

THE STEIGER'S E-PRAYER & PRAISE REPORT June 2012

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:

I receive not glory from men. But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in yourselves. I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. How can ye believe, who receive glory one of another, and the glory that cometh from the only God ye seek not? (John 5:41-44)

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

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

The Annual European HCJB Global Conference took us to the central part of England to Willersley Castle near Derby this year. We started our journey with a threeday's stopover in London, thus stepping right into the midst of the Elisabeth's II Diamond Jubilee celebration on the throne. We had absolutely perfect weather and it was just great. We started in Kew Botanical gardens to see the incredible work of Marriane North, born in 1830. She was a remarkable Victorian lady who traveled extensively to many exotic countries of all continents between 1871 and 1885. Her paintings capture the natural beauty of His creation. Since we have visited a number of the actual places she painted in the past, we could examine changes and times gone by. Her work is displayed in the Kew Royal Garden gallery and we consider this to be a highlight and a botanical gem.

The next day we bought "Hop on Hop off" bus tour tickets. This is great way to see the town. Part of the package was a boat trip to Greenwich, the location of the prime meridian of the world, longitude 0 0 0. The highlight of the Thames boat ride was the Cutty Sark, the world's most famous ship. The last surviving tea clipper is a magnificent living testimony to the bygone, glorious days of sailing and a national icon of British maritime history. The ship is in dry dock, partly enclosed in glass cover and visitors can walk underneath of it. Definitely this is one of the great sites to visit while in London.

Of course we walked to Buckingham palace grounds where the final days of preparation for the great celebration were in progress. Klara visited an exhibition of Leonardo Da Vinci Anatomy work at the Palace museum. What a treat.

The Diamond Jubilee preparations brought into the city a festive, noble and happy atmosphere. This event was also a big rehearsal for the Olympic Games. Most of the city is spruced up; blocks of houses are painted and decorated for the occasion. All this is a magnificent testimony of the past greatness of British imperial power and importance. There is so much to see, so much to do in London. Every evening we were dead tired but immensely happy. The day we left London, the weather changed for the worse. From London we took a train to Derby to attend:

HCJB GLOBAL EUROPEAN CONFERENCE Crossing Continents with the Voice and Hands of Jesus

Four days of regional presentations, challenges and accomplishments were jointly shared by 19 different nationalities. Including UK guests we had a top attendance of 90 people. Year by year we see new worldwide opportunities where the Voice and Hands of Jesus help to serve. As HCJB Global reaches new areas with new tools, networking, and partnering with other servants of His, we can hear words of encouragement, comfort and love of Christ. The special guest speaker for the conference was George Verwer, the founder of Operation Mobilization. His message on messiology (it is not a typo) was most challenging. As we developed his message in our minds further, we marvel at the big mess from which most of us were saved. George V. is a passionate advocate of radical discipleship as the only legitimate option for people who believe in Jesus.

The UK HCJB office did an outstanding job organizing the conference, providing the speaker and a special Saturday afternoon trip. Together we visited Chatsworth House where The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire live. When we lived in Los Angeles, north of us was Chatsworth Street and our nearest big cross street was Devonshire Street. Many fabulous rooms, peek into the long family history. Collections of old master's drawings, sculptures and exquisite special occasion rooms, furniture and family collections were open to the public.

Actually during the conference we were treated royally as well. The Willersley Castle Dinner Menu is worth mentioning. Each evening we had a choice of three starters, three main courses and five desserts.

These days when we travel we marvel about disproportions in the travel cost related to distance and time. Internet booking makes wonders in cost. To fly Prague to London Luton we paid 25 pounds. However, from Luton airport to London the bus ride was 16.50 pounds, and riding the tube to the hotel was 4.30 pounds. The similar disproportion was ride to Derby. Two hour railroad fare was 13 pounds, and short tube ride to the railroad was about 4 pounds. We just do not comprehend such disproportions in cost.

SPIRITUAL CHALLENGES

Twenty two years after the fall of communism, a number of publicly known and respected people are retiring and have time to look back on their life. Some of those who achieved success, respect and recognition, are now sharing their life philosophy. Klara does not read fiction, but actual life stories intrigue her. As people share their experiences and major life-changing decisions, she examines their values and testimony, exploring an anatomy of sin. For most of the "nice" people with high moral standards, the concept of sin is totally unknown. What a pity.

GRADE AND HIGHSCHOOL REUNIONS

This June Klara had her 50 year reunion since High School graduation and her 54 year reunion since she left secondary school. Hard to believe that she was a first-grader 60 years ago. This time only six people and four professors attended from her High School class, and about 16 classmates from the parallel class. Most of the former fellow students from the parallel class she had not seen for 50 years. She could make some association only by events we all remembered.

Reflecting on her afternoon and evening spent with classmates, she felt sad. Not one of them was open for any conversation concerning our Creator and Savior. Not one showed any interest. It was always Klara's initiative to start a conversation. It felt like an iron curtain was between us or like being surrounded by an invisible fence. Klara felt like an oddball among non-believers. It is interesting to see how life without God and Christian influence forms a person into a sad, empty existence with loss of interest, ideals and spark for life (no matter what they previously achieved).

Klara brought 10 books of three titles as a gift for her classmates at the reunion. One of them was a book she authored years ago. It was about our travels and experiences while we lived in Indonesia. The second book has black cover with white letters and the word "Bible." The third one was a small title "Which Way to God". Only one of the professors (87 years old) looked and showed some interest. Out of 26 people present, there were four books left of each title. It was interesting to observe how Klara's classmates kept a "safe distance" from her. They were sidestepping the table where the books were available. As she was encouraging one of her classmates to take any books when our gathering was ending, he replied: "I have to keep my mind untainted". Klara's heart is weeping and praising the Lord at the same time. Because of Him we have family of brothers and sisters and an abundant team of likeminded great coworkers and we see the fruit.

PRAISES

• We praise the Lord for the conference and the vision to reach the world. It is always nice to reunite with old friends and meet new people who are joining the mission. This time we fellowshipped with people who have been serving less than one year up to 45 years. We are grateful for the new generation which is

bringing our average age down. The conference gathering is always an important time to feel a sense of belonging and bonding. It is an important time of togetherness to strengthen our commitment for the ministry. We are looking forward to sharing the spirit with our team here.

• For all of you, your prayers and faithfulness.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR

- Our church has been searching for new pastor for the past two years.
- The January 2013 conference speakers and those who will attend.
- Our team is in the final preparation stages for Summer English camp and in the midst of the next conference preparation.
- Milan, our Slovak Radio man. His mother has passed away. She was taking care of his disabled ailing father.

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

