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And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God: not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Ephesians 2:1-10)

September 2006

GREETINGS

to all in the Name of our wonderful Savior Jesus Christ. Here is our latest report.

SUMMER CAMP

Once again we were part of Evangelical Youth Summer Camp in Smilovice. All together 12 speakers provided the camp program. Pastor Michael W. Brandt from South Dakota was the evangelist, Marcum Jay and Jodi – Two For Life Ministry – are wonderful musicians and in addition to their musical performance they served as non-professional counselors dealing with divorce in the family. Another US couple serving in the Czech Republic spoke on Mission work for every generation. Youth could attend numerous 90-minute seminars and workshops (26 different topics) in one week. We held three seminars. Pavel's topics were: "Why Do We Have So Many Denominations?" and "Questions Skeptics Ask." Klara's seminar was for girls: "Trappings of *life.*" Some young men sneaked in anyway.

Again we have to mention how this Silesian part of the Czech Republic is spiritually a most blessed area. When you look at a map where the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia meet, that is the place. It is equally evangelical on both the Czech and Polish sides of the border. Actually, on the Polish side it is the only enclave of evangelical believers to speak of in the Catholic sea. Czech, Polish and Slovak speakers speak without interpreters. Songs are sung in all three languages.

During the camp we visited several families in the neighborhood, reunited with some old friends and people from other denominations. We had numerous private heart to heart talks, and met with people we knew through our web ministry.

On our "pilgrimage" to and from Smilovice, we visited friends and relatives on the way in Velká Bíteš, Olomouc, Dluhonice, Žabeň, Loštice, Tršice and Hranice. We wish that we could spend more time with non-believing friends to build bridges to the Gospel. To summarize our ministry experience: It was a very hot week, but we were blessed personally in numerous ways. We gained several contributions of good articles for our magazine. For days after we came back home we thought about the event.

FAMILY, FRIENDS AND MUSHROOMS

We spent the second week of August in Bavaria with Pavel's brother and his family. Half of the days were rainy. On the way down there we visited a wonderful couple we've known for many years. Pavel Kohn is an Auschwitz concentration camp survivor, who used to work in Radio Free Europe and wrote numerous books. His wife is an accomplished artist. Often she does Old Testament Biblical illustrations. Pavel Kohn is a wonderful and kind man, humanist and our prayer is that his heart will be circumcised.

Since it rained most of the month, mushroom picking is breaking all records. So far the greatest harvest was over 4000 mushrooms by one mushroom picker. This is a local passion and we remember something like that only from Colorado where no one picks the mushrooms.

SMALL MIRACLE

Our summer was an extremely busy and eventful time. On the first rainy weekend in August we took part in the grand opening of the multipurpose church building in Písek, Southern Bohemia. Over 500 people attended. It was a celebration of His faithfulness and vision. A project like that is something unique. It was largely financed by local funds. That's the reason why it took about 5 years to complete it.

"FAITH AND RELIGION"

Recently we published an article – Faith and Religion mentioning a meeting for pastors of evangelical denominations in Czech Republic. The speaker said: In our country we do not have Christians nor atheists. During the past 100 years, the substance and purpose of religions and the role of recognized denominations has vanished. To discuss issues related religion and atheism and why is no longer valid. But this is not valid statement for the general spiritual state of the population. In our highly secularized society, only about 9% of people claim to adhere to some kind of Christian spirituality, only 1% claims to be total atheist. According to reputable research:

75 % believe in thought transference
70% in destiny and fortune telling
60% in existence of sin
55% in supernatural power
45% in power of amulets
45% in horoscopes
38% life after death or reincarnation

This massive temporalization of society is not the result of the reason of scientific positivism (what science proved), but tendency to accept a loose interpretation of religion, which leads to superstition, often very primitive. All this leads to indifference and individualism. This is not a kind of philosophical individualism, but the one best described by the slogan:

"Everyone for himself and all against all"

CZECH BIBLE TRANSLATION PROJECT

On the other hand, we have a great report about the Czech Bible translation project. It is called "New Bible of Kralice." The original "Bible of Kralice" was printed in six volumes between 1579 and 1593. Did you know that Czechs had complete Bible printed 18 years before the first printed 1611 edition of King James Bible? New Testament recording is done and will be available for distribution by the end of the year. A major discount bookstore chain is financing an audio set of 17 CD's, which will cost about \$15. One of the Internet Radio providers will place the New Testament on the air. The Internet station will be called Radio Word and will broadcast the New Testament in an endless loop 24 hours a day. Since the new translation is not copyrighted, it is public domain and can be shared in numerous creative ways. Recently we spent Sunday afternoon with the family of one of the translators. Our prayer is to be an active part of bringing His Word to many ears.

WHERE ARE YOU? WE MISS YOU!

In our last E-PPR we shared with you the call from the Dworak's. After hearing that sentence, the cell phone went dead. Our cell phone operates in two modes. The first one is that we do not know where it is; the second mode is we found it but battery is dead. We did not see Mike and Ellen Dworak for about two weeks – and they were sure happy to see us return. Well, we do not see each other too often – we are in Prague when they travel and they are in Prague when we are on the road. If you want to have a fresher look at life in Czech Republic, see their web page:

<u>http://www.dworakshcjb.ministryhome.org</u> and click on "CZECH MATE." We must admit Mike and Ellen are good reporters and picture takers. Our eyes got adjusted years ago.

PAVEL COUSINS' REUNION

The first weekend in September we had the Steiger cousins' reunion in Olomouc and nearby places where the family originated. Together (5 couples) we visited places from childhood, relived many memories, ate lot of good food and enjoyed each other. A couple of aunts are near their nineties, so we are still spring chicks. It is not the easiest task to be a witness amongst his own.

We also visited a catholic pilgrimage church "Svatý Hostýn." What we saw hanging on the wall inside the church took away our breath. This is the announcement:

azilika dostává i vysady-privilegia. ří ravštěvě baziliky reokou věřící, za obvyk. a lick podminek ziskat plaomoene odpustky v tuto day : 29. Eerona - Markost suPetra a Parla apostola 15. segna Manebeozeti Punnillarie 2. segna -Portiunkula edaou do poka v der, který si sami zvoli.

This is its translation:

Basilica gains even the privileges

When believers visit the basilica they can by fulfilling the usual conditions obtain authorized indulgences on the following days:

- June 29, Rejoicings of saint apostles' Peter and Paul
- August 15, Ascension of Virgin Mary
- August 2, Portiuncula

Or once a year in their own suitable day If you don't know what's Portiuncula, as I didn't, then find out at: <u>http://www.wikipedia.org/</u>

HCJB ANNIVERSARY

September is the month for the 75th HCJB World Radio anniversary celebration in Quito, Ecuador. We decided not to attend for numerous reasons, but the major is the travel cost since we have another regional HCJB conference scheduled for October in Switzerland. This is much closer and we will get all the important reports and information about changes later. We will miss the fellowship.

PRAISE AND PRAYER:

- Translation of Pastor Cole's messages from the book of Hebrew is completed – 59 parts. It is available in text on our web pages. Now comes the second blessing as Klara prepares the text for Slovak translation to be recorded and broadcasted in Slovakia. The third blessing is to be prayed for – that it would touch hearts of listeners.
- Gabi visited us in August. A Couple days ago she called to say she has a place to live. Now she is awaiting her shipment and to be connected to broadband Internet. We are grateful that she is helping us with the programs for TWR in spite of difficulties.
- Pavel will travel with a well-seasoned local elderly pastor from Brno to Ukraine in mid September. They will minister to the Christians in villages, take in some humanitarian aid, medication, etc. Please pray for their safety on the road.
- EXIT 3:16, a TV program for young people, will start September 6th on a weekly basis in prime time on Public TV. The Next program series called TURBO 3:16 is in progress. Please pray that EXIT will clear the way for TURBO.

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



Across the street from our apartment and office is a small hotel "Wilhelm." Right from our office seats we recently saw a Muslim guest who prayed, read and was kissing his Koran. So, we just want to share with you how Europe is rapidly changing into Euarabia.

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