

## **DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS**

## **MARCH 2015**

Spring is here however, some days are windy and full of dark clouds. We have just returned from a weekend outing with our good friends. We know them well from Luha ovice, our first ministry place in what was then Czechoslovakia. We have a very intimate spiritual bond with this family of three sisters, their husbands and children. Out of one believing sister, one by one they have been drawn by our Father to Christ. Some of them and their now adult children are very involved in the local ministries. Now, the last husband is in the process of being not only informed but transformed by His word. There are two remaining adult sons to pray about and reach out to. What a joy to be with someone who is truly interested in spiritual matters.

For months, our lives and activities were totally dedicated to Pavel's writing. Everything else was set aside. After a year-long work, the book is basically finished. While proofreading Klara feels that some parts should be less confrontational and less complicated. When you dissect scripture into particles it becomes more of a technical than spiritual matter. Answering one question creates ten others. The book has almost 300 pages and its wordiness does not make things clearer. Klara stands on the side of readers, Pavel on the side of theological scholars. Our whole ministry is focused on lay people who love the word and can use what we are writing about to answer even difficult questions people generally have. Those issues need to be solved before final editing. Please pray for us as we are exhausted and on the brink – Pavel's burn out and Klara's emotional coma. Please pray for wisdom and unity. It is sad especially in this light that next month we should celebrate our golden 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Neither of us is in the mood to joyfully celebrate.

The new cold war with Russia is creating numerous problems in this territory. It is hard to understand why large numbers of people in some formerly communist countries that were under Russian dominance fear the US and NATO influence. (Poland, Romania and the Baltic countries are the exceptions.) Russian military provocations and threats are real. The leftists and communists have compared the recent NATO military exercises in the Baltic countries to US occupation. In a few days NATO troops with 520 US soldiers and about 90 vehicles will cross the territory of Czech Republic on the way back to their German base. It is hard to understand that about

20 % of the people in Czech Republic, mostly communists and other leftists, are against this even though Czech Republic is a member of NATO. How any Czech can trust the Russians after their dominion and occupation from the end of the WWII until December 1989, some 45 years, is beyond our understanding. They were the reason we left our native country for the United States in 1969. Don't the local people see that Russians just recently took over Crimea, destroyed Eastern Ukraine; don't they see that they are threatening Baltic countries and indirectly all former satellites? Only Poland, Romania and the Baltics, who have more historical experience with them, are taking real preventive measures and are getting ready to stand up against Russian occupation.

Next month Pavel, Jarda and Jan will drive to Leicester, United Kingdom. They will take part in Banner of Truth Ministers Conference. This is about a 950 mile long drive with a crossing of the English Channel. They will pick up the entire theological library of one pastor; and among others treasures, the complete Truth and Banner publications.

We appreciate your prayers.

Thank you for standing with us, for your love, prayers, support and concerns.

Reach Beyond missionaries (formerly HCJB Global) in Czech Republic and Slovakia Klara and Pavel Steiger

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