

MAY & JUNE 2018

DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES IN CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA

REACH BEYOND EUROPEAN CONFERENCE BRADFORD, UNITED KINGDOM, 2018

Once again time and events moved the schedule of our printed Prayer letters and electronic reports. Every two years we have Reach Beyond European conferences. This year conference was hosted by the UK Bradford office. Its staff did a six-star job. Missionaries and regional leaders came from fifteen different countries, not just from Europe. There were participants from Australia, New Zealand, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Malaysia. Also our RB president Steve Harling arrived from Colorado Springs with some other key personnel. It was very encouraging to see young generation involvement. Even three beautiful babies were present with their young missionary families.

The topic of the conference was "Growing Together and Working Together". To boil it down what we all try to accomplish is growing together and motivate people with the purpose to build community of God's people to love and serve with word, voice and hands. The mission task is overwhelming and illustration of mustard seed is fitting our days. We need more young lovers of God to work in the field in order to reach more places and peoples who have never heard the gospel.

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:12-17)

Without hearing and seeing what the Lord is doing through a few servants in Reach Beyond we could think that we are involved in mission impossible. It is amazing to see how media, new technologies and methods open door to people behind closed doors.

The UK Reach Beyond office in Bradford, Millside Centre is reaching hundreds refugees living there. It was exciting to see the Centre after several years. When the UK office was renting that place some ten years ago, it was in quite dilapidated conditions. After buying it and reconstruction it turned into a beautiful place buzzing with activities. We could see with our own eyes where our Lord leads his faithful servants. Much more happened than we imagined.

The conference was followed by Reach Beyond International Council meeting with regional directors. This was the reason why there were participants at the European Conference from around the world.

PRAISES

We arrived to London a few days before the conference at the time of Ramadan; frenzy about Royal wedding; Turkish skirmish with Kurds during President Erdogan's State visit. UK police forces kept both sides apart. Since we stayed mostly in tourists sites we were pleasantly surprised how professionally everything was handled.

We had beautiful weather. This is not so common in the UK. Pavel stood on 0° meridian in Greenwich, climbed about 700 steps to the top of St. Paul cathedral, and we both admired a few museums and galleries. In one sentence, London is a great place to visit.

Since we mentioned beautiful weather, the first part of this May was unusual. From cold and grim days suddenly arose Spring with a real capital "S". Everything started to bloom at the same time. For those suffering with allergies this was time of sneezing, coughing and blocked noses. Pollen was everywhere, it was hot and no rain in sight. We could see yellow clouds in the air. After we returned home from UK finally we had some relief.

VISITORS

Among the first ones were friends from Canada. Summer will be quite busy. Friends from Las Vegas came to our church again.

Recently we met Joshua and Marie Ehles from Kentucky exploring opportunities to serve in Czech Republic. Marie is originally from Czech Republic, Josh is at present time Youth pastor. They said: "The Lord has placed us in Kentucky, where we've been working with middle and high school students, but really, what's been on our hearts has been the Czech Republic." Josh added, "We both have acquired many skills while serving in student ministry and we feel ready to use those to plant churches in the Czech Republic."

We praise the Lord that Czech Republic is not forgotten.

PRAYER NEEDS

- In light of recent refugee crisis in Europe, seen as one of its biggest crises since World War II, brought the question if Europeans should be proud or ashamed of Europe. Out of Croatia comes "politically correct" controversial stage play "Our violence and Your violence". The topic goes as far as scene where Christ rapes the young Muslim women after removing her hijab. The play was opened in Vienna and touring European cities. Most Czechs are more or less apathetic, only a few Christians are alarmed. During performance anti-conflict teams had to be involved. One side called themselves "Decent citizens", while the other considered the performance as expression of freedom of speech.
- We live in post Christian environment. After 42 years of communism in Central and Eastern Europe we have less students in seminaries, many churches are not growing but compromising. We have many villages and towns where is no church or group of believers. This is a great opportunity to mission minded churches and individuals to get involved with local Czech church. There are many ways how to strengthen those in front lines. For example:
- Annual summer teaching conference in Kromeříž with Steven J. Lawson. The topic is Attributes of God. This is one of the key conferences inspiring churches we work closely together. (You don't appreciate God's justice.

Because at the moment of justice, we would all be in hell for all eternity. — Steven J. Lawson)

• Spirit of unity in churches. A church we used to work closely with is departing from Cristian orthodoxy. The Triune God is in question!?

Since our Prayer letter has to go through RB approval process, we combine both; our electronic Prayer letter and the Printed letter. It is our joy to keep in touch with all of you.

LAST LINES FROM

LABYRINTH OF THE WORLD AND PARADISE OF THE HEART BY J.A. COMENIUS (*1592, MORAVIA; +1670 AMSTERDAM) HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: <u>HTTP://www.labyrint.cz/en/contents</u>

Restrain me, Lord, lead me, bear me, that I no longer stray from Thee and fall. Grant that I may love Thee with an eternal love, and beside Thee love no thing, except for Thy sake and in Thee, O endless love! But what else shall I say, my Lord? Here I am, Thine I am; I am Thine own, Thine eternally. I renounce heaven and earth that I may have Thee alone. Only do not deny me Thyself and I have enough, to all eternity, unchangeably, I have enough in Thee alone. My soul and my body exult in Thee, Thou living God; Oh, when shall I go and appear before Thy face? Whenever it be Thy will, my Lord and God, take me, for here I am, I stand ready; call me whenever Thou desirest, whichever way Thou desirest, and however Thou desirest. I will go whithersoever Thou commandest and will perform whatsoever Thou commandest. May Thy good Spirit guide me and lead me among the snares of the world as in a plain, and may Thy lovingkindness accompany me in my journeys. Lead me through this sorrowful darkness of the world to the light eternal. Amen and Amen."

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

In His Sovereign Grace, Pavel and Klara Steiger

<pavel.steiger@gmail.com>

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