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**He who gives attention to the word
will find good, And blessed is he
who trusts in the LORD
(Proverbs 16:20)**

**Remember those who led you, who
spoke the word of God to you; and
considering the result of their
conduct, imitate their faith.
(Hebrews 13:7)**

March 2006

DEAR FRIENDS AND PRAYER PARTNERS

In our February E-mail Prayer&Praise Report about Czech and Slovak ministry titled: WE ASKED—YOU PRAYED—HE ANSWERED

We shared with you following events: Recent news concerning the bird flu danger, severe winter storms, disruption of energy, and violent reaction in connection with the publication of cartoons in Denmark seem to be as gloomy days without sunshine. Once again we can see how vulnerable and dependent our world is on God's omnipotence to control the wrath of sinful men. We are

grateful for each day we live and serve in His presence.

This year's winter in Europe was marked by an abundance of snow and record low temperatures. Because of icy snow weight, many flat roofs caved in, people were trapped and crushed, avalanches buried skiers and hikers, road accidents, overturned trucks, derailed trains ... many lives were lost. It looks like the Olympic games in Turin, Italy were the only bright event in generally severe winter tribulations.

As we were bundled up at home and in the office, we started preparation for Mike and Ellen Dworak's arrival. Mike will serve in Prague as one of HCJB World Radio's sub-Regional Directors for Central Europe. Our first step involved a major reduction of filed magazines, numerous books and general paper and printed matter glut we accumulated over the years. The time when every printed piece of spiritual material was precious is long gone. Please pray that we find a way for decent "disposal". It's easy to accumulate "stuff." Nevertheless, it's very difficult to pass it on. This reduction will take more time and effort, however it does not mean in any case that our bookcases will be empty.

In February Pavel made all the plans to move our office furniture, computers and "part of the stuff" from the office into our apartment. We have no guest room any more since it became Pavel's office. We

have no TV room since it became Klara's office. It will take a while before everything settles down. Praise the Lord, we are getting ready for the next step—Dworak's arrival.

PRAISES:

- Major event for February was three days meeting in Prague with Eric Moore, the HCJB World Radio director of the HCJB Euro Asia region. Together we took care of numerous mission and legal related issues as part of preparing for the arrival of Mike and Ellen Dworak.
- Another important part of the meeting was brainstorming about the situation with the Slovak studio. We are working on an agreement where our Prague office will carry the rental cost for the studio in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia, and HCJB World Radio will help to equip the studio. We praise the Lord that Slovak programs broadcast by Radio Lumen are now part of satellite and Internet broadcasting on Radio 7, Slovakia.
- Ministry support for Mike and Ellen Dworak is about 80% accomplished. They are encouraged and looking forward to arriving in Prague at the beginning of May. Prayer for their residence paper work is an ongoing and urgent request.
- We are praising the Lord for Slovak acceptance of the Czech language magazine. We were concerned that we would have numerous cancellations since we cannot provide the Slovak version any more. We only had about five cancellations, which is normal.
- In March we met with a team of young Christians who are interested in working side by side with us on magazine production. They are potential future editors and publishers.

SPECIAL EVENT

February the 28th is the anniversary of the communist take over of Czechoslovakia in 1948. Now, 16 years after the fall of communism, we can see that neo-communists are again a viable political party with growing influence in society. The sad reality is that the communist era has not been dealt with yet. We had an opportunity to attend a special evening with a Czech documentary film producer who is working on a Slovak project called "Nation's Memory."

Once again it was a reminder how the communist heartbeat of this Godless country is crippling the whole nation. The cruelty of fascism, holocaust and communism is not taught properly even in history classes. The young generation has no clue about the cost of the freedom we now enjoy. That same evening we watched a TV documentary about a communist labor camp. One of the former prisoners came to a court hearing only to find out that the sadistic camp leader will never face the court. Since 1994 his crime is legally in lapse. The prisoner described the torture, punishment and years spent in uranium mines. At the end of the documentary, the prisoner and the reporter went to meet the camp leader. They met only with his wife—now a widow—who defended the husband's role, explaining that he was responsible only for the production and economy of the labor camp. God's judgment is the only justice.

Right after this documentary, we saw part of a movie based on the historical facts about the witch-hunt and church inquisition. The torture and methods of sinful men to crush another person, regardless if they were representing fascism, communism or the church, are alike. How grateful we are that documentaries like that are created to remind all generations how evil the heart of man is.

CZECH BIBLE TRANSLATORS (NBK)

The Highlight of our ministry was meeting the NBK Czech Bible translating team. The first Bible in Czech encompassing all 66 books was handwritten in 1380's, decades before English translation. The first entire "Prague Bible" in Czech was printed in 1488 and the second entire "Kutnohorská Bible" was printed in 1489. From that time only five additional peoples had printed entire Bible in language of common people: German, French, Italian, Dutch and Spanish. The most widespread translation of the Bible till 1970's was "Kralická Bible" which was first printed in 1613, two years after King James. Within some 200 years about 90% of Czech population knew the Bible and many missionaries were sent through out the world (Moravian Brethrens for example). Nevertheless, the Habsburgs crushed the Protestant Czechs in 1620, and those who used to be among the first became the last. In the following 400 years Czechs were capable to make only two additional translations of the entire Bible in "contemporary" language. The first was the Catholic translation from 1925 and then the Ecumenical from 1968 that is far from perfect as to accuracy. No wonder that His word is not known and read. We pray that this will change. This new translation, now about two thirds done, is excellent and we believe will help to turn the nation toward Savior.

Another major project of this NBK Bible translating team is production of audio dramatization of New Testament based on this new translation. Well-known actors are participating on the project. It will be distributed just for production cost with no restrictions to make unlimited number of copies. In other words it will be not for sale and nobody can make money on it. This has been also the philosophy of our ministry since we arrived to Czech Republic.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Us how we should properly and Godly handle the unceasing e-flow of various requests for Prayer sheets, snippets, guidelines, blessings & challenges ... and numerous requests for reports and presentations for mission conferences, committees, and meetings ...

On one hand we are overwhelmed with all the requests and, on the other, we realize that some of the above activities, especially faithful prayer, are cornerstones of any ministry. To read and pray for the requests of unknown people, projects and activities is taking away our time and opportunity to serve people in our immediate reach. We have to keep in touch with those we know personally and apologize that we cannot respond to all bodies in His Kingdom. We must remain first of all "fishers of men" in our immediate vicinity, and then to carry out all other requests. This burden is on our shoulders for quite a long time. Again we apologize to all of you whom we cannot answer.

THE FISHERMAN

Once upon a time, there was a group called "The Fisherman's Fellowship." Streams and lakes full of hungry fish surrounded them. They met regularly to discuss the call to fish, and the thrill of catching fish. They got excited about fishing!

Someone suggested that they needed a philosophy of fishing, so they carefully defined and redefined fishing, and the purpose of fishing. They developed fishing strategies and tactics. Then they realized that they had been going at it backwards. They had approached fishing from the point of view of the fisherman, and not from the point of view of the fish.

How do fish view the world? How does the fisherman appear to the fish? What do

fish eat, and when? These are all good things to know. So they began research studies, and attended conferences on fishing. Some traveled to far away places to study different kinds of fish, with different habits. Some got PhD's in fishology. But not one had yet gone fishing!

So a committee was formed to send out fishermen. As prospective fishing places outnumbered fishermen, the committee needed to determine priorities. A priority list of fishing places was posted on bulletin boards in all of the fellowship halls. But still, no one was fishing. A survey was launched to find out why. Most did not answer the survey, but from those that did, it was discovered that some felt called to study fish, a few to furnish fishing equipment, and several to go around encouraging the fisherman. What with meetings, conferences, and seminars, they just simply did not have time to fish.

Now Jake was a newcomer to the Fisherman's Fellowship. After one stirring meeting of the Fellowship, Jake went fishing. He tried a few things, got the hang of it, and caught a choice fish. At the next meeting, he told his story. He was honored for his catch and then scheduled to speak at all the Fellowship chapters and tell how he did it. Now, because of all the speaking invitations and his election to the board of directors of the Fisherman's Fellowship, Jake no longer had time to go fishing.

But soon he began to feel restless and empty. He longed to feel the tug on the line once again. So he cut the speaking, he resigned from the board, and he said to a friend, "Let's go fishing." They did, just the two of them, and they caught fish.

The morale of the story is "The fields are white with harvest but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into the harvest."

... We live in an age where 95% of all who claim to know Jesus Christ as their Savior have never led a single person to the Lord. That tells me that the Church is not busy about the business of harvesting. The fields are white with harvest. We need fishermen not more philosophers, not more classes, not more strategies, not more... Our heart and mind need to reflect the attitude of evangelism, JUST DO IT. Pray that the Lord of the harvest would rise up laborers. May our prayer be a volunteer statement to back up our faith. Let the fishing begin. It does not matter if the fish are biting or not. It only matters that we are sharing the gospel in the power of the Spirit. God will produce results from the opportunities we are given.

– Pastor Ron Rushing, El Camino, Tucson –

*Thank you to those who faithfully support
Czech and Slovak ministry. It is a privilege
to be your partners for His glory.
In His Grace and Service
pavel and klara*

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