encouraged by many prayers. During Pavel's hospitalization, isolation and days of home rehab, days without outside activities and social events, I listened to Christian Radio 7, TWR programs. The familiar voices were both a companion and an encouragement, like balm for the soul. Especially since we know most of the voices personally, both from the current producers and from the archives.

RADIO LOGOS SLOVAKIA

We recently received a message from Milan Hudec of Slovak Radio 7. A lady listener was listening to one of Pavel's programs on sin in December 2023. She wrote:

Please, where in the archives can I find the sermon on sin from the morning of 25.12.2023? I was ill and only heard part of it, it was excellent and I would like to hear the whole thing. Thank you for your radio, I am very blessed...

Milan found out that it was Pavel's sermon with a Christmas theme. He sent her a link to the sermon. She replied:

I'm so glad I got this link. This sermon changed my Christmas and my present attitude! So thank you so much...

Milan thanked us for sowing the seeds of the Gospel. Pavel's message was recorded in 2018. Once again we can see that God's Word never returns void.

YEAR 2023

As we look back on the past year, we thank and praise our Lord for allowing us to travel so much; a month in America, numerous meetings in Arizona, attending many retreats and conferences, while continuing our writing and translation efforts. It is only because of God's protection that the health crisis happened when we were at home, that we have one of the best hospitals just a few minutes away from our home, that the doctors prevented the worst from happening, the treatment with antibiotics with such unpleasant side effects... The Lord, in His sovereign grace, carried us through this ordeal without lasting consequences.

Many prayers strengthened us and reminded us that we are not alone in going through such trials. The idea of the hardships that patients go through during cancer treatment, after major surgery, all lead to a deeper prayerful connection, compassion, and gratitude that our problems are relative. As preacher D.A. Carson says, those who do not want to experience the sorrows and pains of old age should not live to see old age. Pavel often said, "Old age is not for cowards." We enter the New Year knowing that there is still much work to be done in God's vineyard.

The verse that strengthened me in my time of greatest crisis was just right:

***...fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
(Isa. 41:10)***

NEW YEAR

The first call of the new year came from Australia. They were approaching midnight while we were just waking up to a new day. A former student of mine from over 55 years ago calls me several times a year. Unfortunately, she is not a believer.

The next 50 weeks will be full of turmoil and unrest. The wars and conflicts, Russian constant attacks on civilian targets and aim to destroy Ukraine, Palestinian attacks on Israel and retaliation, hostages ... The wars in the past were a matter of armed forces. This looks more like some kind of genocide. How many more civilians, women and children will be slaughtered this year? No wonder the mighty God continues to deal with the fallen world.

It looks like the political and scientific world has gone mad. The global climate changes, the planetary natural disasters that we can read about in the Bible are being ignored. Let's pray for wisdom for our leaders and for repentance. Our days show how much the world needs Christ.

JANUARY PRAYER REQUEST

- Please pray for the February conference, The Splendor of Christ's Glory. This is a joint effort of five independent churches and the publishing ministry with which we are associated.
- Please pray for the Czech and Slovak broadcasts.
- Please pray for the Czech and Slovak churches, pastors, teachers and ministries.
- Please pray for our writing and translation projects and for Pavel's full recovery.

Our best wishes and especially for His presence in our daily lives.

***Thank you for your prayers, support and participation in our life and Czech and Slovak ministries.
In His sovereign grace.***

Pavel and Klara Steiger <pavel.steiger@gmail.com>

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