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Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: (Philippians 2:12-14) I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:6-8)



JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2017

**DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS
OF THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY
TO THE PEOPLES
IN CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA**

January Electronic Prayer and Praise Report and February regular Printed Progress Report caught us with such a rush and succession of events that we are forced to combine both reports together this time.

FIRST OF ALL OUR BRNO CONFERENCE

Our 8th Winter Conference in Brno was once again a very encouraging event. We were concerned about attendance this year, since there was scheduled another Christian Conference in the area of Moravia. A number of people had to make decision which conference to attend. To make it even more complicated, there is a third conference scheduled in nearby Krom íž that is organized by a ministry we closely cooperate with. The

main speaker at this conference is Paul Washer. His speaking calendar is quite tight. There was no room to move him to later date. For some people it was hard decision which conference to choose. We would love to attend the Kroměříž's conference however, our son Vit is arriving that day from Denver.

Though some people did not show up at our conference, God sent a number of new unexpected and unregistered people who filled up the gap. Thus our attendance was around 220 souls from all corners of Czech Republic and Slovakia. Not 250 attendees as the last year but enough for wonderful fellowship. We also had two Czech visitors living in Austria. They found out about it on our web pages. All speakers delivered powerful messages. The topic of the conference was "The Exclusivity of Christ":

- The Exclusivity of Christ in Everything That Is (Jan Suchý)
- The Exclusivity of Christ in Relation to Scripture (Pavel Steiger)
- The Exclusivity of Christ in Salvation – Man and God (Ján Šichula)
- Maturing into the Fullness of Christ's Humanity (Daniel Adamovský)
- Christ's Place in the Church (Jaroslav Kernal)

Three new books published by our Publishing House, "Poutníková etba", were introduced at the conference.

1. Pavel's book has been presented; the first reactions are very encouraging. Almost 50 prints were sold. The book is titled "I Will Not Give My Glory Unto Another" (Isaiah 42:8; 48:11). It deals with God's sovereignty in salvation.

2. The Second book published for the conference by Yarda's is named: "The First Day After Saturday." It is based on text from Luke: 23rd and 24th chapter.

3. The last, but not least, is a small booklet „Yoga and the Bible.“ It was written by Daniel Dossman, a Reach Beyond missionary. Daniel and Francoise are our dear friends since our beginning time with HCJB in Quito Ecuador till now. It was written only in French and this time it was translated and published in Czech.

A BIT OF WORLD EVENTS

Election events during Donald Trump and "Uniquely American" inauguration ceremony were closely followed and commented by mainstream CZ press citing US press. On the local level the most amazing was a reaction to one of the Inauguration comments that mentioned the difference between the U.S. and Europe: How much time was given to prayers; Christian, Jewish and others. The spiritual tone during the ceremony is hardly understood here. Most readers' reactions were very hateful to Christianity and conservative values. The name "Donald Trump" is in the center of European daily news and commentaries. The global liberal and Marxist establishment has a hard time to accept this change. Europe is nervous as one Czech commentator described: "The American Insurance has expired for Europeans." Changes are around the corner.

President Trump invited to the White House the Czech President Milos Zeman who supported him along with Poles and Hungarians. The rest of the West is not too happy.

A European Union attitudes toward uncontrolled immigration makes many of us concerned. Immigration without assimilation is invasion.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

This time we are excited about Reach Beyond Goals which our new president, Steve Harling, has challenged us with:

- **WE NEED A RECOMMITMENT TO DISCIPLESHIP.** Jesus didn't say, "Go and make converts." He said, "Go and make disciples." That requires an investment in the lives of the people whom we reach.
- **WE NEED TO UPHOLD THE TRUE GOSPEL.** Sadly, biblical truths such as the reality of hell, the need for redemption and the atoning sacrifice of Christ are becoming increasingly compromised.
- **WE NEED TO RELEASE CONTROL TO LOCAL BELIEVERS.** That's the power of partnership. When we work together we multiply each other's efforts.
- **WE NEED TO REIMAGINE THE "IMPOSSIBLE."** Sometimes missions are done more by memory than by innovation. We need to attempt impossible things for the God of the impossible.

To this we can say only AMEN! During Reach Beyond's last European conference in Spain, we discussed mission policies toward the European region:

Depending upon which criteria one uses when considering Europe, the continent is either very desperate and the need for Christ is great (countries

with a less than 2% evangelical presence are numerous) or else the continent has had its chance and resources should be focused elsewhere. Some estimates show that Europe may be one of the hardest places for the Gospel in the years ahead. Different cultures should be respected and various opportunities to be encouraged.

We praise the Lord that we can serve and minister in Czech Republic and Slovakia legally and without any restriction. Our ministry is legally registered as an association of non-profit multimedia and educational ministry. The scope of our activities is recognized and approved by the Ministry (Department) of Interior. Annual reports, contributions and tax returns must be filled.

Czech Republic is spiritually starving however; we have no needs for ministries in the field of health care, literacy or community projects. We have plenty of governmental, NGO and secular humanitarian organizations working with homeless people, endangered children, prison ministries, refugee's resettlement programs, etc. Humanitarian action teams are well established are available for immediate dispatch and rescue during catastrophic events. But we do not have enough of pastors and missionaries teaching and leading local church. Recently we listened on the radio to an interview with a Catholic priest and chaplain from Congo serving in Czech Republic. He has 28 parishes to serve. If Catholics in a "Catholic country" are in such a desperate situation, one can imagine the situation of the evangelical church.

PRAISES AND PRAYERS

- Praise for the Brno conference timing since three days later the roads and whole country was covered by snow and ice. Please pray for the follow up on contacts we gained.
- A number of believers are not churched. Close ecumenical cooperation between Protestant and Catholic Churches is unbearable. New small and independent churches have to overcome many hurdles to survive.
- Non-denominational, independent churches need our encouragement. At the present time, we are in touch with at least five of them.
- The roaring lion, as a lightning from the clear sky, came the first week in January with news that our son in NH lost his job after 15 years with the company.
- Several health issues close to the family and friends became an issue and matter of prayers.
- Please continue praying for all of us. Building a body of believers with many needs is tedious work. We see how damaged believers are coming from liberal churches.
- Pray for spiritual growth and increase in numbers so that our church will become a self-sustaining body of believers in the near future. Most of our people are young and finishing their college studies.
- Please pray for those who are preaching and teaching in the sending and sister churches praying for this church plant.
- Pray that the Lord will give us opportunities to reach the unreached.

- Please continue to pray for Slovak broadcasting; there are some interesting developments.
- A Czech missionary with “Voice of Martyrs”, Petr Jašek, was arrested in Sudan in 2015. He was now sentenced to 20 years in jail among other charges for espionage.

EXCITING TIME

Our younger son, Vit, is coming to visit us in Prague. The last time we were together was a year and a half ago.

**Thank you for your prayers,
Support and participation in our life and
Czech & Slovak ministry**

**In His Sovereign Grace,
Pavel and Klara Steiger**

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