

© Ivan Steiger MMXV

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. (Matthew 6:7)

APRIL and MAY 2015

Dear Friends and Partners of the Reach Beyond Ministry to the Peoples in Czech Republic and Slovakia

APRIL IN GENERAL

April was a typical weather changing month. The temperature varied from almost record high down to such a cold spell that there were several snow storms causing traffic nightmares and closed roads. For us this was a time to recharge after grueling time of finalizing the text of Pavel's book. Finally it was printed on the paper, but neither of us



had the strength and will to touch it for a whole month. April was the month to get the administrative affairs in order-taxes, annual reports for local authorities, quarterly accounting, special events, numerous visits, short trips, ministry meeting, and some unexpected events.

As we informed you in our March Online Newsletter the Russian disinformation is in full swing. Not knowing what goes on, an uninformed person could think that former communist countries Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Czech Republic were invaded by the US army. Recently 520 US soldiers and about 115 vehicles crossed the NATO territory from Estonia to Czech Republic on their way back to a German base. It is true that about 17 % of the people in Czech Republic, mostly communists and other leftists, are against this even though Czech Republic is a member of NATO. However the rest of population had no problem. Tens of thousands of people welcomed the US convoy along roads and streets. About 40,000 people came to the Prague barracks to meet them in spite of bad weather. We were among them and made for you the following YouTube video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtBL9sSsDVo

How any Czech can trust the Russians after their 41 years of communist dominion from 1948 until 1989, and 20 years of real occupation from 1968 until 1990 is beyond our understanding. As retaliation, Putin's Russian Night Wolfs will ride their motorcycles (mostly Harleys) from Moscow via Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Austria and Germany to Berlin to demonstrate how strong they are and that Russia liberated Europe from Germans. Poland already refused their ride over its territory. Czechs said that each member must apply individually for visa that may make their smug ride practically impossible. We shall see how welcome they will be along the way. We plan to attend a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the WWII's end the in Pilsen that was liberated by General Patton. We will supply you with a short video.

THE BANNER OF THE TRUTH CONFERENCE

An April highlight was a weeklong trip for Pavel, Jarda and Jan as they attended The Banner of the Truth Conference in Leicester, UK. It was directed at men who are (or who have been) in pastoral charges, theological students in training for ministry, and for men who are serving in missionary work at home or overseas. The conference topic was 'THE SUF-FERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME'

A minister's calling brings him into a dimension of suffering that is uniquely bound up with the ministry of the gospel. For Christ, it meant his being the Suffering Servant. For those he calls into service, the same will be true. This dimension of ministerial suffering is clearly borne out by the testimony and counsel of Paul in his letters.

Suffering is arguably the biggest issue people face in life, and because so much bad theology has been developed to address its existence, it is essential that pastors work to acquire a well-formed biblical theology of suffering. This is exactly what this year's conference aims to address, and it is hoped that all who attend will return to their congregations with renewed confidence in the allsurpassing goodness of God, equipped to minister to those within and without their churches whose suffering raises, for them, questions about the nature of God at the profoundest level.

This was a 1000 mile one way all night drive. The travel time to Leicester was 18 hours long, coming back was over 20 hours. Pavel arrived home and looked like a jet lagged person after a flight to Australia. Sure it would be more comfortable, much faster and even cheaper to fly. However, partial plan for this trip was to move one pastor's theological library for our use here in CZ. It was a great time for brainstorming and sharing the ministry challenges ahead of us. We sure can see some interesting openings and opportunities.

TOTAL DEPENDENCE

While Pavel was traveling my computer adventures were closing down on me. After three days with messages like "shadow file cannot be created, due to lack of space on the disk," and similar messages I had no clue what they meant and decided that they were telling me to go and wash the windows and clean the house. This shows our total interdependence in whatever we do. Our 50-year golden anniversary that can happen only once in a lifetime was a long distance event. Pavel was still in the UK. He came home after a long drive with 50 white long stem roses and Klara could hardly pick them up.

While was Pavel in the UK Klara attended several very interesting events. Man and media was held at the US Cultural Center; this time the topic was "Russian disinformation Media War." We live in an undeclared Russian hybrid war and new information terms do not mean what we normally understand. This war is actually civilization confronting the disregard to basic human values. For example, in Russia when you mention democracy it is understood as fascism and chaos. Lie becomes truth if it is repeated over and over, while interpretation of truth has the opposite impact. When President Putin says "it is good to have an opposition," it means that his opposition has no chance to make any statement since there are laws, regulations and controls to preventively shut down any opposition. The major source of information is state controlled Russian TV. Any broadcasting can be shut down without reason and broadcasting licenses revoked overnight. In an atmosphere of hysteria Russia presents the world like a pyramid – the top enemy is USA, below is the West under US control and the foundation of pyramid is the Russian world together with the former Soviet

Republics. The unwise countries which gained independence from Russian domination should return back under their "protective wing." Since Russia won the war and liberated Europe, this means that Russian civilization is here to create a Eurasian alternative world power balance. Russian modified methods of nationalism with world dominating ambitions are full of anti-American and anti-Western propaganda. In Czech Republic there are at least 60 internet sites professionally spreading Russian propaganda trying to split European and US alliances. Russians are masters in chess and deception.

On top if this, the western civilization opened the door like a small child to the Trojan Horse of Islam. Parts of the present western civilization are denying Christ, are anti-Semitic and at the same time are expressing fear for their survival in this world full of hostilities. They seem to forget history is full of wars and battles by Turks intending to conquer Europe. Major issues of European integration are part of New World challenges. This is more than about East and West, capitalism or socialism/communism, conservative or liberal agenda or the ideology of universalism where everything is relative. The loss of personal and cultural identity which defines values of East and West only in relation to geographical area, has numerous destructive consequences. Once again Europe is an unstable part of the world and many events, developments and military provocations are the evidence that without our Lord Continents and nations will have to face consequences. We sure are glad to know that the Lord is in charge:

And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. (Daniel 2:21,22)

PRAISES

Guardian angels were busy during this trip as well as over our sky jumping son Vit. His parachute skydive no. 662 was a little dramatic, since his main parachute got caught and he had to cut it off and use the reserve parachute. It is easier to process just hearing about than watching his adventures on Facebook. We forgot to ask if he had his head camera on.

RADIO LOGOS MINISTRY IN SLOVAKIA REPORT

- <u>www.radiologos.sk</u> is streaming programs. It is well established ministry with a growing number of listeners.
- Preparation of programs for broadcasting (Pastor Steve Cole).
- Correspondence with radio listeners.
- Cooperation with Precept Ministries.
- Documentary films "Searching for Messiah" dubbing in cooperation with RBC Ministries and Grace Baptist Church Windsor, Canada.
- Please pray for Milan Hudec and Slovak www.radiologos.sk as they des-

perately need more help. The ministry's future is in the Lord's hands determined by how the Slovak Christians will respond and participate.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pavel's book is one step closer to finalization. Three more steps remain – final proofreading, editing comments and last proofreading.
- Our prayer is that we can subsidize printing cost with help of special sponsors. Any proceeds from future sales will be used as seed funds for further publishing

Thanks for your participation in our life and ministry.

In Czech Republic and Slovakia Pavel and Klara Steiger <pavel.steiger@gmail.com>

<°))))><

