

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah (Psalm 46:1-3)

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. (Psalm 91:3-6)

I have chosen you and not cast you off"; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:9b-10)

HOME MINISTRY March 2025 DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF THE REACH BEYOND MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES OF CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA

ASTRONOMICAL SPRING IS HERE

We are all looking forward to the sun's rays awakening life around us. However, the "peaceseeking political solutions" of the past few days and weeks suggest that the frostbite will not thaw easily.

WE REJOICE IN THE LORD

Last February weekend we rejoiced as we saw the fruits of our long-term involvement and contribution to the local Christian community. About 200 mostly young people who are actively involved in the ministry attended the 15th Prague "Battle for the Soul" Bible Conference – Soli Deo Gloria. Some of them told us that they knew or met people who associated our names with the radio programs we broadcast from Ecuador, Monaco, Brno, Bratislava, Banská Bystrica... Recordings of the radio ministry, broadcast over 30 years, are still circulating among those who listened to them. It is touching to meet the three generations of our former colleagues, many of whom have descendants of their own. What a blessing to see the harvest of our efforts together with our co-workers and fellow servants who have worked with us since the fall of communism in 1989.

OUR MINISTRY

One of the responses to our February electronic prayer letter, which is more personal than a mailed letter:

We have not heard about your active missionary efforts. We have had communications from you over the past few years about your travels, health challenges, and local traditions and cultural events, but very little about the ministry efforts to share the Gospel and the results of that ministry. Is there any update you can give us in this regard?

We apologize that the overall ministry in which we are actively involved is often not highlighted in our monthly and extensive reports.

From the very beginning, we focused on Christian media ministries. This is a broad term that is very dynamic because of numerous changes in technologies. We began by producing radio programs recorded in Indonesia, broadcasted from Monte Carlo on FM with Trans World Radio (TWR).

After the fall of communism, we joined HCJB Voice of the Andes Radio Mission in Ecuador as full-time missionaries. At that time, the station broadcast the Good News in Czech and Slovak by shortwave (SW), a ministry that had already been on the air for 25 years. With advancing technology, shortwave broadcasting from Ecuador was eventually discontinued.

Following this transition, we relocated to Czechoslovakia, where we produced programs for Trans World Radio in Monaco—another chapter that eventually came to a close. During this period, we were also involved in establishing Slovakia's first FM radio station. Technology has since evolved from FM to online streaming and, ultimately, to digital broadcasting. As advancements continue at an unprecedented pace, we have not only kept up but have consistently remained at the forefront, pioneering new opportunities in Christian media.

Our media ministry extended beyond broadcasting to include the publication of Christian literature. *The Battle for the Soul* magazine has been in print for 36 years and is now also available in digital format. When we first began publishing, the most advanced technology at our disposal was the electric typewriter and Xerox copier. Despite having no subscription model, the magazine continues to be published and distributed regularly, sustained entirely by voluntary donations from readers and our personal support.

We praise the Lord for the gift of new technologies and the opportunities they bring. The rapid advancement of AI, along with improved translation and editing tools, has expanded our outreach, and opened doors to new possibilities.

Here are some of the ministries we have been involved in from their very beginning: the registered civic association magazine *Zápas o duši* in English *The Battle for the Soul, Reformation.cz, Radio 7,* and *Radio Logos.* We also played a role in the extension of the Christian publishing house *Pilgrim's Reading,* where our writings and translated books are published. Additionally, we maintain a close connection with another Christian publisher, *Didasko*.

The *Czech Bible Institute* in Kroměříž (CBI), part of *The Master's Academy International (TMAI)* <u>www.tmai.org</u> now uses Pavel's book *My Glory I Will Not Give to Another* as a textbook. The CBI has trained dozens of new preachers and planted new churches. We are grateful that CBI is actively involved in the biblical conferences we initiated. From the very beginning, we have led lectures, taught classes, and spoken at conferences as invited guests. We have preached, participated in various denominational retreats, and have been influential in the formation of new churches.

Our writing, translation, and book publishing have contributed to the growth of many other Christian initiatives. Much of the media ministry we established is now preserved in digital archives available in Czech:

https://www.reformace.cz/

As of now, writing and publishing projects in progress take time. The translated version of Pavel's book into Polish is with the Publisher. It looks great. The translation into English is done and "ready to go." As far as the publisher is concerned, the way is not yet open. We are in contact with Crossway Publishing, and if our proposal is not accepted, we plan to submit it to additional publishers. Should we receive no response, we will make the book available online.

Kaye Woodward, who along with her husband Gene was the primary influence in Pavel leaving his engineering career in 1990 to devote himself fully to missionary work in the area of radio speaking, publishing and lecturing, wrote:

I'm deep into your manuscript and think it is marvelous!!! Is there any reason why you aren't publishing it in English? Having it on the internet would be nice but not very useable. I would like to give out some copies and maybe get a class in our church to teach it. Hard copy would be more available to the masses. I don't think there is anything like it available now. The English market is huge. We certainly need this message today!! – Kaye Woodward – Dallas, TX

We are living in an incredible time of opportunity, with new projects on the horizon. At a recent conference, a retired pastor suggested collaborating to further Klara's Noah's Ark book project. This seems like a direct response to her concerns after attending a presentation by a British scientist and professor, who discussed how the limitations of evolutionary science are subtly integrated into the thinking of believers. While we appreciate apologetics, Klara was deeply troubled by the presentation's implications. Without a solid biblical foundation, such conclusions can lead believers toward philosophical reasoning rather than an understanding that faith and science can coexist, engaging both mind and soul without reducing the gospel. In these new challenges, we recognize God's guiding hand.

MARCH 8TH INTERNATONAL WOMEN DAY

The earliest reported IWD was held on February 28, 1909, organized by the Socialist Party of America. Over a million people marked the first IWD celebration on March 19, 1911 across Europe. Russia observed IWD for the first time in 1913, followed by Germany in 1918. After the Russian Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, Vladimir Lenin proclaimed IWD on March 8, 1922. Since then, IWD has been celebrated mainly in communist countries. IWD replaced the traditional Mother's Day celebration. After the fall of communism, we are back to MD in May.

Working Women's Day was especially celebrated by men. Women were given flowers, and men raised several toasts to mark the occasion.

PROMINENT CZECH-AMERICAN WOMEN

who left communist Czechoslovakia but never forgot their roots

Eliska Hasek Coolidge (born March 26, 1941) is a former Czech-American official. As a member of the White House staff, she was in charge of Presidential Correspondence with Institutions and Individuals and was also a member of the internal speechwriting group (1963-1981). From 1981 to 1990, she served in the U.S. Department of State.

In the 1990s, she returned to the Czech Republic, founded Coolidge Consulting Services, and lectures on "The Art and Management of Social Behavior, Business and Diplomatic Protocol." She has lectured at numerous national and international conferences.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eliska Haskova Coolidge

Rita Klímová (1931-1993) Economist and diplomat who was appointed Czechoslovakia's ambassador to the United States in 1990. She came from a family with Jewish roots and immigrated to the U.S. during World War II. During her time abroad, she always emphasized her Czechoslovakian origins and worked for the good of her homeland.

President Bill Clinton nominated **Madeleine Korbel Albright** (born May 15, 1937 in Prague) as Secretary of State of the United States, taking office in 1997. She served as the 64th Secretary of State of the United States from 1997 to 2001. She was the first senior U.S. official to meet with Vladimir Putin in his new capacity as acting president of Russia in 2000. ... I found a useful quote for our times: "*We should use our opinions to start discussions, not to end them."*

Ivana Trump, née Ivana Marie Zelníčková (born February 20, 1949 in Zlín, died July 14, 2022). She was the first wife of U.S. President Donald Trump. They had three children, Donald Jr. (born 1977), Ivanka (born 1981) and Eric (born 1984). All three children understand and speak some Czech.

WHAT'S GOING ON JUST "DOWN THE ROAD" FROM US

The recent peace talks between President Trump and President Zelensky at the White House leave many questions unanswered.

Eliska Hasek Coolidge, whom we introduced above, is a voice of reason and clear vision. She is one of the best commentators here in the Czech Republic on the recent discord in the Euro-American and Russian-Ukrainian situation:

Fear is the greatest crime there is, because fear hinders everything good: in the family, in the nation, in any society. Fear is the worst thing that can happen. Fear cannot be governed by fear. It's not about rules like order, silence. It's about values. (From her interview on the private radio show 'Forward to the Past').

Negative, one-sided commentary from most of Europe's "renowned experts" has revealed how divergent thinking and recriminations can be among allies. America's earlier warnings about the dangers of energy dependence on Russia have been vindicated. It is not the Green Deal that will keep Europe safe, but the green uniforms of a strong military presence. The security of the continent must be a common task for all, not just an attitude of superiority by one side; stability and peace can come through collective responsibility and cooperation.

Europe feels abandoned in this situation. The spirit of "those who are not with us (America) are against us" has prevailed. Europe is shocked by the recent events and is slowly beginning to realize that the world is changing and if everyone does not join hands constructively to find common ways to peace, especially Central Europe and the Baltic States may become the next victims of Russian expansionism.

"A soldier dies, the war lives" - a paradox of fallen human existence, where people yearn for peace but find themselves constantly in conflict.

Any effort to change is a process. How important it is to know the values of the past, such as trust, faith in God, honesty and openness. Everything can change very quickly. The situation in Russia can change, the situation in Europe can change, and finally the situation in the American administration can change. Trump, Putin, Zelensky, who have been appointed to their positions by Almighty God, have a difficult task ahead of them. Our prayers for wisdom of world leaders, peace and mutual respect are of utmost importance.

He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; (Daniel 2:21) Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. (Romans 13:1)

PRAISES

- We have to testify that the Lord is good. He guided the whole conference organized by the publishing house of our magazine *"Battle for the Soul."* Step by step we could experience peace in the midst of the hustle and bustle. Iva and Jan (to whom we have handed over the publishing of our magazine) are happy and grateful to be able to participate in the ministry of the whole Church for the Kingdom of God and to see so many willing hearts and hands around us.
- We thank the Lord for all this and for our friendship with you. We really appreciate it. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this ministry with your gift once again.

- May your heart rejoice in the Lord every day anew.
- May the Lord guide, strengthen and sanctify you. We love you.
- Regarding our health and ability to be in active ministry, we thank God for the excellent and available medical care and especially for the attentiveness and personal care of the doctors. Pavel's heart stents and his recovery last year went well; as for the side effects of the new medications, they were gradually resolved. Drug interactions can cause more problems. Be careful and read the information about side effects. As far as our mobility goes, Pavel's hip pain remains.
- We are thankful for the gospel, for preachers, for new congregations; the church is being revived. We live in peace in the midst of wars, we have freedom, and believers are not persecuted.
- We rejoice that God is the same yesterday, today and forever, that He has raised us up and brought us out of darkness for His glory, and that we can sow while He gives the increase.
- We look forward to many visits and events in the spring.
- Continue to pray for the spiritual and political state of the world, the traditional church and society, where selfishness, apathy and complacency are on the rise.

Thank you for your prayers, support and participation in our life and Czech and Slovak ministries.

In His sovereign grace, Pavel and Klara Steiger

