

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Eph. 3:20-21) For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. (Jer. 29:11-12) Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind! (Ps. 31:19)

# HOME MINISTRY JULY 2025 DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES OF CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA

# Words of Wisdom, Encouragement, and Motivation to Look Ahead—from our dear friend Moe Bergeron (FB):

If you're in your later years, know this: God still has his purpose for you. You're not past your prime in His eyes. Your life, your words, your walk—they all still matter deeply. Look for ways to share your faith, to encourage the younger generation, to be that steady voice of hope and truth. Those who are rooted in God don't wither with age—they flourish. Not just in health or energy, but in purpose. They still produce fruit that is, their lives continue to show evidence of God's presence and grace. Moe's words are so true. People who truly love God do not retire simply because they are physically limited. From our own experience, we know this to be true. Though we no longer possess the physical strength of our youth, the Lord has prepared the most meaningful and effective work for us right now. This is the season—our 'Roaring Forties'—when our influence deepens, and our impact for Christ quietly but powerfully grows.

# We've Received Encouraging News from Our Polish Brothers in Christ:

The Polish translation of Pavel's book will be ready for printing in a few weeks! The publishers confirmed that the process went smoothly, and they are looking forward to its release. Tadeusz T. added this note:

This book speaks to the Polish heart as well. Thank you for your trust—we're looking forward to sharing it with readers.

The book has not yet been printed, and the editor-in-chief, Tadeusz T., wrote:

Brother Pavel

I have an idea that FE could organize a conference/holiday in the summer of 2026 for about 60 people interested in the content of the book. Since you cannot be a lecturer, brother, could you recommend someone from the Czech Republic or the US, i.e. from your circle, who is a good lecturer on this topic?

Tadeusz T

For physical reasons, I am no longer confident enough to be the keynote speaker at this conference in Poland. However, I have already contacted Geoff Volker from Arizona to serve as the lecturer. We are also planning to invite many Czech Christians to the conference.

# **Calvary Press Update**

Amazon requires about a month to queue up new titles. Our other distributors begin picking up the title once our main distributor and printer, Baker & Taylor (Bookmasters), sends out a promotional listing. So, it takes a while for the book to get into circulation. Additionally, it has to enter the printing queue, which may or may not be full. What's more, we work with smaller distributors who rely on us for updates. So yes—it's a process.

# Our Usual Summer Rhythm Began in Mid-June.

For the third time, we spent a few beautiful days in the same spot in the Šumava Mountains, accompanied by our faithful circle of believing friends from different parts of Bohemia and Moravia. Every morning and evening, one of us had about 30 to 45 minutes of reflection. The theme of the reflection was "Biblical Wisdom."

This border region, adjacent to Germany, remained military zone, largely uninhabited and inaccessible for years after the post-war expulsion of the German population. As a result, it has preserved an extraordinarily pristine natural landscape that continues to delight us every time.

During our annual gathering, we look back with gratitude on shared memories and lovely hiking trips. It's true that the distances we're still able to walk are slowly shrinking each year—but we find just as much joy in our "gastronomic hikes" instead. Cafés, pastry shops, blueberry dumplings, and other less strenuous stops have become our new destinations.

These moments remind us that *everything has its time*—a time to journey, a time to pause, a time for quiet gratitude, and a time to wait in hope.

# Summer Visitors from Afar on "Black Friday"

This time we start with those who came farthest. First visitors in July came to Europe and Prague to see us from faraway Indonesia — a man we had once known as a teenager in Kebayoran Baptist Church of Jakarta; now mature, married, and traveling with his lovely wife and three wonderful children.

None of us had any idea what an unforgettable event we were about to experience together. Just as we ordered lunch, the electricity went out. About an hour later, we learned that a major blackout had affected a large portion of the country. We happened to be the last table to receive our meal — what an experience to share with our guests from across the world!

A state of energy emergency was declared. Most shops and businesses were closed, public transportation came to a standstill, and the outage disrupted major industries — car factories halted, steel and glass furnaces cooled, refineries and gas stations shut down. The blackout triggered emergency protocols in hospitals and medical facilities.

People were trapped in elevators, in the subway, on trams and trains. Traffic lights stopped working. Thankfully, we were soon reassured that this was not the result of sabotage, terrorism, or a cyberattack. More than half a million supply points and over a million customers in 2,000 locations were affected.

Not knowing how long the outage would last, we started to wonder how we'd get home. We were later told that the cause was a malfunction in the power transmission system — the fall of a phase conductor in the backbone high-voltage network, which caused a dangerous overload.

We had never experienced a blackout like this before. Even during the communist era, power cuts were scheduled and strategic, aimed at conserving energy for industrial needs.

In Prague, electricity was restored in under three hours. Our part of town was not affected. This unexpected day will stay in our memories a shared moment that bonded old friends even more deeply.

# **Two Czech Holidays**

While America celebrated Independence Day on July 4th, here in the Czech Republic we observe two national holidays, both rich in cultural and spiritual significance.

**On July 5th**, we honor the legacy of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the Byzantine missionaries who arrived in 863 to bring Christianity to the Slavic peoples. They not only introduced the faith, but also created the Glagolitic alphabet and translated the Scriptures into the Slavic language — making the message of the Bible accessible to the people in their own tongue. Their mission laid the foundation for literacy, education, and spiritual life throughout the Slavic world.

**On July 6th**, we remember Master Jan Hus (John Huss), the Czech preacher, theologian, and reformer who was burned at the stake in 1415 for his call to return to the truth of Scripture and for challenging the corruption of the church. His life and martyrdom became a powerful symbol of conscience, courage, and the pursuit of spiritual renewal. We still hear his words echo through history:

Seek the truth, listen to the truth, learn the truth, love the truth, speak the truth, hold the truth, and defend the truth until death.

These two commemorations span six centuries (863-1415) — between the gift of the Word and translation, and the cost of truth and reform. Two stories that have deeply shaped Czech national identity and spiritual heritage.

# Family Update

In our June email, we shared the joy of two weekend visits from our younger son Vítek (who lives in Denver), as he was in Germany for work and took the opportunity to spend time with us.

Later in June, we were blessed with another joyful event—the birth of our first greatgrandchild: **Edmund Filip Steiger**, who now carries on the family name. His arrival brought a new wave of joy, gratitude, and awe at the miracle of life being renewed.

#### Pavel's Walking Pain Situation

So far, X-ray, MRI, and ultrasound have ruled out several potential causes—spine, intervertebral discs, sciatic nerve inflammation, hip joint issues, arthritis, and necrosis. All negative results, thankfully, mean good news. The CT vascular test was done and it confirmed the need for vascular intervention. We hope this will soon bring total pain relief. Thank you for your patience, support, and prayers.

#### The Hot and Dry Days Hit Already in June

In some regions, powerful storms, floods, and hail struck—but thanks be to God, such disasters have so far spared our area.

These days, we spend most of our time at home—and although we have no special plans, we feel as if we're on vacation. From our terrace, we enjoy the view of the neighboring garden, a patch of green that creates a pleasant microclimate and calming atmosphere.

The flowers on our terrace are thriving. This year, Klara had great success watering them about once a month with a gentle solution of water and baking soda—about 1 teaspoon per quart. The plants are grateful: the leaves stay fresh, and the blossoms are abundant

#### **Praises and Prayer Request**

With gratitude for every prayer, every message, every connection — we are reminded: *those who are planted in the house of the Lord will flourish (Psalm 92:13).* 

- Thank you for walking this journey with us near or far, in spirit or in prayer.
- Please continue to pray with us for the outreach to the English and Polish speaking world.

# Thank you for your prayers, support and your involvement in our life and in the Czech and Slovak ministries.

In His sovereign grace, Pavel and Klara Steiger

You may mail your U.S.

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REACH BEYOND P.O. BOX 39800 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80949-9800 U.S.A.

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