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If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. (John 15:18,19) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; (Philippians 3:20)

Greetings to dear "HCJB Global" friends and partners who are interested in Czech and Slovak ministry January 2008



PRAYER LETTER AND NEWS LETTER FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES PAVEL AND KLARA STEIGER WORLD OFFICE, PRAGUE, CZ http://www.hcjb.cz/newsletter

#### **Christmas and New Year Events**

We kept the usual traditions, most of the special baking is in our freezer and carefully rationed. We did not have any gifts under the tree this year. Klara prepared several Shutterfly albums for some special people. It was really appreciated. Klara's mother spent the holidays with us. It was rather a quiet time at home. We were happy to concentrate on His GIFT to us. The no-gift idea really liberated us. The Dworak's left HCJB Global, Prague and our apartment just before Christmas. As we were getting the apartment ready for new tenants we discovered some "gifts" that the Dworak's left behind, since they would not work for them in the U.S.: two nice Samsung cell phones (we had a 6-year old one that was dead), some kitchen gadgets Klara did not have but could live without them, etc. The Dworak's wrote in their first letter:

We got to Colorado Springs last Saturday and we are getting settled here. Ellen loves the new condo and area where we are living. We had forgotten how much sunshine is here, we find ourselves wearing sunglasses much more. This is correct. Gray days are no fun. For weeks we did not see sun or blue sky. We had no snow till January 5th.

The best part of the season is time to visit and receive visitors - friends from near and far - like Denmark, Australia or Florida. Bill, Melissa and Bill's mother (83) of Florida were incredible. They spent Christmas in Berlin, New Year in Dresden and then five days in Prague. They were really excited about the lovely Christmas atmosphere in Germany and here in Prague – Christmas decorations, lights, trees, countless manger scenes, and celebrations in churches with a mass of tourists. They visited numerous museums like the Museum of Modern art, Mucha, Kafka, Toys, Communism and concert in Jewish synagogue. We joined them to see a new Czech movie with English subtitles and a classical Czech opera by Antonin Dvorak - "Rusalka." From morning till late night they covered a lot of territory and they still had a lot of things to do and see. Praque is really a great place for people who love cultural events. Invitation for a Prague stop-over visit is extended to you all.

We had a special treat for special visitors – the original Sacher tort from Vienna. Try to pronounce it in English and you will have a good laugh as we did. To conclude our fun and social life we wish that foreign visitors could leave some sunshine with us.

### **Christmas Mail**

After reading your letters and messages, seeing family pictures with all the changes, our minds were talking to our heart desire about how to manage to see some of you, at least for a brief time to tell you in person: "THANK YOU A LOT." We pray that we can make a "side trip" to California and Arizona when we are on the way to Manchester, NH, visiting and receiving the little Jordan of Ethiopia who is supposed to be adopted soon by our son Filip and daughter-in-law Lenka. Thus he could visit our major supporters.

## Family Update

(1) Filip and Lenka are waiting for the court decision on February 8th for Jordan to be released to travel with them to her new home. At this time we know that she was born on July 31, 2007. We all hope that she will come soon. She is well taken care of in a transitory home which is run by the adoption agency. That helps us to be patient and content.

(2) Klara had a consultation with a neurosurgeon in Boston on November 19, 2007. He confirmed that a surgical solution to her neurological problem presents a risky option. He assured her that her vision is not in danger. His recommendation was to try botox treatment. It should provide temporary relief. A month break from her daily routine in front of a computer screen helped to show that a lot of the problems are caused by eye strain. We will try to use more text translators as before.

### **Slovakia Report**

Milan, our Slovak key person for broadcasting licenses, proceeded with required frequency measuring and it was found that our signal interferes with a radio signal in Hungary. This is an international issue and application for the license could not be submitted at the time. Milan is working with proper authorities to solve this problem and is planning to submit application in the spring term. We extended our broadcasting contract with Radio Lumen where we are buying broadcasting time for another year. We praise the Lord that we have translators and producers to keep Slovak programs going.

## **Big Changes:**

Czech Republic is now part of the Schengen treaty, 27 countries without visa requirements and passport controls. Passports are going to be checked only at the Czech airports arriving from non-EU countries. Next time we drive from here to Germany, Austria ... up to Portugal, we do not have to stop. One can drive "non-stop" from Estonia to Portugal.

This was perfect timing for Klara to get a new U.S. passport. Her old passport was really obsolete. Its picture was pasted, passport number was perforated in the cover, no bar codes, and no page was left unstamped. Klara always blocked the immigration gueue. The new U.S. passport is really fancy. Because of the change she spent two days at the immigration office in the lines. First to report change of the passport and a week later she picked up her new Czech green card ID. A visit at any immigration office is an experience no matter what country you are at. There are hundreds of people, mainly from the former USSR, lots of Asians - Vietnamese and Chinese and Africans, waiting in endless lines for their work permit and resident visa. Klara read in a magazine, published for foreigners in Czech Republic that Czech Republic is short of about 50,000 work professions. Experts are predicting that within the next 25 years numbers are going to be in range of 400,000 to 1.5 million due to aging population. The pressure from the European Union to have the same social system in all EU countries can cause a big population shift. With the fall of Communism and all the changes (mainly in 2005), the EU zone accepted 4.2 million legal immigrants. In comparison the U.S.A. accepted only 1.2 million legal immigrants during the same time period. Now the border patrols look mostly for smugglers of people from former USSR, Asia and Africa.

More and more nations are coming to our doorsteps. Our dear friends in Zlín, a city close to Luhačovice where we lived in 1992-94 have very meaningful outreach to the local Mongolian community.

### **Communication and changes**

We are happy to use all communication technology. However, we had our share of troubles last year with e-mails, internet, printer, delays in reports, etc. We also learned that Calvary Missionary Press in Tucson, who took care of our Prayer Newsletter mailing, is closing down. They served us faithfully for over 16 years. Because of that we finally had to do a major upgrade on our address data base and look for another provider. This was rather a difficult task; since January is always a demanding month. We have to do lots of administrative reports to close the previous year. This was a good time to check our e-mail data base. There are many changes, lots of deletes and lost contacts. Some people change their mail address and never let us know or we do not make change their email since we are not perfect...

Some providers like Comcast, Earthlink, Yahoo, your personal anti spam devices and all kinds of security mail policies bumped us even from those we know did not change their address. Even our kids are protected from bulk mailing. Here are few of the email addresses that do not work any more:

aepeck@, bakersca@, barley@, billbettywilson@, bob.lanting@, brigitam@, center@, cliftruman@, dickferguson@, don@, dubuquebarry@, eaw5699@, emeryp@, fbcglendale@ fzaspel@, frappe@, garyt@, gregbliss@, gerbils@, hildak@, ic2@, jacobmoseley@, jea.lucas@, johncarol@, johndavishayes@, josephhodul@, juliefrey@, karzip@, kinder8@, lesbohushecc@, loismye@, lyndajewett@, m.s.philpot@, m.bond@, northshore@, paulnorm@, pppeater@, puppeteer@, randyspiers@, randal.branon@, ransack@, saw2@, scravi@, shencyo@, snktravers@ sstaver@, twoodward@, tumbleweed@, wvreed@, yanssach@, wonder@.

If you see part of your e-mail address, or if you are not on our e-mail list and would like to be informed every other month with special reports and prayer requests by email, please contact us. Please help us to update our e-mail address records:

# e-mail: <u>psteiger@hcjb.cz</u> skype: psteiger

All our reports, including the latest one, can be found at:

### <<u>http://www.hcjb.cz/newsletter></u>

It was amazing to go through the mailing list and remember all the places where we lived, worked, visited and ministered. What a great opportunity to praise the Lord for all the friendships and years walking and ministering side by side. We are mailing our Newsletter to more than 600 addresses. Most of you signed up at our church presentations or we met you while we were on home ministry. A number of new friendships were coined while you came to Quito or Czech Republic on the HCJB Global tours or work teams and we had a privilege to present Czech and Slovak ministries. We know that communication is the key and we try hard to let you know what is happening in the ministry and in our lives.

We treasure all the contacts we made during the past 17 years. We want to stay in touch. However, we do not want to end up in the round file. If you feel that our mailing is not useful anymore, please let us know. Thank you.

To conclude, we are looking forward to the next year's challenges which He prepares for us. We pray for His protection, wisdom and blessings to all. Thanks for helping us to serve Czech and Slovak people together.

With love and appreciation, Klara and Pavel Steiger Your HCJB Global Voice missionaries in Czech and Slovak Republic

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You may mail your U.S. Tax-deductible contributions to: HCJB GLOBAL P.O. BOX 39800 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80949-9800 U.S.A. You may mail your Canadian Tax-deductible contributions to: HCJB GLOBAL 3 - 44 SALTSMAN DRIVE CAMBRIDGE, ON N3H 4R7 CANADA Attach to your check the following note: FOR THE CZECH PROJECTS MINISTRY ACC # 577850