

Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

Vol. 36, N° 1-3, 2010

Ročník 36, číslo 1-3, 2010



The 101st Czechoslovak Baptist Convention

Philippi, West Virginia
July 8-11, 2010

The Call God Has Sent Us

Convention Mission Statement

The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada exists 1) to assist in extending the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in lands of central and eastern Europe, particularly the Czech and Slovak Republics; 2) to support the work of Baptists and other evangelical churches in North America that minister to persons of Czech and Slovak descent, and 3) to provide a Christian context for worship, fellowship, teaching, and appreciation of heritage among those in the United States and Canada who bear interest in the nationalities we represent.

Misijní poslání konvence

Československá baptistická konvence Spojených států a Kanady byla ustanovena za účelem: 1) napomáhat v šíření evangelia našeho Pána Ježíše Krista v zemích střední a východní Evropy, zvláště v České a Slovenské republice; 2) podporovat práci baptistů a jiných evangelikálních církví v severní Americe, které slouží českým a slovenským potomkům; 3) předkládat formu bohoslužby, obecnství a učení, vážit si dědictví těch, ve Spojených státech a v Kanadě, kterým leží na srdci národy, které reprezentujeme.

Contents:

Editorial—Natasha Laurinc.....	2
Welcome Message—J. Michael Clyburn, Pres. A-B College.....	3
One Hundred Years!—George Sommer.....	4
Is George Really Seventy?—Natasha Laurinc.....	8
Je Jiřímu opravdu sedmdesát?—Nataša Laurincová.....	9
Slovak Bible Study, part 3—Darko Kraljik.....	10
News from the Mission Field—The Poenarus, The Potmas, Ruby Mikulencak... ..	12
From the Executive Secretary—George Sommer.....	15
Where Is My Glorious Hope?—George Sommer.....	15
George Gregor is 90—Patty (Gregor) Yost.....	16
Henry Pojman 60—Natasha Laurinc.....	16
Jindřich Pojman 60—Nataša Laurincová.....	17
In Memory—Esther June Widlicka.....	18
Ladies' Page—Deb Mulder.....	19
Youth Scene—Michelle Fernandes (Sury).....	20
From the President—Robert Dvorak.....	22
Children's Corner—Kristina Vlasic.....	23
101 th Convention—Youth and Children Program—Darko Siracki.....	23

Glorious Hope/Slavná naděje

Volume 36, N°1–3, 2010

(USPS 009334), ISSN 0700-5202

Published Bi-Monthly by

The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention
of USA and Canada

Periodical postage paid in Philippi, WV.

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Editorial



Fruit in Every Season

Along life's path, we encounter a great many people, each with their own unique personality and character. Every one of those people has their own approach to life, which affects their surroundings in some way.

One's actions and ways of being (articulation, thought, mannerisms, facial expressions, etc.) place one into certain categories by which one is then judged. This divides humanity into two fundamental groups. In the one, good traits dominate; in the other, the opposite dominates. Orienting oneself in human nature is not easy. Along this train of thought, God's Word has a practical approach, when Jesus compares people to fruit trees: *"You will fully recognize them by their fruits."* (Matt. 7:16, AMP).

Many types and varieties of fruit exist today. They are distinguished by their appearance, shape, colour, taste, size, nutritional value, etc. In the same way, every person's fruits, that is, actions in the world, vary. It is possible for

Continues on page 15

Ovoce v každém ročním období

Člověk na své pouti životem potkává tisíce různých lidí. Každý z nich se vyznačuje svou individualitou, která nějakým způsobem ovlivňuje své okolí.

Skutky, činnosti i vlastní způsob života (vyjadřování, myšlení, gestikulace, výraz tváře...) zařazují člověka do určité kategorie a podle té je také posuzován. Jedná se o charakteristické rysy, povahu, schopnosti a nadání. Každá vlastnost má také svůj protiklad. To dělí lidstvo na dvě základní skupiny. V jedné převládají dobré vlastnosti, v té druhé zase opačné. Orientovat se v lidské povaze není jednoduché. V tomto směru nabízí Boží Slovo praktický přístup, kdy Pán Ježíš přirovnává člověka k ovocnému stromu: *„Poznáte je podle jejich ovoce.“* (Matouš 7; 16)

Ovocných plodů existuje mnoho druhů. Liší se od sebe vzhledem, tvarem, barvou, chutí, velikostí, obsahem vitamínů a živin atd. Stejně tak i ovoce člověka, tzn. jeho skutky, je různé. Lze vykonat mnoho dobrého ve prospěch bližního. Člověk má však přirozený sklon k využití, ale i zneužití každé situace ve svůj prospěch. Proto je kladen tak veliký důraz na rozpoznávání ovoce v životě člověka. Každý člověk plodí své osobní ovoce, svým způsobem unikátní. Ovoce bez

Pokračování na straně 22



Cover: Photo Dusko Pilic
Photography: Dusko Pilic, Vlast Pojman, David Wiseman
Back Cover Corel photo Great blue heron





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Dear Czechoslovak Baptist Convention Family,

With a deep sense of privilege and joy, Alderson-Broaddus College welcomes the 2010 Czechoslovak Baptist Convention to our college campus in Philippi, West Virginia. This is the 101st meeting of the Convention, and we are honored to welcome you to our beautiful mountain setting.

I have called Alderson-Broaddus College "the jewel on the mountain." Please be assured that the jewel sparkles and shines when Czechoslovak Baptist Convention attendees sing, pray, testify, read the Word, and rejoice. You are our brothers and sisters in Christ and we are thankful for the presence of God which accompanies your gathering "on the hill."

The highlight of my summer is to welcome the youth and adults of the Convention. I thoroughly enjoy the lively conversations, joyous fellowship, uplifted singing, wonderful stories, and of course...the ice cream. In this meeting, my heart (and yours) will be warmed by the presence of God's people, who are committed to service and praise. It is my highest hope that the blessings of God's love and grace will abound for all who attend and worship here.

I am reminded during the meetings (and throughout the year) of the wonderful witness and devotion of George and Marija Sommer. Their lives and legacy are embedded in the fabric of what makes Alderson-Broaddus College special. They represent you (and A-B College) with exceptional lives of faith.

As you have done for the past 21 years, may you walk the pathways, enter the buildings, taste the good food, enjoy the scenic views, and worship in the chapel—with the knowledge that you are beloved among us.

May God richly bless you as partners in the Christian faith,

J. Michael Clyburn

J. Michael Clyburn, President
Alderson-Broaddus College
Philippi, West Virginia

One Hundred Years!

Chicago 1909 – Philippi 2009

The Mission Today and Always

As my Father has sent me, so send I you

J. 20:21b

God is good! God is great! We thank God for a memorable 100th Convention. Over 350 delegates and other visitors gathered to praise and thank God for all those who started and worked to bring the Convention to such a great milestone. One hundred years! It is hard to believe that the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention has been in existence for so long.

At times the Convention went through difficulties, but God's name was praised whenever His children gathered, in many churches and for the last 21 years on the campus of Alderson-Broadbush College.



We were glad to see the faces of many old friends and we also met some new ones. Many guests came from our old countries as well as from Canada and the USA. What a blessed time of “obecenstvi”—fellowship—we experienced. Of course, we missed those who went to be with the Lord. One day we will all be together, having convention every day and joining in one huge choir. Blessed be the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gives us strength and will lead us to the 101st Annual Convention, July 8–11, 2010.

Now, let's open a door to the Crim Meeting Room, and hear the General Board in session.

The meeting was opened by President Dr. Robert Dvorak, who welcomed those attending. He read from Genesis 12. In verse 1 God asks Abram to pack up and go to “where I will show you.” This Convention has been around 100 years and now maybe God says go to a new place. Abram was 75 years old. Where God calls us, we are to go.

Dr. Dvorak greeted Bob Karhan, who had been absent for awhile, and announced that Shirley Mobley was attending the

Convention this year. Prayer was led by Joseph Novak. Dan Widlicka gave a word of remembrance. In 1971, at the 61st Convention, it was suggested the Convention be dissolved, but after many prayers they decided to continue. And now here we are at the 100th Convention!

The following reports were presented. **Financial Reports:** Vera Dors, financial secretary for the US, announced that giving is up over \$2,000 for the past year. Her report was printed on page 5 of the General Board Report. In the absence of Henry Pojman, the board members were instructed to see his report, also on page 5. The giving in Canada is slightly lower than last year. Treasurer for the US, George Gregor, gave his report, which was printed on pages 6 and 7 in the General Board Report. In the absence of Otilia Alac, board members were instructed to see her report on pages 6 and 7.

Natasha Laurinc reported for *Glorious Hope* that they are still working to catch up on the schedule. She thanked the members for their prayers and thanked George for his tireless work. She asked for more articles and items of interest. It is her hope that things will improve. Joe Novak asked why the past two issues of the magazine said nothing about the Centennial Celebration. She replied that one whole page was devoted to the 100th Convention in the last issue. Also, the plan was to publish a special Centennial book, but since printing a book takes much longer than printing a magazine, it was decided



to prepare the book, including this Centennial Celebration, for the next convention. Dan Widlicka commented that he thought the last two issues of the magazine were exceptionally good. There were inserts in the magazine about the Convention.

Joe Novak gave a **Tract Ministry Report**. He commented that so many wonderful things had happened since last year. Numbers sound dry, but he tried to put some “meat” on them. He outlined the process of writing, printing, packing and mailing tracts. Last year the mission printed over 139,172

tracts. In the past 24 years they have printed and distributed over 3 million tracts. In addition to tracts, they distribute clothes, shoes, toys, Christian literature, pens, pencils, writing pads, envelopes, tapes with music and messages, and calendars.

Trust Fund Reports: George Gregor reported that the full report was printed on page 7 of the General Board Report. Bill Rotar gave his report. Bill asked whether or not the Board wanted to continue with the present strategy or do something else. Dan Widlicka asked for Bill Rotar's suggestion. He has another fund that he would like to look into. At the mid-year meeting we saw that we had about $\frac{2}{3}$ in the market and $\frac{1}{3}$ with annuity funds. Now we have approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ in the market and $\frac{3}{4}$ in annuity funds. Dan Widlicka suggested leaving investments as they are.

Joe Novak reported for the **Nominating Committee**. A couple of committees are inactive at the present time but we want them listed. George Sommer had a letter of resignation from John Alac from the General Board because he lives so far away. His name was also deleted from the Youth Committee as well as Jody Nesvadba, who is working in Prague now. Dusko Pilic was added to the Youth Committee.

President's Report: Robert Dvorak reported that a substantial bequest was given to the Convention from the husband of Robert's cousin, Mildred Drawley, to be used for general operation of the Convention. That bequest will be called the Mildred Drawley Fund. Robert suggested that



we consider a tithe to a certain mission. We have some requests from our partners in the Czech and Slovak Republics. Milan Lev was not in favor of sending to either of the republics at this time.

Donna Nesvadba commented that it was a very good idea to give a tithe of the money because people want to see the money used. Joe Novak spoke in favor of that suggestion. Fred Opocensky thought it would help if we knew where it would go;

however Bob Dvorak says we are to tithe. The tithe should be on the original gift. Robert Struharik said that it is our responsibility to further the gospel.

George Sommer had contacted both the Czech and Slovak Republics for a wish list for money that may be available. The president asked the Board for the Budget Committee to take this under advisement and make a proposal at the mid-year meeting, which the Board could accept or decline. Stan Mantle thought that it was a good idea to have time to consider this proposal. Robert Struharik made a motion that the Budget



Committee make a proposal at the mid-year meeting regarding the tithe. Motion seconded by Vlastimil Pojman and passed.

In recent months there has been discussion about the retirement of George Sommer as executive secretary. In the meantime, for the past six months George has suffered with anemia, blood sugar problems, and about a week ago was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He will have surgery either July 24 or 27. We need an assistant executive secretary to work with George to learn the position. George has been surprised at the loss of his energy level. He is better with medication. He feels that his memory is failing him and he has to deal with the diagnosis.

The issue is identifying a person to step into this position. The president asked the Board if they would be willing for him to discuss this matter with some folk during the weekend and then inform the Board. Natasha Laurinc made a motion that this be done. Motion seconded by Fred Opocensky and passed. Joe Novak suggested that if a Board member knew of someone who could serve in this capacity to let him know. The Board united in a prayer time for George and Marija.

Executive Secretary's Report:

- The mid-year meeting will be in October or November, 2009, at Hatch Hollow Baptist Church. The next conventions are scheduled for July 8–11, 2010 and July 7–10, 2011.

- There are special gifts for people attending the Centennial Convention this year: pens, bags, and for purchase an acrylic paperweight with the Centennial logo and theme verse.

There are also many guests present: Darko Kraljik from Slovakia, who will lead the Slovak Bible study; Jan Titera and Milos Solc with their wives from the Czech Republic; Dr. Denton Lotz, former BWA General Secretary; and Dr. Barry Moore, an evangelist from Canada.



- We have a new registration place this year in Burbick Hall, Administrative Building.

- George expressed gratitude for all the help this year. Last year we had about 90 members and delegates attending, and this year more than 350.

- George needs help with the *Glorious Hope* mailing: coordinating with the college, address editing, preparing labels, packing and sorting according to US postal requirements, checking with the printer, etc. The printer has a company that sorts and separates according to postal codes. George will explore these options. Now all magazines to Canada and foreign countries must be sent by air mail. It is also possible to send issues of the magazine to foreign countries by electronic mail instead of regular mail.

The banquet will be held on Saturday starting at 5:00 p.m.

Darko Siracki and Brian Dors have worked on the Centennial Celebration Committee. Darko appreciates the help of all members.

A meeting of the *Glorious Hope* committee was announced for 12:45, and the Budget Committee for 1:15.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Dan Widlicka.

The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention Business Meeting was held Friday, July 10, 2009. The meeting was opened by President Robert Dvorak, who welcomed all the members to the 100th meeting of the Convention, and read from Philippians 6, a passage familiar to all.

The agenda for the meeting was posted on page 2 of the delegates' package. The minutes of the meeting last year were printed on pages 4, 5, and 6.

Financial Secretaries' Reports: Vera Dors, US secretary, reported that giving is up \$2235.00 from last year. Henry Pojman, Canadian secretary, noted that giving in his country is a little less than last year. Their reports were published on page 7.

Treasurers' Reports: Printed on pages 8 and 9 were the

reports of George Gregor, US, and Oti Alac, Canada.

Trust Fund Reports: Investments, handled by George Gregor, were printed on page 9. This portion of the Boubelik Trust Fund is in an annuity. Bill Rotar has invested money in the market for a portion of the Boubelik Fund. From this fund we draw \$15,000 each year to be sent to either the Czech or Slovak Unions. The president announced that this past year we received word that money from the estate of Gilbert Drawley, the husband of Robert's cousin Mildred, had been left to the Convention. Mr. Drawley had set up a trust fund. Mildred Drawley was a granddaughter of one of the founders of this Convention. The money has been invested with New York Life and will be known as the Mildred Drawley Fund. Bill Rotar was absent from the meeting, but he had made a report to the meeting of the Board.

Glorious Hope Report: Natasha Laurinc, editor, commented that the magazine is an important tool for our Convention. George Sommer is an important person in this publication. Vit Malek, who does typesetting layout, will be at the Convention later today. There are many helpers and we

are grateful for them and that we can do this work. She also thanked Pastor Canji, who was editor until 1997. The magazine has survived all this time. She thanked the members for their financial gifts and also their prayers. There are three more issues planned for this year. She requested articles concerning experiences of walking with the Lord.

The cost to publish is approximately \$3.25 per copy plus postage. It is mailed to many countries. A question was asked about circulation. About 520 are sent in the US, 190 in Canada and 120 to other countries. The magazine is our only connection when we are not together.



Tract Ministry Report: Joe Novak reported that he is still excited about this ministry. Last year they printed over 139,172 tracts in many languages. In addition to the tracts, the ministry distributes Bibles, New Testaments, books, pens, pencils, writing pads, envelopes, devotional booklets, tapes with music and messages, calendars and different Christian magazines. He and Rose pack and ship barrels with used clothing, shoes, toys and Christian literature plus other practical items. Joe shared some of the letters and electronic messages that he has received, and he will, with God's help, continue this ministry as long as he is able.

President's Report: Robert Dvorak informed us that a substantial bequest was given to the Convention from the estate of the husband of Robert's cousin, Mildred Drawley, to be used for general operation of the Convention. That

bequest will be called the Mildred Drawley Fund. The money has been invested with the New York Life Insurance Company. Robert suggested tithing this money, and the Budget Committee is discussing the best use of this tithe. It was announced a year ago that George Sommer would stay on another year, but he is ready to retire because of health issues. Within the next year we need an associate executive secretary to learn from George. We don't know yet who that will be but hope to make a report soon to the General Board. George has diabetes, extreme anemia, and a week ago was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Surgery will be at the end of July. The members were asked to remember George and Marija in their prayers.

Executive Secretary's Report: Convention dates are July 8–11, 2010, and July 7–10, 2011. There will be some memorabilia available for sale during the Convention celebrating the Centennial. We have guests present from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. George assured everyone that the Convention can continue to meet at Alderson-Broadbent College after he retires. The place of registration was changed this year.

Greetings were received from Goodrich Community Church of Goodrich, Wisconsin, by Ruby Mikulencak; The Czechoslovak Church in Toronto; Scranton Road Bible Church in Cleveland, Ohio; Grace Baptist Church in Windsor; David Legierski, Kathryn Legierski and Elizabeth Fields by Natasha Laurinc; Dublin Baptist Church in Dublin, Ohio; Trinity Baptist in Chicago; Community Baptist Church in New Prague, Minnesota; a church in As, Czech Republic; and Second Baptist Church in Prague.

Auditing Committee Report: Jerry Andrs, chairman, reported that the Auditing Committee had examined all financial records of the Convention and found them to be accurate and in good order. In addition the committee, on behalf of the Convention, wants to extend appreciation to our financial secretaries and treasurers for the fine work they do, not only at Convention time, but all through the year.

Budget Report: The proposed budget for the year was reviewed and approved. The budget for the year 2009–2010 has been printed in an insert of *Glorious Hope*.

The meeting closed with prayer for George and Marija and was concluded by President Robert Dvorak.

This Centennial Convention was in preparation for a long time. A special committee was organized and met several times to prepare every detail so that everything would run smoothly. Speakers, worship leaders, and music providers were selected. Darko Siracki and Brian Dors were working by e-mail and I am especially grateful for their help and input in ironing out hundreds of ideas.

Darko and Maja Siracki and Svetlana Lamos came to Philippi several days prior to the Convention starting and worked on the registration database, preparing accommoda-

tion for delegates, banners, direction signs, preparing Wilcox Chapel, etc. Also several young people from the Windsor area came early to help them.

We were blessed to have as main speakers Dr. Denton Lotz, former general secretary of BWA; Dr. Barry Moore, an evangelist from Canada; Tim Bailey for the Youth program; and Dr. Robert Dvorak. We also welcomed guests from the Czech and Slovak Republics: Jan Titera, general secretary of the Czech Baptist Union, and his wife Vera; Darko Kraljik, Th.D., president-elect of the Slovak Baptist Union; Milos and Kveta Solc; and Dr. Lydia Kucova, who was at that time in Chicago attending a seminar. Jan Titera came on behalf of the Czech Baptist Union (president Donat did not come) and Darko Kraljik on behalf of the Slovak Baptist Union; the others came on their own.

Our featured singers for every service were the Lamos Sisters, Andrea, Sarah, Monica and Nicole. They were a real blessing to us.

Rev. Kathy Shereda and Darko Kraljik were leaders of Bible study in English and Slovak, respectively, and we were so thankful for their dedication and wonderful work. Also thanks to prayer time leaders, Rev. Stan Mantle and Dr. Josef Solc.

This year we had large youth and children's groups. Their leaders, Darko Siracki with Tim Bailey for young people and Kristina Vlasic for children, were amazing. It was a special blessing to see and hear these groups during the Convention, and we appreciate the efforts of the individuals in charge.

Music at the Convention is always on a high level. The Convention Choir was under the direction of Dr. Judson Bracey and accompanied by Marija Sommer, the Praise Team under the direction of Tim Racinsky, and also our "Chalozpevy" Choir from the Toronto area. They were all superb. Let's not forget to thank Dottie Kvasnica, organist, and Michele Moore, pianist, for their excellent work in providing music during the Convention. Without all of you, the Convention would not have been so successful. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Many people positively commented on the banquet being held on Saturday at 5 o'clock. We might keep this new idea as well as the ladies bringing desserts and "kolacky." Thank you, ladies, for all your time and effort and good European recipes. Let's do it again for the 101st Convention. Thank you in advance.

If I have neglected to mention someone, please forgive me. I would also like to thank everyone who gave of their time and talent at the Saturday evening concert. And as I say goodbye to you all, I want to say a big "thank you" to President Dr. Robert Dvorak. I will always remember our late-night phone calls with planning and good advice and his patient and listening ear, which I needed quite often. I thank God for Bob's wisdom and leadership and especially his friendship.

Is George Really Seventy?

(born April 13, 1940—you do the math!)



For more than two decades now, our Convention gatherings have been taking place on the beautiful Alderson-Broadbush College Campus. It is thanks to George and Marija, who created a strong connection between the leaders of A-B College and the Convention, that we have

been able to enjoy this convenient location. As a result, we have regarded it so much as our own that we cannot imagine meeting anywhere else. In the same way, we are unable to imagine the Convention without Marija and George Sommer. They are two in a long list of leaders (and there truly have been many in the preceding 101 years) who have greatly influenced the direction of the Convention. Both well-rounded, talented people, Marija and George Sommer applied their abilities again and again.

Not only is George celebrating such a significant birthday jubilee, but it has also been thirty years since he became the Convention's very own secretary. I have taken this opportunity to ask George a few questions:

① *What was your first impression of the Convention?*

Let's start from the beginning. We arrived in the USA in late August 1969. A short time later we got connected to the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention through Rev. J.J. Shereda from Richmond. Our first visit to the Convention was in Campbell, Ohio, in 1972.

First impression: We did not know what to expect. We thought that annual conventions in North America would be similar to annual conferences back in our homeland, with preaching, singing, and a convention choir. So I wrote a letter to Rev. John Karenko, who was the minister of the local church, asking if they had a convention choir. I offered to lead the choir as I did back home. Of course I wrote this letter in Czech language, thinking, Czechoslovak Baptist Convention—they speak Czech. Well, what a surprise. When we got to Campbell, Joza Novak told me that they could not read my letter in Czech until he, Joza, arrived for meetings and could translate it to them. We found that at the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, all sermons were in English, except some Bible studies; they were in Czech language. We enjoyed Rev. Frank Brdlik and his excellent Czech Bible studies. We were quite impressed with our first convention, and we received a lot of blessings.

② *Why did you get actively involved with the Convention?*

From our first convention in Campbell, Ohio, I actively joined in the work as a choir director, and my wife Marija as an accompanist. God gave me a talent, so I used it to serve our Lord.

③ *What brought you to Glorious Hope?*

I was helping with *Glorious Hope* almost from the beginning (when we came to the USA), and later I created a computer address database and address-labeling system for mailing and distributing *Glorious Hope*. I am also helping wherever needed. I am a kind of liaison between the Fairmont Printing Company and *Glorious Hope* offices.

④ *When you became executive secretary, how did you feel about it?*

I was elected executive secretary during the 1980 Convention, held in the Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Minnetonka, Minnesota. There the local church celebrated its 50th anniversary, and many pastors from former Czechoslovakia were present. I did realize that this was not an easy task, but knowing Czech and English did help. Also, to have many contacts with our brothers and sisters in Czechoslovakia was good. With God's help everything was possible.

⑤ *Can you tell us about some responsibilities of the executive secretary?*

Not all the duties I am carrying out are responsibilities of the executive secretary. Responsibilities—basically to run the Convention, to make sure that everything that needs to be done is prepared and done, and on time. Other general tasks are paying the bills, ordering supplies, preparing minutes for the midyear and annual meetings, scheduling and organizing meetings, contacting Convention churches or individuals when someone dies, preparing and printing addresses on envelopes for bulk mailing of the President's Letter three times a year, managing the Convention address database, setting up the annual Convention (theme, speakers, worship leaders, etc.), preparing and printing the General Board and delegate booklets, preparing and printing the Convention program and Sunday bulletin, preparing and printing the program for the ladies' meeting, and contacting and maintaining communication with the president when needed.

Because for the past 21 years the annual Convention meetings have been held at Alderson-Broadbush College, and I am still employed (part-time) by this college, I also take care of other things, which are not the secretary's responsibility: printing meal tickets, overseeing the sound system and video equipment, overseeing photography, setting up the chapel for the Convention, dealing with meal prices, dormitory

☞ Continues on page 21

Je Jiřímu opravdu sedmdesát?

(narozen 13. dubna 1940—tak si to spočítejte)

Naše konvenční setkávání probíhají již přes dvacet let v úžasném areálu *Alderson-Broadus College*. Za toto velmi výhodné místo vděčíme manželům Sommerovým, kteří vytvořili pevné pojítko mezi vedením university a konvence. Následkem toho jsme si toto překrásné místo přivlastnili a jinak si setkání ani neumíme představit. Stejně tak si neumíme představit konvenci bez Marije a Jiřího Sommerových. Jsou to dvě z dlouhé řady vůdčích osobností (a v uplynulých 101 letech jich bylo opravdu velmi mnoho), kteří určili směr vývoje konvence. Marije a Jiří Sommerovi, oba všestranně nadaní, své schopnosti vskutku znovu a znovu uplatnili.

Nejen, že se letos Jiří dožil významného životního jubilea, ale také to je již 30 let, kdy se stal tajemníkem naší konvence. Při této příležitosti šéfredaktorka *Slavné naděje* položila Jiřímu několik otázek:

① Jaký byl tvůj první dojem z konvence?

Začneme od začátku. Do USA jsme přijeli koncem srpna v roce 1969. Krátce na to jsme se zkontaktovali s Československou baptistickou konvencí prostřednictvím kazatele J. J. Sheredy z Richmondu. Konvence jsme se poprvé zúčastnili v Campbell, Ohio, v roce 1972.

První dojem: Nevěděli jsme, co očekávat. Předpokládali jsme, že konvenční setkání v Severní Americe bude podobné jako konference u nás doma, kázání, zpěvy a společný pěvecký sbor. Napsal jsem tedy kazateli Johnovi Karenkovi, který sloužil v tamním sboru, a ptal jsem se na konvenční pěvecký sbor. Nabídl jsem se, že povedu pěvecký sbor, jak jsem to dělal doma. Pochopitelně jsem napsal dopis česky, předpokládaje, že na Československé konvenci se hovoří česky a slovensky. Jaké však překvapení! Přijeli jsme do Campbell a Józsa Novak mi sdělil, že můj dopis konvenci mohl být přečten až po jeho, tedy Jozově příjezdu na schůzi, kdy jej přeložil. Zjistili jsme, že na Československé baptistické konvenci všechna kázání byla v angličtině. Až na některé biblické hodiny. Ty byly v češtině. S potěšením jsme si vyslechli kazatele Franka Brdlíka, biblickou hodinu ve vynikající češtině. Z účasti na naší první konvenci jsme byli docela nadšení a přijali jsme mnoho požehnaní.

② Co tě vedlo k aktivnímu zapojení do konvence?

Od naší první konvence v Campbell, Ohio, jsem se aktivně zapojil do práce jako dirigent pěveckého sboru, moje



manželka Marija doprovázela pěvecký sbor na píáno. Bůh mi dal talent, tak jsem ho použil ve službě našemu Pánu.

③ Jak začala tvoje spolupráce se Slavnou nadějí?

Se *Slavnou nadějí* jsem pomáhal téměř od začátku (kdy jsme přišli do USA), a později jsem vytvořil počítačovou databázi a systém štitkových adres k rozesílání *Slavné naděje*. Pomáhám všude, kde je potřeba. Jsem jakousi spojkou mezi Fairmont Printing Company a kanceláři *Slavné naděje*.

④ Vzpomínáš si na pocity, které tě provázely, když jsi byl zvolen tajemníkem?

Tajemníkem jsem byl zvolen během konvence v roce 1980 v Československém baptistickém sboru v Minitonas, v

Manitobě. Tento sbor tehdy slavil 50. výročí svého založení a přítomno bylo i několik kazatelů z bývalého Československa. Uvědomoval jsem si, že to není jednoduchý úkol, ale znalost češtiny a angličtiny pomohla. Dobré byly i mnohé kontakty s bratry a sestrami z Československa. S Boží pomocí všechno bylo možné.

⑤ Co všechno je náplní práce tajemníka?

Ne všechno, co vykonávám, jsou povinnosti tajemníka. Hlavní náplní je řídit konvenci, zajistit, aby všechno, co je potřeba udělat, bylo připraveno a uděláno včas.

Další povinností je placení účtů, objednávání potřebných materiálů, příprava zápisů na schůze, plánování a organizace schůzí, kontaktování sborů konvence i jednotlivců v případě úmrtí, příprava a tisknutí adres na obálky k odeslání dopisu předsedy třikrát za rok, udržování konvenční databázi adres, sestavování programu výroční konvence (téma, přednášející, vedení shromáždění atd.), sestavování i vytištění brožur pro hlavní výbor a pro účastníky konvence, sestavování a vytištění programu konvence a nedělního bulletinu, příprava a vytištění programu na shromáždění sester, kontaktování a udržování komunikace s předsedou konvence, kdykoliv je potřeba.

Vzhledem k tomu, že posledních 21 roků výroční konvence probíhaly na *Alderson-Broadus College*, kde jsem stále zaměstnán (na poloviční úvazek), starám se také o další věci, které nepatří do povinností tajemníka: tisknutí stravovacích lístků, zajištění zvukového systému, videokamer a fotografa, příprava kaple (hlavního sálu) pro konvenci, dojednávání

☞ Pokračování na straně 21



Časť 3

Kto verí v Syna Božieho, má svedectvo sám v sebe.“ (1J 5,10)
„Lebo od vás...sa vaša viera v Boha roznesla po celom kraji...”
 (1Tes 1,8)
„...vy ste toho svedkovia...”
 (Lk 24,47-48)

Biblia hovorí, že tí, ktorí uverili v Ježiša Krista, majú o ňom svedčiť. Súčasťou nášho misijného posolania je aj naše svedectvo. Boh nám dal životné posolstvo, aby sme ho odovzdávali ďalej. Keď si sa stal veriacim v Krista, stal si sa aj jeho poslom. Boh chce skrze teba hovoriť k svetu. Možno máš pocit, že ty nemáš čo odovzdať ľuďom okolo seba. To však nie je pravda. Máš celý rad skúseností, ktoré chce Boh použiť na to, aby si sa s nimi zdieľal s ľuďmi, aby mohli byť nimi oslovení a pritianutí ku Kristovi. Ján hovorí, že „kto verí v Syna Božieho, ten má svedectvo sám v sebe.“ (1J 5,10), a teda má čo povedať ľuďom. Možno sa pýtaš, čo znamená byť svedkom Ježiša Krista, čo všetko zahŕňa tvoje svedectvo. Tvoje posolstvo či svedectvo má štyri základné časti:

Tvoje osobné svedectvo—slová, príbeh o tvojom obrátení k Pánu Ježišovi, o tom, ako sa začal tvoj vzťah s Ježišom Kristom, ako si ho spoznal.

Tvoje životné lekcie, ktoré si sa naučil z rôznych situácií, ktorými ňu Boh previedol.

Tvoje srdcové záležitosti, ktoré ti Boh položil na srdce a na ktorých ti veľmi záleží.

Misia: Odovzdávanie životného posolstva

Th.D. Darko Kraljik



Radostná zvesť—evanjelium spase-
nia v Ježišovi Kristovi.

1. Tvoje osobné svedectvo je súčasťou tvojho posolstva. Je to tvoj osobný príbeh o tom, ako si sa stretol či stretla s Kristom, ako si v neho uveril/a, ako Kristus zmenil tvoj život. Apoštol Peter hovorí, že sme sa stali Božím svätým ľuďom, „aby sme zvestovali cnosti toho, ktorý si nás povolal z tmy, do svojho predivného svetla.“ (1P 2,9) To je podstata svedectva—jednoducho vyrozprávať ľuďom o tom, ako si kedysi bol či bola v tme hriechov a ako ňu Boh našiel svojou milosťou, ako ňu povolal z tej tmy, ako ňu vyviedol na svetlo nového života v Kristovi.

Boh očakáva, že sa podelíme so svojou osobnou skúsenosťou s Bohom. Na súde sa od svedka neočakáva, že bude argumentovať, dokazovať pravdu. To je práca právnikov. Svedok jednoducho oznámi to, čo sa stalo. Ježiš povedal: „Budete mi svedkami“—nie právnikmi. Chce teda, aby sme sa s druhými ľuďmi podelili o svoj príbeh viery.

Tvoje osobné svedectvo môže byť účinnejšie ako kázeň kazateľa, pretože kazateľa vnímajú neveriaci ako profesionálneho obchodníka, ktorý im chce predať vieru v Krista; teba prijímajú ako „spokojného zákazníka“, ktorý už túto vieru má—takže ti budú viac dôverovať.

Ľudia sa môžu stotožniť s твоjim príbehom ľahšie než z nejakými teologickými poučkami. O tie taký veľký záujem nemajú, ale sú prirodzene zvedaví na tvoje zážitky, ktoré oni sami nikdy nemali. Príbehy v tvojom osobnom svedectve budú mosty, po ktorých môže Ježiš prejsť z tvojho srdca do ich.

Osobné svedectvo je dôležité aj preto, že mnohí ľudia neuznávajú autoritu Biblie. Z Biblie možno nechcú nič počuť—radi si však vypočujú úprimný osobný príbeh. Preto apoštol Pavol, keď šírili evanjelium, pri šiestich rôznych príležitostiach v prvom kontakte s ľuďmi použil radšej osobné svedectvo, než aby citoval Písmo. (Sk 22-26)

Peter hovorí, že potrebujeme byť vždy pripravení podať osobné vysvetlenie o nádeji, ktorá je v nás. (1P 3, 15-16) Potrebujeme vedieť povedať, ako vyzeral náš život predtým, než sme spoznali Ježiša Krista; ako sme prišli na to, že potrebujeme Krista; ako sme mu zverili vo viere svoj život a prijali jeho život; ako Ježiš zmenil náš život, ako nám daroval živú nádej, ktorá siaha až za bránu smrti.

2. Tvoje životné lekcie sú súčasťou tvojho posolstva. Boh každého z nás vedie rôznymi životnými krízovými situáciami, cez ktoré nás chce naučiť niektoré životne dôležité lekcie. Chce

nám dať úžasné lekcie cez naše skúsenosti s ním. Chce, aby sme sa ich naučili a podelili sa s nimi s ostatnými ľuďmi, aby sa aj oni mohli poučiť úžasným pravdám, aby mohli vidieť Boha v akcii, vidieť jeho moc a slávu, milosrdenstvo a dobrotu... (2Kor 1,4) Môžeme sa zdieľať so svojim svedectvom o tom, čomu nás Boh naučil cez neúspech; čomu cez nedostatok peňazí; čomu cez bolesť a žiaľ; čomu cez dlhé čakanie; čomu cez chorobu; čomu cez sklamanie... Ľudia potrebujú vidieť, že Boh je živý v tvojom živote za každých okolností, v dobrom i zlom, a že je mocný zachovať svoje dieťa vo viere, ktorá sa stáva ešte silnejšia, láska ešte vrúcnejšia, nádej ešte nezlomnejšia. Sme listom Kristovým, preto sa naše svedectvo musí zhodovať s našim životom—inak nám ľudia neuveria.

3. Tvoje srdcové záležitosti sú súčasťou tvojho svedectva. Biblia hovorí, že kde je tvoje srdce, tam je tvoj poklad. Ako budeš rásť vo svojom vzťahu s Pánom, tak niektoré veci, na ktorých mu osobitne záleží, sa stanú tvojou srdcovou záležitosťou—pokladom. Boh ti dá na srdce niektorú vec alebo niektorú skupinu ľudí, aby si sa stal jej hovorcom. Dávidovi Boh položil na srdce dom Boží, preto Dávid vyznáva: „*Stravuje ma horlivosť za tvoj dom.*“ (Ž 69,10a) Jeremiášovi Boh položil na srdce kázanie, takže vyznáva: „*Niekedy si poviem, že... nebudem už kázať v jeho mene, ale tak mi je v srdci, akoby bol žeravý oheň zovretý v mojich kostiach. Namáhal som sa udržať to v sebe, ale nevládzem.*“ (Jer 20,9) Možno tebe Boh dáva na srdce prácu s deťmi, dorastom alebo mladými; alebo ťa to tiahne pracovať so skupinou starších ľudí; alebo s väzňami, bezdomovcami; alebo sú to deti z detského domova... Možno ti dal na srdce zakladanie nových zborov; prekladanie kníh; prekladanie Biblie do iných jazykov; prácu s manželskými

pármi; so slobodnými mamičkami... Boh chce použiť zaniatených ľudí na to, aby presadzoval svoje kráľovstvo v životoch ľudí. Boh nám kladie na srdce rôzne veci, aby bolo vykonané vo svete všetko, čo on chce vykonať; aby bola evanjeliom zasiahnutá každá krajina a každá skupina ľudí. Nemali by sme preto očakávať, že všetci ostatní budú alebo by mali byť zapálení pre to isté čo ty. Podobne ani ty nikdy nepodceňuj, čo Boh položil na srdce niekomu inému.



4. Radostná zvesť—evanjelium je takisto súčasťou tvojho svedectva. Zdieľanie evanjelia, teda radostnej správy o Božom diele spasenia a vykúpenia potrebuje byť takisto súčasťou tvojho svedectva. Tvoje osobné svedectvo a tvoje životné skúsenosti potrebujú byť mostom k evanjeliu spasenia v Ježišovi Kristovi. Len ono je totiž Božia moc na spasenie každého, kto verí. (Rim 1,16) Ak ľudia majú byť spasení srce vieru v Ježiša Krista, potrebujú počuť toto evanjelium o spásе v Kristovi, o pokání a odpustení hriechov v ňom. Potrebuješ preto vedieť obsah evanjelia, tak ako je zjavené v Písme; potrebuješ byť pripravený vedieť podať ho stručne a jasne

ľuďom okolo seba—že je o tom, že všetci ľudia zhrešili a stratili slávu Božiu a že odplata za hriech je smrť. (Rim 3,23; 6,23a) Zároveň aj to, že Boh tak miloval svet, že nechcel, aby človek zahynul naveky; preto poslal svojho jednorodeného Syna, Ježiša Krista, aby na kríži Golgoty zomrel za naše hriechy, aby sme veriaci v neho nezhynuli, ale mali večný život. (J 3,16)

To, čo je pri svedeckom živote najdôležitejšie, je tvoje srdce, tvoje

vnútorné presvedčenie. Ústa hovoria len to, čím je naplnené srdce. Preto tvoje srdce predovšetkým potrebuje byť zapálené Božou láskou ku Kristovi, v ňom musí horieť oheň živej viery—oheň, ktorý zapáli aj iných. Hovorí sa: „Ak nehoríš —nezapáliš.“ Tvoje misijné pole je okolo teba. Čo si ochotný urobiť pre to, aby ľudia počuli evanjelium spasenia v Ježišovi Kristovi. Nie náboženstvo, ale živé Slovo. Pozveš ich do zboru? Porozprávaš im svoj príbeh? Budeš sa denne za nich modliť? Nepremeškaj príležitosti, ktoré ti Boh dáva.¹

¹ Hlavné myšlienky čerpané: Rick Warren, Život s jasným cieľom.



The Poenarus

At the risk of a cliché...I have a dream.

I have a dream of great surgical care for children all over Africa.

...care which will be excellent medically, but above all from the heart, reflecting the Father-heart of God and offered in the name of Jesus.

...offered to all without any bias, but *especially* to the poor, the destitute, the vulnerable, the marginalized. ...offered regardless of money and charging whatever the families can reasonably afford to pay.

I have a dream of BethanyKids centres throughout Africa, little oases of love and care for children and their families in each region.

...centres where children with disabilities and illnesses will be treated with respect, and not only physical care but also true spiritual hope will be lovingly offered in a holistic model.

I have a dream of followers of Jesus working alongside one another, regardless of nation, colour or tribe, to make this dream happen.

Would you join me in this dream?

2010 will be a year of transition in many ways for our family and ministry, and as we enter it we thought it wise to remind ourselves of our mission and vision, of the path that we feel God has called us in His work. And we trust that this will also be useful to you, our dear partners and sojourners on this faith journey of many years.

PRAISE ITEMS

Tales from the horn: little Nesra is a 9-month old boy whom we first saw up in the Horn few months ago. He had a huge abdominal tumour, much too dangerous to operate in that limited-resource setting. All we could advise was for the mother to try and bring him to us in Kijabe, despite an almost certainty that she could never get a visa to come.

And yet, a couple of months ago, she appeared in Kijabe! Armed with a medical letter from us as her only piece of identification, the mother had spent 3 weeks on the road crossing dangerous countries, was arrested several times then set free again—a mother's love! What an honour it was to treat the child, and joy to see the child well again and ready to return home!

We also had the pleasure to host Roda, a dear friend from the same place, in Kijabe, and share with her our hospitality, love, and faith.

Then the next week when Dan led another SmileTrain team for cleft surgeries up to that place, they were received like family! We praise God the mission was again successful, with 60 new "smiles" left behind.

Dita's unique ministry: how would you use the official opening of a latrine as an evangelistic opportunity? As an infection control consultant with a heart for God, Dita was well equipped to do that! So when our outreach church of Ndabibi asked her to bring a message at the official opening of the beautiful latrines they had built, she spoke on "holiness in the camp" (Deut 23:14), and five persons committed their life to following Jesus Christ!



Internally displaced persons (IDPs), 2 years later: most of you may have forgotten the dark chaos that shook Kenya right after the 2007 elections—but many Kenyans still live in make-shift communities with very little means. At Christmas we had the opportunity as a family to visit the group that we had assisted with your help all these years.

We distributed a Christmas gift for each family (flour, sugar, tea, cookies, soap, toilet paper), and the boys brought pencils, notebooks, and candies to the children on the camp.

Between that trip and taking home-cooked food to the Kijabe Police station on Christmas day, it was a Christmas to remember...

BethanyKids building projects: how do you accommodate 25% yearly growth? You build, and build... This past year we opened a new "triplex" for the surgical residents, and 2010 started with the ground-breaking of a duplex/motel building for both short- and long-term medical staff. And later in the year we hope to start the BethanyKids "mega-project": an 80-bed paediatric unit!

Mike Matlak: seven years after our arrival in Kenya, Dan's prayer for another paediatric surgeon has finally been answered! Mike Matlak, a senior paediatric surgeon from the US, has



Boys and Dita distributing gifts in IDP camp

joined us for at least a year, bridging the gap until the two other surgeons are expected to come. What a blessing it is to share both the clinical load and the training responsibilities with a trustworthy colleague, after years of being alone...

FOR PRAYER

Our boys: Daniel will be graduating this July, and Chris a year later! Please pray for both of them for guidance and wisdom as they strive to find (and be accepted by) a good university back in North America.

Home assignment (furlough): it's that time again! After 3 years of only summer breaks, we are planning to take a half-year furlough from mid-July to early January. This will include getting Daniel settled into a college, finding a good place for next year for Christopher, spending time with our family, getting some long-awaited rest... and, of course, getting a chance to meet many of you and bring you up-to-date on our ministry. Details of our itinerary will come later, but do let us know if

you would like us to speak to your church or group—our desire is to share the plight and stories of Africa's sick children with as many as possible!

Many blessings in Christ,

The Poenarus—Dan, Dita, Daniel and Chris

If you would like to find out more about or contribute to our ministry please contact:

Africa Inland Mission Int'l Canada

1641 Victoria Park Avenue

Scarborough, ON M1R 1P8

The Potmas

Preaching Stations of the Czech Church of the Brethren: Past, Present, and Future

This is the title of Mark's 53-page ordination paper, which was approved on February 9 by the denominational council. Thank you for your prayers for him! As an early birthday present, Gretchen surprised Mark by translating the paper from Czech into English. If you are interested and would like to see the complete English version, just let us know and we will email it to you in .pdf format (3MB).



Mark's doctrinal interview

The purpose of Mark's paper is to present a biblical foundation for the system of preaching stations, to inform about the past, present, and future of preaching stations, and to challenge local congregations and the denomination to establish new preaching stations and encourage the growth of existing preaching stations for the glory of Jesus Christ and for the growth of His Church.

What is a preaching station? It is *a location beyond the site of the local church, guided by the elders of the mother church, where the gospel is regularly preached*. Preaching stations have been a part of the Czech Church of the Brethren since its inception in 1880.

By 1947, each local church in the denomination had an average of ten preaching stations. Preaching stations were virtually illegal under Communism, and despite religious freedom since 1989 the number of them has continued to

fall. Some have developed into autonomous local churches, while others have died out. If present trends continue, in just a few years there will be fewer preaching stations than local churches for the first time in the 130-year history of the denomination.

Today's preaching stations meet mostly in homes or in rented facilities, and range in size from 5 to 50 members. They are faced with three possibilities: a) stay in their same form, b) die out, or c) develop into the next phase.

In the Czech context, there are six distinct phases in the development of preaching stations and local churches:

1. evangelistic outreach
2. outreach station
3. preaching station
4. autonomous preaching station
5. autonomous local church
6. the cycle begins again

Sometimes this cycle takes only a few years, while others get „stuck“ in a certain phase for perhaps decades. Today the Czech Church of the Brethren (CB) has 73 churches and 82 preaching stations. Although 95% of Czech pastors like the preaching station method, only 37% of churches are willing to establish one. Even fewer are making actual plans to establish a new preaching station.

South City Church, which is one church in four locations (Háje, Skalka, Krč, and the South City college dorms), is an example of how preaching stations can be an effective method of evangelism and church planting in the current Czech context.

Home Ministry Assignment

(a.k.a. "Furlough")

Another four-year term of ministry is coming to an end, and we have already begun planning our schedule for our upcoming home ministry assignment from **July 2010 until July 2011**. Once again, we will be based in Windsor, Ontario with visits to the Minneapolis area in August, October, December, March and June. We are looking forward to sharing in person what God has been doing in Prague over the past four years and thanking you for your part in His work.

Ruby Mikulencak

So far 2010 has been full of meetings! I have attended a num-



ber of meetings and conferences that have kept me very busy. It started out with the annual pastors' and leaders' conference of the Bible Church of Africa; SIM Ghana partners with this church. The theme of the conference was United for Effective Ministry. The talks on unity were excellent and seem to have set the tone for the year. Our mandate as a church and mission is unity, which is based on Philippians 2:1-4.

We began by looking at all the differences that we have. We do not always see things the same way. With these differences, it is amazing that we even talk to each other! Yet despite our differences, Philippians 2:1-2 gives four reasons we can unite and work together. Join us in prayer for the unity of the body of Christ.

This conference was followed by a meeting between the Bible Church of Africa and SIM Ghana, to discuss our relationship. There is always room for miscommunication and misunderstanding in a cross-cultural setting. Often it is because of certain assumptions we make about each other.

We looked at how wrong assumptions lead to questioning motives, which can lead to wrong conclusions. Wrong assumptions can lead to wrong questions that lead to wrong answers. It is wrong to assume! Assumptions result in our making an explanation based on what we assumed.

Wrong assumptions are made because the 'why' is asked to the wrong person. Attribution of motive is a very powerful thing and can be destructive because we then treat people based on those motives. At the end of our time together, we resolved to direct all questions, especially "why" questions, to the right person. We decided not to assume and attribute motive. We also resolved to put value on each other's ministry. It is our desire that we will remain united by not assuming or putting expectations on each other that cause division.

The third conference I attended was a multicultural training workshop. With the mission scene changing so rapidly in the 21st century, missions are finding themselves more and more diverse. No longer are missions only Westerners; now missionaries are coming from many different cultures and countries. With all these people coming from different cultures to serve together, there is the potential for misunderstandings.

We all come with a preferred way of viewing life and handling situations from our own cultural understanding. You can imagine some of the stress and tensions that arise when we are not sensitive to each other. The multicultural teams training workshop is an attempt to help us listen to each other as each person talks about an issue from his or her own cultural perspective. This helps us to understand each other better and work together better. There were 20 participants who gathered for a wonderful time of sharing and listening to each other's cultural perspectives. We believe our time together has given us a greater understanding and acceptance of each other. It is our prayer that we will learn to work in unity and harmony despite our many differences.

In March I had the privilege of traveling to Kenya to help SIM Kenya do their CR (country review). A CR is basically an evaluation of the ministries of SIM in a country to see if they are heading in the direction God has planned for them. There were six of us who worked together interviewing almost 150 people. From those interviews we made recommendations to SIM Kenya on the way forward.

I am grateful for the opportunity to visit Kenya because doing this CR has helped me to understand better the whole process of a country review and how it works. It also has stimulated my thinking to go over our own Ghana CR and developing more the strategic plan that we have developed for SIM Ghana.

One of the many recommendations we made, which was applicable to Ghana, had to do with youth ministries. One of the things we discovered was that the youth in Kenya are almost forgotten, unreached people. It appears that parents are so busy providing things for their children that they do not spend much one-to-one time with them. The parents are thinking their children are getting proper teaching in the schools or at church, just

as they did. This is resulting in young people being disillusioned with church and with Christianity. There are large numbers of idle youth who have no jobs and no secondary schools to attend, who are susceptible to drugs, crime, prostitution and other evil vices. For Ghana it reminded me again that youth ministries need to be a priority. Please pray for us as we look at ways to establish a more effective ministry for youth.

In May my second five-year term as director came to an end. I had hoped to step down and allow a younger person to take over. However at the recent SIM Ghana Council, I was asked to stay on for another 18 months to two years. During this time a search for a new SIM Ghana director will be done. Please join us in prayer for God's person to take over this important task of leadership for SIM Ghana.

As far as the future goes for me, as the Lord led me to Africa over 35 years ago, so it seems that once a new director is in place God is calling me back to the States. I do not know what I will be doing but am looking for guidance and direction from the Lord concerning my next assignment. I appreciate your prayers as I work through transitioning from Africa back to the US and as I seek the Lord's leading and guiding for the future.

I know many of you will soon be heading to the Convention in Philippi. I will miss the gathering this year but will be there in thought and spirit and of course in prayer.

SIM Ghana Director *Ruby Mikulencak*

SIM (Serving in Mission) is a community of God's people who delight in worshiping him and are passionate about the Gospel, seeking to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.

SIM Ghana is related to SIM International, an international, interdenominational evangelical Christian mission organization. The purpose of SIM Ghana is to bring glory to God through Kingdom ministry in partnership with Ghanaian believers and others.

Dr. Lotz to receive BWA Human Rights Award

Denton Lotz, former general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), will receive the BWA Human Rights Award during the Baptist World Congress in Honolulu, Hawaii, from July 28 to August 1, 2010.



Lotz, who was BWA general secretary from 1988 to 2007, led the international Baptist organization in some of its groundbreaking actions and decisions on racism, religious freedom, and other

issues of human rights.

It was under Lotz's leadership that the BWA emphasized its observation of Human Rights Day in December of each year, as well as the inauguration of an annual Human Rights Award to a Baptist who has made a significant contribution in advancing human rights in his or her life, work and ministry.

The move to create the Division of Freedom and Justice (F&J) started under Lotz's tenure several years before it was brought into being. The division was formally inaugurated on September 1, 2008, following on a decision of the BWA General Council in Prague, Czech Republic, in July of that year. The F&J division addresses issues of human rights and religious

☞ Continues on page 19

From the Executive Secretary



Theme for 101st Convention:
The Call God has Sent Us

Thursday, July 8 — *To Serve Faithfully and Wait Patiently* (I Thessalonians 1:9–10)

Friday, July 9 — *To Assume a Fresh Identity with the Lord* (Romans 1:1,5–7)

Saturday, July 10 — *To Use Personal Strengths and Gifts to God's Glory* (I Peter 4:10)

Sunday, July 11 — *To Final Victory Alongside God* (Revelation 17:14)

- Check the convention web page for pictures from 2009 Centennial Czechoslovak Baptist Convention www.czskbc.org.
- 101 Annual Convention is planned for July 8–11, 2010 in Philippi, West Virginia.
- 102 Annual Convention is planned for July 7–10, 2011 in Philippi, West Virginia.

Good News!

Because of great generosity, Alderson-Broadus College will again give our Convention a gift of reduced housing charges if we occupy at least 160 beds. The

charges are as follows: Benedum \$12.00/person/bed, Kincaid and Priestley \$15.00/person/bed. So use this discount and COME!

We are very thankful to Alderson-Broadus College for this generous gift.

Information About Accommodations During 101st Convention

There are three dormitories on the campus of Alderson-Broadus College: Kincaid and Priestley are air-conditioned; Benedum is not air-conditioned.

Kincaid has suites with three bedrooms, one bathroom, and one living room. The building has three floors.

Priestley has suites with four bedrooms, one bathroom, and one smaller lobby. The building has three floors.

Benedum has individual bedrooms and on each floor there is one men's and one women's larger common bathroom.

Priestley and Benedum are located closer to the dining room and chapel. Kincaid is a little farther.

Bring your own linens, blankets and pillows. Don't forget a swimming suit.

Additional information can be found on the enclosed registration form.

George Sommer

□

Editorial... Continues from page 2

us human beings to do much good, benefiting others. But we also have the tendency to take advantage of a situation, even exploiting it in our own interests. That is why such emphasis is placed upon the need for Christians to discern the fruits apparent in their lives. Each person produces their own personal fruit in their own unique way. Fruit without a practical use loses its flavour and may lead to deterioration. In this issue of *Glorious Hope* we are giving you the opportunity to meet certain individuals whose fruit is not unknown to us. They are some of those who stand at the forefront of our Convention, as well as those who are involved in mission work that our Convention supports.

In conclusion I would like to encourage all of you readers to write and share some of your experiences of people that have in their lives the fruit that Paul writes about in Galatians 5:22. You will find our address in the imprint on the second page.

Editor-in-Chief *Natasha Laurinc*
Translated by *Elizabeth J. Fields*

□

Where Is My Glorious Hope?

The other day (May 28), while I was in Florida, I received a phone call asking what had happened to the last issue of *Glorious Hope*. The person mentioned that his friend in Canada had received the magazine a few weeks earlier. (The Canadian mailing does not have to be sorted and is airmailed.)

Well, let me explain the situation, since I am the one who distributes our magazine. We sorted, packed and delivered the magazines to the post office on Friday, May 7, 2010. Monday someone from the post office phoned to tell me that they now have new procedures for mailing periodicals and that according to those procedures, the entire mailing now has to be sorted differently. Post office personnel told me they would do it. But as I found out on May 28, they did not do it. I asked my friend in Philippi to re-sort the magazines and deliver them back to the post office, and then our *Glorious Hope* went out to be delivered to you.

And now you know where your issue of *Glorious Hope* was sitting (or lying?), waiting to be delivered.

George Sommer □

George Gregor is 90



George Gregor was born May 6, 1920, on his parents' farm in Hatch Hollow, near Union City, Pennsylvania. He had three brothers and five sisters. His parents and four siblings were born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. His father was the first to come to the United States. He worked four years in the coal mines in

St. Claire, PA, before returning home to bring his family to the United States.

They settled in Pittsburgh, PA, where his father worked in a coal mine. After leaving Pittsburgh the family settled on a dairy farm his father bought in Hatch Hollow. It was on that farm that George was born. George's father and uncle started the Hatch Hollow Baptist Church in their family home.

After meeting for church services in the living room of their home for several years, the people bought a small Methodist church in Hatch Hollow. In 1928 it became the Hatch Hollow Baptist Church.

George remained in Hatch Hollow throughout his life, running the family dairy farm. He married Alice Packo and they had two daughters, Barbara and Patricia. Alice and George were married for 64 years. Alice went to be with her Lord in September 2006.



Today George lives with his daughter and son-in-law in Hatch Hollow. He has three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

George gave his life to the Lord in 1936. He was baptized by Rev. Michael Hibben of Campbell, Ohio.

Today he faithfully serves his Lord. He is a deacon and active in the Hatch Hollow Baptist Church and has served as the US treasurer for the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention since 1995.

☞ Continues on page 17

Henry Pojman—60

One of the Faithful



The Moldau River runs through Prague, capital city of the Czech Republic. It heads north and eventually flows into the mighty Elbe River. Sixty kilometres outside of Prague the Elbe lowlands give way to the Bohemian highlands. A landmark among them is the hill Lovos. At the foot of

this hill is a tiny village called Oparno, so named after a fourteenth century castle, Oparen. The village of Oparno is the entry gate to the Oparenske Valley, through which runs a favoured tourist route. Exiled Czechs from Volyn, a province in the Ukraine, also settled in Oparno after the Second World War.

Henry Pojman was born to a Christian family in the village of Oparno on April 16, 1950. Through her living example of the faith-walk, Henry's mother was a key figure in the spiritual development of Henry and his two sisters. Henry accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour in his youth, and later decided to take some part-time theological studies. This enabled him to engage in serving by preaching the Word, whenever the need arose. He immigrated to Toronto with his family (his wife Helen and three children, Vlastimil, Helen and Kamila) in the year 1988, and immediately became active in the Czechoslovak Baptist Church.

Alongside this work, he also applied his craftsmanship and expertise, not only in the church building itself, but also in the houses of members, especially those newly arrived in Canada. Within the Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Toronto, he was a member of the choir, a Sunday school teacher, the treasurer and one of a few maintenance men who volunteered their Saturdays to do minor repairs on the church building. For a number of years he has also been the Canadian financial secretary of our Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada. Henry and his wife Helen together create a good team serving in God's vineyard. Everyone who has participated in the Convention within the past twenty years gladly and gratefully remembers Helen, who took care of their registrations and all their problems with a smile.

We are grateful for these faithful servants of God and wish Henry God's blessing, health and strength, on this his sixtieth birthday.

Translated by *Elizabeth J. Fields*



Jindřich Pojman—60

Jeden z věrných

Hlavním městem České republiky, Prahou, proudí řeka Vltava. Ubírá se na sever a posléze její vody splývají s mohutnější řekou Labe. Šedesát kilometrů od Prahy přechází Polabská nížina do Českého středohoří. Jako mezník mezi nimi je vrch Lovoš.

Na jeho úpatí se tulí malá vesnička Opárno, pojmenovaná po hradě Opáren ze 14. století. Opárno je vstupní branou do Opárenského údolí, kterým vede oblíbená turistická cesta.

I v Opárně se po 2. světové válce usadili exulanti, Češi z Volyně.

Jindřich Pojman se narodil 16. dubna 1950 v Opárně, ve věřící rodině. Zvláště matka svým příkladným životem víry formovala duchovní vývoj Jindřicha a jeho dvou sester. Jindřich přijal Pána Ježíše Krista jako svého osobního Spasitele hned v mladosti. Později se rozhodl ke studiu dálkového teologického semináře. To mu umožnilo zapojit se i do služby slovem, kdykoliv bylo potřeba. Do Toronta přišel se svou rodinou (s manželkou Helenou a dětmi Vlastimilem, Helenou a Kamilou) v roce 1988



a hned se aktivně zapojil do práce v Československém sboru baptistů. Kromě toho uplatnil svou řemeslnickou zručnost a odbornost jak v budově kostela, tak i v mnohých domácnostech, zvláště nově příchozích do Kanady.

Na půdě Československého torontského sboru působil jako člen pěveckého sboru, učitel nedělní školy a pokladník a jeden z údržbářů (mnoho volných sobot věnoval drobným údržbářským pracím v kostele). V současné době je již několik let pokladníkem Československé baptistické konvence v Kanadě. Spolu se svou manželkou Helenou tvoří dobrý tým ve službě na vinici Boží. Všichni účastníci konvence v uplynulých 20 letech jistě s vděčností a rádi vzpomínají na usměvavou Helen při registraci, která vždy vyřešila každý problém ke společnému blahu zúčastněných.

Jsme vděční za věrné služebníky na Božím díle a Jindřichovi přejeme k šedesátinám hojnost Božího požehnání, zdraví a sil.

Za redakci šéfredaktorka *Nataša Laurincová*

□

The Mission Today... Continues from page 7

I will continue to pray for the entire Convention. God has given me strength to do the work of the executive secretary for the past 30 years, and I know He will bless the next person in this position. Please pray for God's leading and the future of the Convention. I humbly say, as Paul said in



2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (RSV)

May God be with you and bless you all the days of your life.

Finishing His work,

George Sommer

□

George Gregor... Continues from page 16

On the celebration of his 90th birthday, the Hatch Hollow Baptist Church named its newly remodeled fellowship hall "The Gregor Hall."

God surely has blessed George in his lifetime, and George surely is a blessing to all those who know him. We wish George a happy birthday, with hopes of many more.

Patty (Gregor) Yost, Daughter

□

MOVING ?

Please write to:

Glorious Hope

Rt.4, Box 58D

Philippi, WV 26416 USA

or send email to: george.sommer@ab.edu.

Include your mailing label from a recent issue of **Glorious Hope** for faster service.



Esther June Widlicka

January 15, 1922–April 24, 2010



Esther Widlicka was born January 15, 1922, the youngest daughter of Bessie and Charles Bohatec, in Chicago, Illinois. Her father was a pastor and zealous for God. She joined sisters Bess and Ruth and brother Edward. She always said she felt pressure as a young girl to be good because she was a “PK” (pastor’s kid), but she said she was

a rebel with an independent spirit. At age 9, though, she suddenly realized she had to get serious about Jesus and asked Him into her heart in Sunday school, and she was baptized in 1932.

Her family moved nine times when she was a child. She took streetcars by herself and she always said God protected her in those dark passageways and that she had a guardian angel. Her childhood was a happy one; she loved school and was a good student, working very hard at everything she did. She saved her report cards! She loved music and played the piano and mandolin. She also enjoyed sports and participated in baseball, tennis, swimming and ice skating.

She said she failed Jesus many times, especially in her teen years, but Jesus was there to accept her repentance. He was her perfect example. She said He loved her even before she loved Him, and took her punishment that she said she deserved when He bore her sins on Calvary’s cross. She said, what a Savior, what joy to be His child and friend!

Mom moved to Cleveland on June 13, 1938, and married William Widlicka on June 27, 1942. She raised her family, sons William, David and Bruce, and daughter Dawn. She was a working mother; employers included Simplex Products, Grossman Music, Hershey Chocolate, and Metropolitan Life Insurance. She attended Scranton Road Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, and then she and Dad helped plant Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Parma, Ohio. She worked very hard there through many ups and downs, but always had the love of Jesus and made many lifelong friends.

She served in many ministries, including The Cleveland City Mission Women’s Auxiliary, Scranton Road Baptist Ambassadors for Christ, Pleasant Valley Baptist Laborers of Love, Czechoslovak Convention, Parma Heights Baptist LIFT and Autumn Fellowship. She taught Sunday school most of her life. She was a cake decorator, quilter, and gardener.

Our home was always open to out-of-town missionaries, speakers, guests of the church, and newcomers. Many Sun-

days our dinner was shared with these folks, and we heard many new ideas and ways of life, all focused on the spreading of the Christian faith. She always encouraged young ladies and young mothers in church and our neighborhood to take advantage of all opportunities for their children and to trust the Lord Jesus Christ for guidance.

She and Dad loved to travel after their retirement, visiting Florida, Wisconsin, the Old West, Nova Scotia and Cape Cod. She also loved taking care of her yard and garden. She had an awesome flower garden and vegetable garden. Her grandchildren loved to play and help grandma around the yard. Once the house and yard in Parma, Ohio, became too much to care for, she and Dad moved to a nice little con-

dominium in Broadview Heights, Ohio, with a lake view. She enjoyed watching the birds, geese and sunsets while sitting on her patio.

Her life slowed down when Dad got sick and for 10 months she cared for him almost daily at Mt. Alverna Nursing Home. She was a witness for true love in her patience and care.

After Dad passed away, her own medical problems came more to light and her strength dwindled. Her

faith became sight on April 24, 2010, when she went to meet Dad in Heaven on his birthday.

Lovingly submitted,

Dawn Widlicka Hughes (Daughter)

Obituary

Esther J. Widlicka, age 88, of Broadview Heights . Beloved wife of the late William G. Widlicka for 67 years; devoted mother of Bill (Connie), Dave (Annette), Bruce, and Dawn Hughes (Mike); loving grandmother of Cindy Gray (Bill), David, John (Denise), Daniel (Gwynne), Richard (Danielle) and Michael; great-grandmother of Andrew, Mariah, Julia, Avery, Parker and Kane, dear sister of Bessie Gabor and Ruth Oestreicher and Brother Edward (deceased). Went to be with the Lord on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Memorials may be forwarded to the Cleveland City Mission, 5310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44103-4360. Funeral service at Parma Heights Baptist Church, 8971 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma Heights, OH 44130-4122, on Saturday, May 1, 2010, at 11:00am. Interment at Brooklyn Heights Cemetery.

□

Never Give Up

Deb Mulder

He has given us his very great and precious promises....” (2 Peter 1:4)

I have a wonderful little New Testament that I take with me when I travel because it's compact. It also has a wonderful feature, and that is that all of God's promises are underlined! Anytime that I want encouragement, I simply open the Bible, look for an underlined passage, and read and meditate upon those words! It sounds ideal, doesn't it? A book with all the answers already underlined—they're right there in front of my eyes and, ideally, I just reap the benefits of one promise being fulfilled after another. My life should consistently be filled with comfort, courage, faithfulness, peace, success, trust.... So why am I not seeing more of God's promises fulfilled in my life? Why do I get discouraged and want to quit? I suspect that it's because I am totally disregarding the whole process through which God is leading me. I just want the end result – the promise fulfilled—and I'm forgetting the valuable lessons through which He is leading me, molding me, forming me and sometimes breaking me. In order to succeed, we must be willing to hang on, even when others are letting go. We are so used to instant gratification—"I want it NOW"—and when that doesn't happen, we let go. We let go of jobs, marriages, families.... But there's a process through which we must go, and the process produces endurance.

Through the movie *Amazing Grace*, many of us became acquainted with William Wilberforce for the first time. It wasn't a name with which I was familiar, but his story has so impacted me and encouraged me that his name is now etched on my mind. For many years, William Wilberforce pushed the English



Parliament to abolish the slave trade, without success. When his friend, John Wesley, heard this, from his deathbed he wrote these words: "Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and of devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them stronger than God? O be not weary in well doing! Go on, in the name of God and in the power of His might, till even American slavery shall vanish away before it." Wesley died six days later

and Wilberforce fought for 42 more years! It wasn't until 3 years before his death that slavery was abolished in Britain. In Galatians 6:9 we read: *"...in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."* What have I learned from this story – to hang in there because God has a wonderful, perfect plan for me, but it is in HIS time.

"...the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength...The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom...." (2 Timothy 4:17-18)

I would like to extend to you all an invitation to our 101st Convention. Please come and be refreshed and encouraged in the fellowship of sisters and brothers from around North America. There is something so special about meeting with members of God's family, and when the family shares a common background, the meeting is even sweeter. Be assured that you will have many God experiences while we are together in this beautiful and serene setting. Maybe the Lord is tapping you on the shoulder, asking you to come to the convention this year. Please join us!

□

Lotz to receive... Continues from page 14

freedom, and coordinates the relationship between the BWA and the United Nations, where the BWA holds membership in several UN agencies.

Lotz has also served as president of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA). In 2009, he received the International Religious Freedom Award from the IRLA and Liberty magazine for making religious freedom a major focus of his ministry as a church leader and church statesman.

Approximately 10,000 Baptists from more than 100 countries are expected to attend the 20th Baptist World Congress at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu where the award will be presented to Lotz.

□

Reflections of Haiti... Continues from page 20

a resilient people with a strong faith in the Lord that helps them to endure the pain and sorrow.

I've come back from my experience in Haiti with a renewed sense of how rich and blessed we truly are here in Canada. There are many things I take for granted; we live in such wealth and luxury when compared to so many other places in the world. Even when I came back home and as I slept on a mattress with warm sheets, used a flushable toilet and ate a variety of foods, my mind flashed back to scenes and images from Haiti where many lack such basic items.

The Lord is faithful! There is still much work to be done... we must continue to keep Haiti in our prayers!

□

Reflections of Haiti by Michelle Fernandes (Sury)



Psalm 46
*God is our refuge and strength,
 an ever-present help in trouble.
 Therefore we will not fear, though the
 earth give way and the mountains fall
 into the heart of the sea, though its
 waters roar and foam and the moun-
 tains quake with their surging. There
 is a river whose streams make glad the
 city of God, the holy place where the*

Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

We were all shocked by the realities of what happened on Tuesday, January 12, and so many of us here in Canada (and across the world) felt the suffering of the Haitian people as we saw images from the media depicting the devastation and loss. It was while my husband, Dave, and I were watching a T.V. documentary a couple of days later that we both sensed we needed to do something more to help. Dave had gone to Haiti a few years ago and the country was already impoverished and desperate for much-needed supplies at that time. The earthquake had immensely escalated the problem. We decided to join a medical team from Emmanuel International, which was the same organization my husband had gone with previously. On Thursday, January 28, just over three weeks after the earthquake hit, a group of 15 team members, comprised of doctors, nurses and non-medical individuals, left their comfortable homes in Canada and the USA to travel to Haiti for a period of 10 days.

The journey to reach the capital was an experience in itself. It took us almost two days to arrive in Port-au-Prince, taking three aircraft and a 12-hour bumpy van ride from Cap-Haïtien to the southern part of the country. We brought around 1,000 pounds of medical aid with us from North America and upon

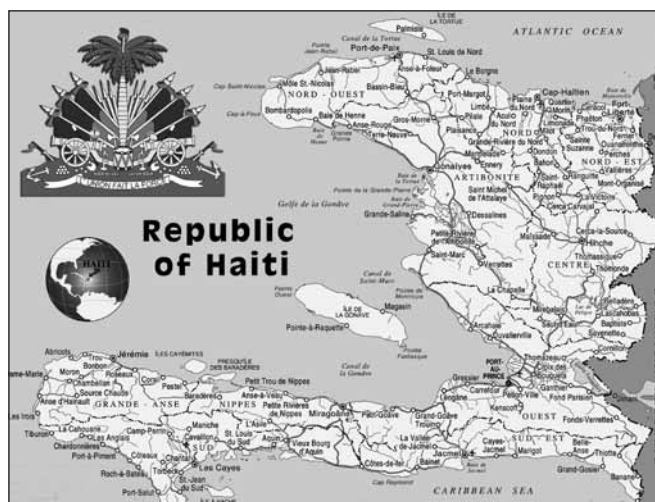
arriving in Haiti, we prepared the medicines and supplies for use and distribution. Over the four days of clinics, we saw and treated about 800 patients. Each person on the team had different roles. I was part of the triage team—registering patients, assessing needs, taking blood pressure and temperature checks, and trying to communicate with the people in my basic French. They were then sent and treated by the doctors and nurses with a stop at the pharmacy afterwards for their prescribed medications.

Everyone we talked to was affected in some way; either through the loss of family members or friends, or personally through physical or psychological effects. The latter seemed to occur quite frequently, since wounds had already healed but people were experiencing longer-lasting effects: insomnia, nightmares, anxiety, fear and stress. The people were also affected through the loss of work or school environments, as many universities, hospitals and schools had collapsed into heaps of rubble. I have to admit that

the first sights of the situation were truly shocking. I was thinking to myself that this resembled a movie-set—it didn't seem this could be actual reality. After seeing the collapsed buildings and the UN trucks, smelling the foul air, tasting the dust on my tongue and hearing the military helicopters overhead drowning out the sounds of dogs barking, roosters crowing, babies crying, I realized this was like living in a war zone. Many people were living

in tents (if they were fortunate enough) or in makeshift tents (which consisted of sticks and sheets). There was not just one tent city but several tent cities throughout the capital, as people were scrambling for shelter anywhere they could. Myself, another teacher and a day-care worker from the team shared many ideas and plans on how to interact with the children, but there were only a couple of moments when we did sing some action songs, give out stickers and distribute some school items for the kids to use and play with.

At the same time, with all this tragedy around, we got a sense of hope in this dire situation. We could see the people moving forward with their lives, trying to persevere and survive the effects of this catastrophe. They are



accommodations, Erickson Alumni Center accommodations, downtown motel accommodations, preparing and printing registration forms, ordering all supplies, including for communion, printing themes and other posters, coordinating evening programs (speaker, worship and song leader, offerings), meeting before the service, and looking after the database and spreadsheet. The last few years I've had major help from Darko Siracki, from Windsor, Ontario. He and many others are my right hand in smoothly running the annual conventions, and I am very grateful for this help.

6 *What is the hardest task of the executive secretary?*

One of the most difficult tasks was to obtain US Government non-profit status for our Convention. An ongoing challenge is to secure all speakers, worship leaders, Bible study teachers, etc.

7 *Did you have any resolutions which you didn't achieve?*

To keep the Convention growing—that each year more and more people would come to Philippi for the Convention. Also, my health was becoming more of a problem in doing a better job as executive secretary.

And now as I retire after this annual Convention, I pray that this Convention will continue to spread the gospel through financial help, not only in the Czech and Slovak Republics but throughout the world.

8 *Would you do anything differently today?*

This is not an easy question. Times have changed drastically since 1980, and work priorities have shifted in many different directions.

9 *When you look back—what do you remember best?*

In the mid-nineties we arranged with Alderson-Broadbush College for Rev. Robert Mobley to receive an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. When I brought the letter from the president of the College to Robert to read, he broke down in tears. He was so touched.

10 *What would you like to wish for the Convention and Glorious Hope in the future?*

My wish is that the Convention will go on stronger than ever. When we consider that now we have a third and fourth generation of Czechs and Slovaks (and others members are English-speaking only), many really do not have too much interest in our heritage. It is very difficult to keep an interest in our Convention. The same goes for Glorious Hope. I wish that more young people would get involved in the Convention. Every year we try to secure excellent speakers and leaders to participate in the program, and our prayer is that the Convention will continue to be a place where we can meet, have fellowship (obecenství) and serve our brothers and sisters in the “old” country the best that we can. May we never get tired of doing the hard work. This is my wish and prayer. May God bless you in all your hard work as the editor of *Glorious Hope*.



cen za jednotlivá jídla, ubytování na kolejích, ubytování v Erickson Alumni Center (univerzitní motel), ubytování v motelu v centru města, příprava a tisk přihlášek na konvenci, objednání všech potřebných věcí, včetně večeře Páně, tištění nápisů a plakátů, koordinace večerních programů (řečníci, vedoucí bohoslužeb a zpěvu, sbírky), setkání sloužících před shromážděním a dohlížení na databázi a spreadsheet. V posledních několika letech jsem měl hlavní pomoc v Darkovi Sirackim z Windsoru, z Ontaria. Při hladkém průběhu výroční konvence je mi on a mnoho dalších pravou rukou, a jsem za tuto pomoc velmi vděčný.

6 *Co pokládáš za nejobtížnější v této funkci?*

Jedním z nejtěžších úkolů bylo vyřídit u vlády US neziskovou evidenci naší konvence. Trvalým nelehkým úkolem je zajistit všechny řečníky, vedení pro jednotlivá shromáždění, učitele k biblickým rozborům a pod.

7 *Měl jsi nějaké předsevzetí, které se ti nepodařilo splnit?*

Aby konvence rostla—aby každým rokem více lidí přijíždělo na konvenci ve Philippi. Rovněž můj zdravotní stav mi stále více bránil v tom, abych se lépe zhostil povolání tajemníka.

A nyní, když po této výroční konvenci odcházím do důchodu, modlím se, aby konvence pokračovala v šíření evangelia skrze finanční pomoci nejen v České a Slovenské republice, ale v celosvětovém měřítku.

8 *Udělal bys dnes něco jinak?*

Toto není snadná otázka. Doba se od roku 1980 drasticky změnila a priority v práci se přesunuly mnoha různými směry.

9 *Při pohledu zpět—máš nějakou vzpomínku, nejlepší zážitek?*

V polovině devadesátých let jsme vyřídili s Alderson-Broadbush College, aby byl předsedovi konvence Robertu Moebleymu udělen čestný doktorát bohosloví. Když jsem Robertovi přečetl dopis od ředitele university, rozplakal se. Byl velmi dojat.

10 *Tvé přání do budoucnosti – pro konvenci, pro Slavnou naději.*

Přeji si, aby konvence byla mohutnější, než kdy byla. Uvědomíme-li si, že nyní máme třetí a čtvrtou generaci Čechů a Slováků (a dalších členů hovořících pouze anglicky), neseťkáváme se s moc velkým zájmem o naše tradice. Je velmi obtížné udržet zájem o naši konvenci. Totéž se týká *Slavné naděje*. Přál bych si, aby se více mladých lidí zapojilo do práce konvence. Každým rokem se snažíme zajistit vynikající řečníky a vedení programu a modlíme se, aby konvence pokračovala a byla místem, kde se můžeme setkávat v obecenství a sloužit našim bratřím a sestrám ve stare vlasti nejlépe, jak můžeme. Kéž nás nikdy neunaví těžká práce. Je to mé přání i modlitba.

Bůh žehnej náročné práci redakci *Slavné naděje*.



Toward the end of the New Testament, the apostle John wrote this important remark (1 John 5:12): "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son does not have life." It is clear from the next verse that he was making reference to eternal life, but on the other hand eternal life is a projection ahead from the reality of life as we have it now. Anybody who "has" the Son has this great, powerful gift of God we call eternal life from this point onward. John does not say we will later get the treasure, when we are done with this life. Eternal life has started for whoever "has" the Son in the living of life on earth.

In the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention we have always wanted to make sure that the gospel gets a far and wide hearing in order that no one might miss heaven's bounty. But I don't believe we are in a "fire insurance" mode. We want folk to receive the blessing of God on their lives from the first moment of faith. This is what is meant by "coming alive in Christ." How one views the world changes, as do all relationships within this world. It means walking with Christ and taking his paths through everything we must experience – the good and the bad, for ever so long as we



have life and breath. It is enrichment and newness of life, even after all the questionable record one has previously accumulated. And that in turn means prospects for an optimistic, hopeful, happy (even fun) outlook on whatever length of days may be given us here.

Whenever we gather as a convention community (and it happens annually in July), this is our kind of commonly shared spirit. I think we "have" Christ with us and the love of God that surrounds all things that we do together. So we talk, plan, eat, and work well. We try to listen for the Lord's direction and then ask one another, Are we are on the right track?

When the people of God come together in common mind, each bearing the life that comes from deep relationship with the Son of whom John spoke in his first letter, we can expect all the right dynamics to surround us – motivations, energies, and cheerfulness of the Holy Spirit in real abundance to keep us going with the mission of our convention.

Robert Dvorak

□

Editorial... Pokračování ze strany 2

praktického využití ztrácí chuť a může dojít i k jeho znehodnocení.

V tomto čísle *Slavné naděje* nabízíme setkání s některými, jejichž ovoce nám není neznámé. Jsou to někteří z těch, kteří stojí v popředí naší Konvence, ale také misijní pracovníci, které naše Konvence podporuje.

Závěrem chci všechny čtenáře povzbudit: Piště nám o vašich setkáních s těmi, kteří nesou ovoce, o kterém hovoří apoštol Pavel v listu ke Galatským, 5; 22. Adresu redakce najdete v tiráži, na druhé straně časopisu.

šéfredaktorka *Nataša Laurincová*

□

Donations

All donation should be send **in enclosed envelope**.

The checks will be delivered to right financial secretaries (Vera Dors, Henry Pojman, Marija Sommer or Donna Nesvadba).

• **Gifts for Ladies' work**—make check payable to **Czechoslovak Baptist Women's Missionary Union**.

• **Gifts for Convention**—make check payable to **Czechoslovak Baptist Convention**. On the bottom of the check mark to what account you are sending your contribution: Convention, *Glorious Hope*, Trust Fund, or Scholarship Fund.

☞ You may send separate check (one for Ladies and one for Convention accounts) in the same envelope.

☞ If you are sending contributions for **Convention** (Convention, *Glorious Hope* etc.), you may send only one check, and write on the bottom how you want to divide the amount (for example: Total \$150; \$100 Convention, \$50 *Glorious Hope* etc.). You do not have to send two separate checks.

For your information, financial secretaries' addresses are as follows:

USA:

Vera Dors
6621 Elmdale Rd.
Middleburg Hts, OH, 44130

Canada:

Henry Pojman
1305 Inglehart Dr
Burlington, ON L7M 4X6



Attention!! Calling all kids!

The time has come yet again for our annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, and this is YOUR official invitation to join the festivities!

Who: YOU! (any kids in elementary grades)

What: The 101st Czechoslovak Baptist Convention

Where: Philippi, WV

When: July 8th-11th

R.S.V.P: Feel free to contact Miss

Pickles (Kristina Vlastic) @

vlastic@marshall.edu to let her know you're coming!

****** Be prepared for a weekend of fun! We will be using our detective skills to uncover the awesome promises God has made His children... US! As of now, the plans include outdoor picnics and outdoor lessons, dramas, treasure hunts, searching for clues, music, and so much more! You don't want to miss out on any of the fun, so make sure you register soon!!**

I can't wait to see you!



The true vine

In a vineyard, the vine gives life to the branches, which, in turn, produce the grapes. Follow the puzzle directions below to learn about our special relationship with Jesus, our true vine.

Directions: Circle every other letter and then write them in order on the lines below.

START → ① b a s m L t r h g e c v d i e n f e g y h o i u j a K r

a y f F l i s s e u h t c T n s a R r q b p e o h n t M e l

w m x a y n Z r a e A m b a C i d n e s F i f n m m n e o a

e c b a l l i r i q w f e o h b m m i l h k n j l l i d Q n P

d a e r f m g u h c C h d f D r E u e i j t

-1- _____ ; _____

_____ ; _____

_____ ; _____

_____ ; _____

apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5, NIV

Answer: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit."

101th Convention—Youth and Children Program

As in previous years we are preparing youth and children's programs for every morning of the convention as well a trip to Blackwaterfalls Canyon.

The youth speaker this year will be Jon Viller, who is the Pastor of Philippi Baptist Church.

Friday evening after the service, the youth will be hosting our "movie night at the convention".

The feature movie is "Facing Giants".

You can view the official trailer:

<http://www.facingthegiants.com/mediaplayer/player.php>


For more information on the movie please visit the official website at:

<http://www.facingthegiants.com>

We hope you all can make it out and spend an awesome weekend with all of us!

In Christ Darko Siracki





**Spievajte Hospodinovi novú pieseň,
spievaj Hospodinovi, celá zem!
Spievajte Hospodinovi,
dobrorečte Jeho menu,
zvestujte Jeho spásu deň čo deň!
O Jeho sláve rozprávajte
medzi pohanmi,
o Jeho divných skutkoch
medzi všetkými národmi!
(Žalm 96,1-3, evanjelický preklad)**

**Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.**

(Psalm 96,1-3, NIV)

**Zpívejte Hospodinu novou píseň,
zpívej Hospodinu, celá zem!
Zpívejte Hospodinu, jeho jméno
chvalte,
jeho spásu zvěstujte den co den.
O jeho slávě národům vyprávějte,
o jeho divcech řekněte lidem všem!**

(Žalm 96,1-3, NBK)