



**THE STEIGER'S
E-PRAYER & PRAISE REPORT
April 2011**

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:

**Seeing it is God, that said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," who shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the exceeding greatness of the power may be of God, and not from ourselves;
(2 Corinthians 4:6-7)**

**Dear Friends and Partners of the HCJB Global Ministry
to the Peoples in Czech and Slovak Republic**

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OF YOU

On April 8th our son Filip, his wife Lenka and their four children came to visit us here in Prague. You can imagine that everything else was put aside, and together we are enjoying perfect weather, numerous activities and great time. When this is over, we will need "vacation!" Actually, two weeks after they return home we will be on the way to Colorado Springs to attend the HCJB Global 80th anniversary celebration and annual conference. When we return home we can start the second half of this year. We are looking forward to seeing many of our co-missionaries that we have not seen for a very long time. We have not visited the HCJB Global headquarters in Colorado Springs since 2004. Simply, there is no time in our busy schedule. We are so glad that we will visit three of our supporting churches during this home assignment.

To see the latest activity of our children, grandchildren, and us here in Prague visit posts from April 8, through May 2, at: <http://thesteigerclan.blogspot.com/>

BROADCASTING DEVELOPMENT

During the last week in March Pavel and David Uhles, whom he reports to, drove first to Brno (CZ), then to Bratislava (SK), and finally to Banska Bystrica (SK) to visit TWR and HCJB Global broadcasting sites.

As we informed you in our previous letters, two more frequencies were assigned to Radio 7 in Slovakia that is operated by TWR Slovakia. After carefully and prayerfully studying the project we are not yet sure whether we will be involved in this TWR Slovakia project. The issue is broadcasting format. This is a dilemma all Christian broadcasters must face outside of the U.S. especially in small countries like Czech Republic or Slovakia. Briefly, the first format is predominantly evangelical with no commercialism, the second more or less commercial with some hints to biblical gospel. The first survives on gifts and is listened to mostly by Christians; the second is financially more self-dependent, the deeper gospel is however missing, and is listened to mostly by general public. So far we are involved solely in the first format that is broadcasted by Internet, satellite and by one FM station in Banská Bystrica that is owned by HCJB Slovakia.

Now, TWR Slovakia intends to make a change. The first format would stay on Internet and satellite only in both countries as of now, and the second format would be used for the three FM Slovak stations in Banská Bystrica, Bratislava and Nové Mesto.

Only our Lord knows the answer to the dilemma. We pray about the situation and which way to go. However, since our fiscal and personnel ability is rather limited, we tend to believe that buying broadcasting time on secular and catholic stations is spiritually, financially, and organizationally more effective in spreading the gospel.

As we ponder over this issue, a new situation is developing in Czech Republic. A new frequency is on site in Kutná Hora. This town is situated about 40 miles east of Prague. It could cover a larger area, since there are no mountains as in Banská Bystrica. At this time we are again in prayerful mode for opening Czech – Radio 7 broadcasting. We want to stay faithful to the Word.

KLADNO CONFERENCE

We attended another conference the first weekend in April. It was organized by our sister church in Kladno. This was a great blessing to all those who attended. Dan Hun, a Korean pastor of Cornerstone church in Anaheim, California, brought three powerful messages: from Hosea, Jonah and Genesis. All three messages focused on our sinful nature and need for salvation. This was excellent spiritual food for us “old timers.” Previously, Pavel preached in Kladno Church for one year. This time we met three new visiting people. They listened to Sunday worship service on the radio and asked for contact with the pastor who prepared the message. As they spoke to this pastor, who lives in Southern Moravia, he referred them to Kladno. We know each other from our conference in Brno and Zilina. We were greatly encouraged by all those events and the outcome.

MORE INSIGHT ABOUT THIS LAND

God and faith, yes or maybe, but organized church NO!

This is the general attitude of Czech people who are convinced that for their life with God they do not need church. On one side most Czech unbelievers are not total atheists but measured by same meter, a minority of believers are not strong in their faith, even though both sides are convinced they are enemies of each other. The majority of Czech society’s “anti-church or anti-religion” attitude is not based on their atheistic conviction. In the same way, large numbers of believers are not Christians because of their conviction, but they are upholding their family tradition and customs. No wonder that after the fall of communism alternative religions and cults filled a certain vacuum left

after “goulash socialism”. The church remains a marginal part of society similar to an exclusive club. The Czechs generally prefer non organized religion, personal spirituality or internal differentiation in established denominations. According to the previous census, 61% of respondents do not trust the church and the same attitude is expressed by about 29% of church members. Regardless of church membership, about 11% of respondents believe in the existence of God, 40% totally deny the existence of God and the rest (about half) stand someplace between both “extremes.” Those people believe in some kind of transcendence, supernatural powers, which can influence their lives and posthumous life or existence, but they do not relate this to any Christian tradition or teaching. A plurality of the population somehow believes in something, but this cannot be categorized as believing in the existence of God; no matter what their attitude toward the church remains negative. A growing number of Czechs are no longer as militant toward religion as they were during the communist era. However, their knowledge about Christian teaching remains negligible. To most of them religion is dealing with something out of this world. They are not familiar with “religious talk” and do not understand what it is good for. Most children come out of the home with no religious training or knowledge whatsoever. Due to a demographic decrease of population, the number of church members is steadily decreasing. New converts are coming mostly from a non-church background, mostly from student ranks.

To explain more graphically the weakness of church members take as an example our latest experience:

In March there was a seminar with Dr. James Cecy: “A revival for purity” (dealing with sexual area and marital unity). JARON Ministries International of California was established to help pastors and lay leaders “Equipping for more effective Christian service”. When this seminar was held in other places, attendance is usually in hundreds and thousands. In Prague we had three people from our denomination (one organized the seminar) plus two men from another denomination! All five of us were blessed, and since Klara got a new assignment to work on family matters for our magazine and broadcasting, this was an inspirational intro into this topic.

Looking back we praise the Lord that our theological conference in January was attended by more than 150 people as we reported in our last prayer letter. In the same way we thank the Lord that our Bible study class is attended by about 20 faithful students of all ages, backgrounds and denominations for years. This country needs lots of prayers, endurance and commitment to keep going forward. Ministry in Czech Republic is not about numbers but about faithfulness. We can see some gems which were polished in the past 20 years.

DID YOU EVER WONDER

Why do we have more women than men in the church?

The reason why we see more elderly ladies in most of churches is not only because women live longer than men. We might think that women are generally more open to spiritual matters, but why? The gospel presents Jesus as a gentle shepherd, someone who can offer refuge, safety, understanding, support, loving kindness, endless patience, mercy, compassion; these are attributes women can relate in their heart to maternal feelings and life experience. Women can relate to His self-sacrifice. They are attracted to Jesus as a perfect male role model (father and husband). They embrace Jesus lovingly with their emotions. This kind of feminine imagination together with the

presentation of Jesus as suffering and as someone patiently waiting on our decision is suppressing His sovereignty over our life. In order to not offend our will, the church carefully avoids any mention of His absolute authority over the whole universe as well as His right to rule our individual lives. A gospel without absolutes, no need to change, adherence to relative truth of spiritual deception, with lots of love talks, lack of importance to repent and mentioning that blood covers it all! No wonder that some men see this “full-of-emotion” gospel as an issue mainly for women and children.

Men are born to be leaders and providers. They are under the protective influence of women most of their life, and when it comes to spiritual needs men are not looking for safety in maternal arms. Jesus is more than a comforter and a shepherd; He is an example of incorruptible assurance of leadership. Men are not looking for another friend; they are looking for someone with authority who is respected and strong. Men need to be introduced to someone who never backed down, never compromised and stood for truth no matter what the cost. They can admire His courage and honesty; they can admire His victory over sin and temptation. They will honor someone who does not manipulate anyone, who lives a holy and honest life. The gospel has the same message for men, women and children, but there is a difference in how it is presented. Men need a masculine role model. They will admire someone who faced death with invincible assurance. Men will bow and kneel in front of the One who won over sin, death, the devil and hell. They can identify with the One who fought on our behalf.

The big difference between men and women spirituality is seldom respected in the church. Marketing people, advertisers and publishers pay a lot of attention to these differences; only in the church is a single-sided gospel presented that does not appeal to men.

A few thoughts from the book “Tunneled Jesus” written in Czech by Petr Grulich,

Our love and greetings to all of you; thanks for standing with us. Your faithfulness, understanding and love are precious to us. In His name,

*Your HCJB Global Voice missionaries in Czech and Slovak Republic
Klara and Pavel Steiger*

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