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***Because that, when they knew God,
they glorified him not as God, neither
were thankful; but became vain in
their imaginations, and their foolish
heart was darkened. Professing
themselves to be wise, they became
fools, And changed the glory of the
uncorruptible God into an image
made like to corruptible man,
(Romans 1:21-23)***

July 2006

WHEN IT RAINS – IT POURS

This was the motto of our last E-mail Prayer&Praise Report. Rain, rain, go away was a riddle for cold spring days as we were showered by numerous blessings and storms at the same time. Our days with Filip, Lenka, Samuel, Nate and Emma were wonderful. The boys loved riding trains and trams, however it's a challenge for the parents and grandparents to constantly hold their hands because of heavy traffic everywhere. Five weeks after their visit Lenka's dad died. We are praising our Lord that we all could enjoy the greater family gathering

with him in the midst. Lenka's father was a committed Christian and we all mourn the loss, since he was only 64.

The Dworak's arrived in mid May, two days after we picked up Filip, Lenka and grandkids. Praise the Lord, two days before their departure for Czech Republic, they obtained their long-term residence visa while they were in Chicago. Nevertheless, Mike and Ellen had to actualize their long-term residency at the immigration office. Pavel spent two days standing in a queue with them, five hours the first day and about 10 hours on the second, just to register their stay. One of the Americans in the line said, "Every man should stand in the line like this in order to realize that we all are just a 'grain of sand.'"

Speaking of visas—a few weeks ago a visa war broke out between the European Union (EU) and the U.S. The EU wants the U.S. to treat all 25 EU countries equally. That means that the citizens of the 10 new EU countries should enjoy the same visa-less treatment while traveling to the U.S. as the citizens of the 15 old EU countries enjoy. The U.S. is defending its position by 9-11. Anyone

knows that this reason is too transparent to accept as legitimate. There are thousands of Islamists who hold UK, French, Netherlands, German, Spanish, Belgian... passports and can travel to the US without visa. Have you ever heard of any Islamist who holds an Estonian, Hungarian or Czech passport? If 9-11 is the reason then the U.S. policy should be the other way around—the new EU countries should travel visa-less and the old EU countries should be obliged to obtain a U.S. visitor's visa. To make a long story short, an EU committee is now working on a proposal that will be presented to all EU countries for approval. As the first step it suggests an obligatory visitor's visa for U.S. diplomats and military personnel to enter EU territory. That means that even President Bush would require a visa while Joe Doe would not. If this flies in the EU then the U.S. (I am sure) would require visas for all EU citizens and that would escalate to mutual visa obligations for all citizens of the U.S. and EU. I think this may be the case since the EU has about 450 million citizens and its Islamic population is growing by leaps. The U.S. naturally wants to control who is entering its territory...

The days passed very fast and before we knew it was time to say goodbye to our children and grandchildren. After their visit we returned back to reality—loading and carrying more banana boxes to our apartment. It was time to sort, dispose and shred documents and paperwork we accumulated over the years. It felt like disposing of an estate. Well, we are one step closer to our heavenly home.

SHOWERS of FRIENDS AND VISITORS:

For the first time we met the daughter of a Slovak geologist who came to Idaho with his wife and three children as refugees twenty years ahead of us in 1950. This geologist's excellent reputation was the reason Pavel got a job with a mining company in Northern Idaho.

A few days later came Mrs. Lili Kladensky from Quito, mother of Georgina and Otto Kladensky. She arrived with Otto and his wife Giselle. Lili and her daughter Georgina Kladensky Gonzales were founders of the Czech and Slovak broadcasting in Quito. Together they served the Czech and Slovak people for about 25 years. We made arrangements with TWR for an interview with Lili. They had an opportunity to minister in our church as well.

Kladensky's visit overlapped for a couple of days with the visit of our younger son Vit. He came for a business trip to Germany and added a short side trip to be with us for a few days. We really had a full house and lots of events, including funeral arrangements, fixing a crashed web server, PC memory etc.

This was also the time of World Cup soccer. The atmosphere in Germany was fantastic. The Czech and U.S. teams did not make it to the final 16 teams. Pavel said: "Now I can enjoy soccer at peace." There was 4.5 times greater interest to get Soccer World Cup tickets than tickets for the Olympics. Almost 3.5 billion people were watching it. Friends in America hardly noticed that the rest of the world stopped working and was out of its mind. Pavel always jokes that the U.S. took

over from England the bad stuff like measurement non-system of miles, yards, feet, Fahrenheit degrees, spelling etc., and the good stuff like soccer did not take over from its former colonialist.

The rest of July we are scheduled to attend and speak at summer camp and two churches and host a few more visitors. While on the road we will visit several friends on the way.

HCJB EURO CONFERENCE

First weekend of June we drove together with the Dworak's to Germany to annual conference. President of HCJB World Radio David Johnson was our spiritual speaker. During the program we addressed issues about the changing world and how to adapt to the situation. Not too encouraging for our region is the fact that a majority of U.S. churches and ministries are now focusing on China and India. It is more difficult to present and find support for ministries here. The mission budget also reflects this situation.

We talked about multicultural, multi-lingual, and ethnically diverse learning as well as evaluating our primary purposes, core strategies and visions. Transformational goals in Latin America are quite interesting since numerous Christians from Ecuador are now ready and able to minister in the EU countries with large Spanish speaking populations.

Global mission work is not only about the fishing, but also about the operational side of the ministry — marketing and personnel managers, funding and prayer coordinators, financial administrators, crisis management team (missionaries are in greater danger than ever), etc.

During our time together we were blessed, inspired and encouraged by fellowship with fellow missionaries from Euro World offices. The traditional image of HCJB World Radio is changing rapidly — in the UK a new director's team created "Whistling Frog" productions. They are winning one radio award after another. With a name like that they are a welcomed addition to secular radio stations. The Dutch Christians are very innovative in catching the attention of people and create programs in most unusual places. One of the directors works part-time as a taxi driver in town near Amsterdam. His interviews with passengers are just one example of how to approach secular listeners. They are getting more and more invitations into secular radio stations. Now they operate several radio stations with their own broadcasting license. A number of local churches are involved in radio production. A string of Christian radio stations in Romania is doing very well. We were touched by reports from the German department. What they accomplished since we were together last time shows that "mission impossible" is possible with His help. They raised about 100,000 EUR (about 128,000 USD) for German broadcasting from Quito. The idea "One Euro – one minute" of broadcasting is appealing to almost everyone. We were touched by the testimony and ministry of their new coworker Victor who is speaking in Low German. HCJB's radio ministry transformed this very humble man and today he is a great inspiration not only to his people, but also to all of us. We communicated with Victor in Russian, since he speaks no English. He is interviewing

elderly German descendants of Mennonites who fled persecution hundred years ago to Russia. After the fall of the iron curtain about 200,000 descendants moved back to Germany. There are over two million Germans like that scattered around the world. Many of them live in Latin America and they love to listen to the HCJB short wave broadcasting. It is amazing to see how the Lord takes care of His almost forgotten people.

PRAISE AND PRAYER:

- Mike and Ellen are finding their way around, discovering some interesting and important connections in English-speaking churches where many different nationalities meet.
- **Change in our ministry account** – several of you noticed change in our ministry account number. The Czech crown is getting stronger and stronger which means that we get much less for each dollar than in the past. Further decline of the dollar is expected. Since we were losing over 63% of our support due to strong Czech currency or low dollar exchange rate, inflation and diminished amount of nominal support dollars, it was our decision to reduce our personal allowance to the bare minimum. At this time a dollar buys only about 21.50 crowns, a few years ago it was over 40 crowns!?
- We would appreciate prayer for Gabi's situation in Wales. Six months of temporary living conditions are not pleasant at all. We are grateful that she is helping us with the programs for TWR in spite of difficulties.

LISTENER LETTER:

Hello Pavel,

Greetings from Pribor and Koprivnice! I appreciate your ministry and the resources on your website. It is great to see Steve Cole's sermons on your website. I look forward to listening to some of them. ...I don't know if you know it, but we have "Fundamentals of the Faith" now in Czech. It is a discipleship workbook that Grace Church has produced and taught for years. I will send you a copy. I thought that maybe you would be interested in putting it on your website and/or recommending it to people? I do hope to have you come speak again.

Lance R.

**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 steiger**

Pavel & Klara Steiger, Hostalkova 1b
16900 Praha 6, Czech Republic
Phone & fax: 011.420.233.350.230
E-mail: pssteiger@hcjb.cz
<http://www.hcjb.cz/newsletter/>

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