

THE STEIGER'S
E-PRAYER & PRAISE REPORT
October 2008

With love and appreciation we send you another special bi-monthly
E-mail Prayer & Praise Report (E-PPR) about Czech and Slovak ministry:
WE ASKED—YOU PRAYED—HE ANSWERED:

*Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in You. I said to the
LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good besides You."
(Psalms 16:1)*

Dear Friends and Partners of the HCJB Global Ministry
To the People in Czech and Slovak Republics

Autumn's unexpected events

To describe all that is going on would fill many pages. We marvel at the love of our Lord, providing for us in such special ways. Our most recent trip – actually an extended weekend in Copenhagen, Denmark was incredible. To fly from Prague to Copenhagen takes just a little bit over an hour. "www.click4sky.cz" operated by Czech Airlines offers low fares. Denmark is a quite interesting small country that we truly enjoyed. As unofficial guests at the Czech Embassy, we were treated royally. A reunion with a young man we knew in Jakarta while we lived in Indonesia was great. He is the same age as our younger son and they know each other from the Jakarta International School. Now Eric is married and has five boys with his wife Kim. Eric is pastor of the International Church in Copenhagen. He used to be on the Mission board of our sending church in Jakarta.

The Fall HCJB Global Conference in Switzerland

This time Pavel and Milan Hudec (HCJB Global Slovakia) drove together and Klara stayed at home to take care of many loose ends.

Scary Moments:

Those come always during the most inconvenient time. Pavel was working on his Saturday PowerPoint presentation for the new ex-pat community in Prague. As soon as he finished, our main computer froze and it looked like that all data was lost. We also had a meeting of the editorial council for our magazine scheduled for Saturday– which means going through all phases of production, including all data bases, accounting procedures, governmental reports, etc. Without computers running we could have lunch and desert. Providentially, all went fine on an alternative PC. Our meeting was excellent and we were able to accomplish all we were hoping for. Praise the Lord, all data was saved on an external disk and after days of reloading the computer we are in full operation again.

We overheard on the radio that we live in a country with neither tornadoes nor natural disasters. Pavel commented: “But it is disastrous to live in a country too close to Russian spheres of influence with atheistic liberal leftist orientation sentiments targeting faith and religion.” Recent law changes are trying to get rid of church weddings.

Letters from Death Row

A document showing letters written prior to the execution of death row inmates which were never delivered to families was recently discovered in the archives. During the Communist madness after 1948, 248 people were sentenced to death. Among them was Milada Horakova. Petitions from around the globe were asking to pardon her. She was innocent. Now, the only living judge who sentenced her to death was sentenced to six years in prison. She is now 86 years old and on her behalf courts were asked for presidential pardon. She feels no remorse and said that she will go to prison gladly, to save expenses to her family for her care. She and other judges and false witnesses put thousands of other innocent people and believers into the prison. Their letters were powerful testimony to how an innocent person in a political process faced death. Many of them were committed Christians. On the other hand, a great number of younger communist judges continue practicing to this day.

Theater Play

Recently we attended a very interesting play – “Sclavi/Emigrant’s Song.” It was a most unusual medley of old Ruthenian songs, modern dance and incredible physical endurance expressing inner-most feelings and drama. It was an unforgettable experience.

“Ruthenians” or “Ruthenes” were used as a generic term for Greek Catholic inhabitants of Galicia and adjoining territories up until the early 20th century who spoke Western

dialects of the Ukrainian language and called themselves “Русины” (Rusyny). (Wikipedia)

Ruthenia used to be part of former Czechoslovakia between the World Wars. A man born there, say in 1910, was (1) an Austrian citizen; in 1918 he became (2) a Czechoslovak citizen; in 1939 he became (3) a Hungarian citizen; in 1945 he became (4) a Soviet citizen; in 1991 he became (5) an Ukrainian citizen. In 81 years five citizenships without moving from his native village!

Today, they are behind the “EU curtain.” However, those who live 50 km from Slovak border can get special permit to relocate to Slovakia 50 km deep inland.

Movie Katyn

The Academy Award winning Polish film director Andrzej Wajda, whose father, Captain Jakub Wajda, was murdered in the NKVD prison of Kharkiv, has made a film depicting the event, called simply Katyn. The film recounts the fate of some of the women—mothers, wives and daughters—of the Polish officers slaughtered by the Soviets. Some Katyn Forest scenes are re-enacted. The screenplay is based on Andrzej Mularczyk's book *Post mortem – the Katyn story*. The film was produced by Akson Studio, and released in Poland on 21 September 2007. In 2008 it was nominated for the Academy Award for the Best Foreign Language Film.

This is a Polish movie dedicated to those who were betrayed by the Russians. On 17 September 1939, in violation of the Polish-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact, the Red Army invaded the territory of Poland from the east. This invasion took place while Poland had already sustained serious defeats in the wake of the German attack on the country that started on 1 September, 1939. Meanwhile, Great Britain and France, who had pledged by the Polish-British Common Defense Pact and Franco-Polish Military Alliance to attack Germany in the case of such an invasion, did not take any military action. This is referred to as the Western betrayal; thus the Red Army moved to safeguard Polish areas annexed by the Soviet Union in accordance with the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. After 3 April, 1940, at least 22,436 POWs and prisoners were executed: The killings were methodical. After the condemned's personal information was checked, he was handcuffed and led to a cell insulated with a felt-lined door. The sounds of the murders were also masked by the operation of loud machines (perhaps fans) throughout the night. After being taken into the cell, the victim was immediately shot in the back of the head. His body was then taken out through the opposite door and laid in one of the five or six waiting trucks, whereupon the next condemned was taken inside. Later on Russians blamed Germans for this atrocity. Historical experience is not to trust Russian intentions, treaties and pacts.

We saw this moving picture and recommend to any of you to view it. It will be shown in the USA in some of the movie theaters that specialize on non-Hollywood production.

History Lecture for Expats in Prague

Pavel had a very interesting history lecture, from the era beginning about 650 till the present. He covered the origins of the name for the Slavic people. "Slovo" means "Word." Sklave – after how Germanic tribes called the enslaved Slavs. Also the not-too-nice words "slovenly" and "slavishly" come from the very same root. While living in the USA Pavel joked that he would sue the English language for political incorrectness. A slave is actually a Slav i.e. a Czech, Slovak, Pole, Serb, Serbian, Croat, Slovene, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Russian and a few other peoples who disappeared... Euro-Americans would be in line with Afro-American status.

The coin called a Thaler was minted in Jachymov that is in German – Joachimsthal. The coin's original name was Joachimsthaler, shortened to thaler. Czechs called this coin Tolar from which is quite close to Dollar. Slovenia's currency up until recently when it transferred to the Euro was called Tolar.

King Wenceslas originated the expression "Bohemian" – linked to Bohemia and the rule of King Rudolph II who was art, science, and alchemy oriented, and Prague became a San Francisco of the 16th century, Austro-Hungarian empire, WWI and WWII, and a new division, ... Actually one of the history students and a history degree person asked for Pavel's outline with comment that they never heard such interesting history overview:

We really enjoyed your presentation and I was telling Jim who is a historian with a degree in Modern European History about it and so I wanted to be able to share that with him – and so wondered if you might be willing to send us a copy? Thanks very much in advance for whatever is possible.

Election and world economy

We are not qualified at all to write comments about recent developments in the US economy. However it is interesting to observe the initial denial of European countries about their own troubled financial state. The European governments have to bail out failing banks much more than in the USA. Only in the UK it was about the same amount as in the USA, however, the UK has five times less inhabitants! This crisis revealed that governments are redistributing virtual money to support wasteful programs and institutions. It is amazing how much European Banks were involved in all kinds of investments in the US financial instruments. It looks like social democrats all over Europe brought countries to the verge of bankruptcy as fast as unscrupulous lenders. We are praising the Lord that we have had no debts for years. How wise are His words:

- *Proverbs 22:7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave.*
- *Romans 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law."*

To see the depth of the global financial crisis is shocking. The Euro is loosing its value against the US dollar, as well as the Czech crown, which now stands at 19 down from 15.

Presidential Debates

Pavel especially follows all the media channels to know what is happening with the economy and elections. We got up at 3 am in the morning to watch Presidential debates and we pray fervently. The result of the US elections will have great geopolitical consequences. We have arrived at the conclusion that we are facing a new generation of voters with totally different values and priorities.

Ministry milestones

New editorial and publishing council meetings were held in our office in Prague. Eight members had hands on experience with all phases of this ministry. It was a very constructive and mutually encouraging event.

Broadcasting in Slovakia

Of course we are concerned about financial future of ministry. Please pray for Lubo Vyhnanek, director of TWR, who is in a body cast after a serious fall. Just a few months ago they lost their 28 year old son due to a car accident.

Frequent flyers miles

As we are observing what is going on, we decided to turn in some miles we had accumulated before Airlines stop honoring them. We leave on October 23 and stay for 5 days in New York City, visiting our supporting church. We will continue to New Hampshire to see our 4 grandkids and celebrate a couple of birthdays with boys – now 7 and 8. We can hardly wait to see the little Jordan. Then we head south to Florida to rest and recharge. We got an incredible offer to stay at our friend's mom's apartment while she is in Virginia. What more we can ask for? We will be back on December 1, and already have some responsibilities set.

Our eyes are focused on the Lord and His guidance.

*With love and appreciation,
Klara and Pavel Steiger*

Your HCJB Global Voice missionaries in Czech and Slovak Republic

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