

Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

Very truly I tell you,
whoever hears my word
and believes him who sent me
has eternal life and will not be judged
but has crossed over from death to life. (John 5:24)

Vol. 44, N° 1, March 2018

Ročník 44, číslo 1, březen 2018

Amen, amen, říkám vám:
Kdo slyší mé slovo
a věří Tomu, který mě poslal,
má věčný život a neprijde na soud,
ale již přešel ze smrti do života. (Jan 5:24)

Amen, amen, hovorím vám:
Kto počúva moje slovo
a verí tomu, ktorý ma poslal,
má večný život a nejde na súd,
ale prešiel zo smrti do života. (Ján 5:24)



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USA:

Czechoslovak Baptist Convention
C/O Larry Rucker
2222 Parkers Hill Dr.
Maidens VA 23102

CANADA:

Czechoslovak Baptist Convention
c/o Henry Pojman
1305 Inglehart Dr
Burlington, ON, L7M 4X6

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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 posláni 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.

Glorious Hope/Slavná naděje

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Editor-in-Chief: Natasha Laurinc
email: natasha.laurinc@gmail.com
You may send articles to above address.

Desktop publishing and art: Vit Malek
Assistant Editors: Janice Cermak, Ondrej Laurinc, Ph.D.

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P.O. Box 441516
Detroit, MI, 48244, USA.
email: info@czskbc.org
WWW.CZSKBC.ORG

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Detroit, MI, 48244

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info@czskbc.org





Your Word is Truth

A landscape blanketed in snow resonates with the colour of Easter: pure white. In some cultures long ago, colours became integral to religious symbolism. Between the 12th and 13th centuries, the Catholic Church began associating certain colours with liturgical periods. White is the colour of light and joy, symbolizing innocence, purity, hope and new life.

Light represents Christ, who is the light of the world. Light, which overcomes darkness. Light, which shone during the resurrection, when Jesus Christ triumphed over death.

Beneath the snowy blanket, life awakens. Even before winter has a chance to fade, snowdrops peak their little heads through: evidence of the life beneath. Their pure presence gives hope for the new season. Gazing on the miracle of new life fills the heart with joy and the sense that the world is beautiful.

The feeling is the same when a human being is transformed, and just as impossible not to give in to. The old is gone, all is new. A new life in the light of Jesus Christ. The mystery, understood by the one who stepped into the light; who has understood that the only hope for humankind is Christ, and decided to believe in Christ's message, submitting to Christ their way of life. Evidence of a new life is a balanced life, a life that cares for others, and its neighbours.

We read about people who have entered into their new life in the pages of our magazine. They are our brothers and sisters who stand with us, in missionary work or various other callings. Many have passed from the temporal to the eternal. I believe each one of them, if they could write the story of their lives, would attest to the truth of *Your word is truth*, as it is written in the prayer of Jesus in the gospel of John, Chapter seventeen: *"I have given them your word ... My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.... Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."* (John 17:14–21, 25–26)

We remember the faithful with gratitude, and pray for sincerity in following Christ in all who call themselves Christian.

Editor-in-Chief *Natasha Laurinc*
Translated by *Elizabeth Jane Fields*




Tvé slovo je pravda

Krajina pokrytá bílou sněhovou pokrývkou rezonuje s bílou barvou Velikonoc. Již v dávných kulturách se barvy mísily s náboženskou symbolikou. Katolická církev od 12.–13. století stanovila barvy pro liturgická období. Bílá je barvou světla, radosti, symbolizuje nevinnost a čistotu, naději a nový život.

Světlo je obrazem Krista, který je světlem světa. Světlo, které přemáhá temnotu. Světlo, které zazářilo při zmrtvýchvstání, kdy Ježíš Kristus zvítězil nad smrtí.

Pod sněhovou příkrývkou se život probouzí. Svědčí o tom něžně sněženky vystrkující své hlavičky ještě než zima pomine. Oslovují svou čistotou a nadějí na nové období. Při pohledu na ten zázrak nového života srdce naplňuje radost a svět je krásný.

Stejnému pocitu se nelze ubránit, dojde-li k proměně v životě člověka. To staré pomínulo, vše je nové. Nový život ve světle Ježíše Krista. Tajemství, kterému porozumí ten, kdo do tohoto světla vstoupil. Ten, kdo pochopil, že jedinou nadějí pro člověka je Kristus a rozhodl se v Kristovo poslání uvěřit

 Pokračuje na straně 5

From the President

Luke's record of the journey to Emmaus of two of Jesus' followers the Sunday following his crucifixion is a favorite of mine. It was Easter Sunday – Resurrection Sunday, only the two sorrowful friends trudging along, faces downward, didn't know it yet. They told the stranger who joined them on the road the things which had happened in recent days, how Jesus' death was forcing them to revise their vision of the future.

"The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel."

Luke 24:20–21a

Even then, though, in the grief and sorrow of catastrophic loss, there were rumours and stirrings that death might not have the last word—flickers of light in the darkness. The grave where Jesus' lifeless body was laid was not secure and undisturbed. Women who went to the tomb early that morning hadn't found his body but said

"...they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive."

Luke 24:23b

The stranger, who unknown to them was the resurrected Lord, explained to them

what was said in the Scriptures. Later, at supper, their eyes were opened and they recognized him as he took bread, gave thanks and broke it. At that moment he disappeared from their sight. Quickly they hurried back to Jerusalem only to find out that the risen Lord had appeared to Simon as well.

Easter basks in the grand collective experience and witness of the Church for 2000 years: "He Is ALIVE!" Rumours of resurrection spark a flicker of hope wherever they spread. That Jesus is the **firstborn** from the dead (Col. 1:18) presumes that we shall follow. **Hallelujah!**

Your Easter gift to the Convention will help us continue to publish and proclaim this GOOD NEWS.

The next annual gathering of the Convention is scheduled for **July 5–8, 2018**, at Allegheny College, Meadville, PA. Please mark it in your calendar.

After their encounter with the Risen Lord on the Emmaus road, the travelers asked each other: *"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"* Luke 24:32

May this be our glad experience this Easter.

Stan Mantle

□

From the Executive Secretary



The 109th Czechoslovak Baptist Convention

July 5–8, 2018

Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania

SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER—John 7:37–38, Rev. 7:17

Quiet Water—He Restores My Soul (Psalm 23:2–3a)

“...he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.” Psalm 23:2–3a

Living Water—He Satisfies My Thirst (John 4:13–14)

“...whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:14

Old Wells and New—He Guides and Prospers His Servants (Genesis 26:17–33)

“Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham... Isaac’s servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there.” Genesis 26:18–19

Baptismal Water—Buried and Reborn (Romans 6:3–4)

“We were... buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life.” Romans 6:4

ELECTIONS 2018

During the July convention, delegates will be electing the General Board to a 4-year term. Please pray for the Lord’s guidance in this decision, since several members will not be able to serve the next term. Send your nominations and suggestions to info@czskbc.org.

We hope that you will mark your calendars and save the date of the 109th Czechoslovak Baptist Convention: July 5–8, 2018, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA.

Visit our website www.czskbc.org to view the Tentative Program or download the registration form.

In His service
Darko Siracki
Executive Secretary
Czechoslovak Baptist Convention
www.czskbc.org

Editorial... Pokračování ze strany 3

a podřídit tomu způsob svého života. Evidencí je vyrovnaný život člověka, kterému záleží na druhých, na svých bližních.

O lidech, kteří do nového života vstoupili, čteme i na stránkách našeho časopisu. Jsou to naše sestry a bratři ať už vedle nás, v misiích nebo v různých jiných posláních. Mnozí již přešli z časnosti do věčnosti. Věřím, že každý, kdo by sepsal příběh svého života, by dosvědčil *Tvé slovo je pravda*, jak to zaznívá v modlitbě Pána Ježíše u Jana v 17. kapitole: „*Dal jsem jim Tvé slovo... Neprosím, abys je vzal ze světa, ale abys je uchránil před zhlým. Nepatří světu, jako ani já nepatřím světu. Posvět je pravdou; Tvé slovo je pravda. Jako jsi poslal na svět mě, tak jsem já poslal na svět je. Posvěcují*

sám sebe za ně, aby i oni byli posvěceni pravdou. Neprosím ale jen za ně. Prosím i za ty, kteří ve mě uvěří skrze jejich slovo. Ať jsou všichni jedno, jako Ty, Otče, ve mně a já v Tobě; ať jsou i oni jedno v nás, aby svět věřil, že jsi mě poslal. Spravedlivý Otče, svět Tě nezná, ale já Tě znám. Těle poznali, že jsi mě poslal, a já jsem jim dal poznat Tvé jméno a ještě dám, aby láska, kterou jsi mě miloval, byla v nich a já v nich.“ (Jan 17; 14–21, 25–26)

S vděčností vzpomínejme na věrné služebníky a modleme se za upřímnost v následování Krista všech těch, kteří se křesťany nazývají.

Nataša Laurincová, šéfredaktorka
□

Robert Dvorak's Easter Reflections

Glorious Hope: March 2001

Easter! Our best season. The hope of all Christians—everywhere, in all times, and no matter what denomination or tradition. If it is Christ whom you follow, it is a risen, living Lord. God be thanked for all the beauty of the incarnation (Christmas), for the wealth of Jesus' teaching about how to live in relationship with God and with each other, for the compassionate way Jesus touched and healed so many of earth's broken people. All of these things are encouragements to us. We would not do without any of them. But it is the resurrection (Easter) that trumps everything about our faith in Christ. We do not simply remember One who was, but we relate to One who is!

Glorious Hope: March 2003

Easter—it comes with a sense of gladness and deep personal satisfaction.

The goodness never goes away, even if you have experienced many Easters over a lifetime. Never does it grow old or dull. No one says, "Been there, done that." Easter lies just too close to the core of our personalities and faith. Once upon a time we were shaped for the rest of our lives by an understanding that came to us one way or another: "Jesus Lives and So Shall I."

If we did not have this focus to live with, life would be pretty bleak...

That Christ has wanted us to have his same privilege and that Scripture has declared we may be one with him in the gift of personal death turned into personal life. . . well, that makes everything quite acceptable in the living of these days. The strangeness of this world and the debilitating of sin and a thousand dysfunctions are not on the agenda forever. One day we will look back on all of this and smile at how we managed to get so "worked up" over things of passing significance.

It is possible to get really messed up on Planet Earth apart from believing with all your heart that "Jesus Lives, and So Shall I." But with resurrection belief securely locked in one's soul, the news of the day will have its right perspective and be plenty fascinating besides.

God bless this Easter season to you and keep you fresh in the best news of all.

Glorious Hope: March 2011

According to John 20:16, when Jesus came free of the tomb on the morning of the resurrection, Mary Magdalene was at the cemetery near his grave. It had been a bitter weekend for her: a great friend gone, many hopes for the future dashed. And now, on top of everything else, the tomb had been opened and Jesus' remains were missing. That very low moment is exactly when the Lord spoke her name: "Mary!" He knew her instantly, and by his vocal tone she knew it was he.

Everything became different.

The miracle of Jesus in our faith, life, and times is that he knows us by name, calling personally on us and to us. When the Lord calls a name, an invitation immediately follows — to go with him where he leads, to work hand in hand with his purposes for redeeming all things. Centuries ago, God spoke the child Samuel's name three times in the night. Before that, at the flaming, but unburned, bush, the same thing happened for Moses. And even earlier, God called out once to Abram saying, Go out now to a new home far distant.

Easter morning is another in these personal name patterns. So to speak, "Mary, dear Mary, I am here with you. Believe with me that, with God, all things are possible."

Christ, risen from the dead, immediately called out to Mary, one of his own. Hope you too have heard his voice speaking your name recently. Easter time, for sure.

Glorious Hope: March 2012

Easter is our day!

It is the main moment in anyone's experience of Christian faith.

Nothing is more pivotal or reaches higher in all our gospel belief than the announcement that Jesus returned from the dead.

Why?

- Because we needed a savior, one stronger than the greatest enemy that would do us in.

- Because death is a penalty for everything that has gone wrong with the human race and our individual participation in it. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus took it on for us—endured it to the fullest extent and then cast it aside, breaking the stranglehold it wished to hold over us.

- Because in the resurrection Christ delivered to us life larger than anything we had ever known before.

□



Spurgeon Devotion

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. John 19:16

Jesus was in agony all night. He spent the early morning hours at the house of Caiaphas, then was hurried from Caiaphas to Pilate, from Pilate to Herod, and from Herod back to Pilate again. He was not allowed any food, drink, or rest, so by then He had little physical strength remaining. His enemies were eager for His blood and, thus, led Him out to die, forcing Him to carry His own cross. What a sorrowful procession! No wonder the “daughters of Jerusalem” (Luke 23:28) wept for Him. Dear soul, do you weep for Him as well?

What do we learn from this picture of our blessed Lord being led to His death? Do we recognize the truth foreshadowed by “the scapegoat” (Lev. 16:8)? Didn’t the high priest “lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat’s head” (Lev. 16:21), removing the sins from the people? Wasn’t the scapegoat then led “away into the desert in the care of a man appointed for the task” (v. 21), carrying away the sins of the people so that even if they were searched for they could not be found?

In the same way we now see Jesus brought before the priests and rulers who pronounce Him guilty. God Himself imputes our sins to Him, charging our sins to His account, for “the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isa. 53:6). “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us” (2 Cor. 5:21) as a substitute for our guilt. Upon His shoulders He bore our sins, represented by His cross, and the final great Scapegoat was led away by the appointed officers of justice.

Beloved soul, do you have the assurance He carried your sin? As you look at the cross upon His shoulders, does it represent your sin? There is one way by which you can be assured He carried your sin. If you have laid your hand upon His head, confessed your sin, and trusted in Him, then your sin no longer lies on you, but has all been transferred to Christ through blessed imputation. And He bears your sin on His shoulders as a weight heavier than His cross. Don’t let this picture fade from your mind until you have rejoiced in your own deliverance and then praised the loving Redeemer upon Whom your iniquities were laid.

Taken from “Look Unto Me”
The Devotions of Charles Spurgeon by Jim Reimann
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□

Czech Baptist Union:



Pavel Coufal

Pavel Coufal, New President of Baptist Union (BJB)

At the Congress of Delegates in Czech Republic, the new president of the Baptist Union was elected on April 22, 2017. Pastor Pavel Coufal was born in Ostrava – Poruba and spent his childhood in Olomouc. He gave his life

to the Lord Jesus at the age of 13, and was baptized at Šumperk Church. Several years after he graduated from university, the Lord called him to the ministry in the newly established Olomouc Church. During that time he studied theology at the Institute TCM International in Heiligenkreuz, Austria.

Since 2005 he has been serving in the Brno Baptist Union. Since election to the post of BJB executive chairman, he has been a half-time pastor. It is worth mentioning the fact that Pavel Coufal is the grandson of the well-known preacher Alois Erlich, a faithful servant, whose sermons “Revealed Secrets” could also be read on the pages of *Glorious Hope*.



Jan Jackanič

Jan Jackanič, New Secretary of Baptist Union

At the Congress of Delegates of the Baptist Union, the new secretary of the BJB Czech Republic was also elected, brother Jan Jackanič. Originally from Prague, Vinohrady Church, he helped at church and in the Youth Department. About 12 years

ago, he decided to leave his previous job and began to work fully in the church as head of the Youth Department, then later as a member of the executive committee and its vice-chairman.

25 years of the Brno Press Mission (BTM)

The idea of setting up a press mission was born in a time of deep totalitarianism. Behind the idea stood Ing. Josef Sečka, who immigrated to Austria in 1968 for religious reasons. Here he joined the correspondence service of the illegal Christian broadcast TWR from Monte Carlo, under the pseudonym Paul Bolar. His great dream from the very beginning was the effort to send people in Czechoslovakia the highest quality Christian prints. His vision later led to the establishment of a press mission in Bohemia, Brno.

“Taste and see that the Lord is good”. Psalm 34: 8

“Thank God, these 25 years convinced us that in Him is good. He defended the purpose of our activities, he used BTM to save people for Christ, and helped us survive at the time of primitive post-revolutionary capitalism. We have tested God and found that He is good and that even in moments of trouble, it is good to escape to Him. And that is a great reason for gratitude and the courage to continue”.

Doc. MUDr. Pavel Smilek, PhD, Chairman of the Board of BTM

New BJB Magazine Zpravodaj (Newsletter)

The Newsletter (Zpravodaj) will be published 4 times a year, both in electronic and in printed form.

Slovak Baptist Union:

Conference of the BJB Sisters Division in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic

The conference will be held from 04.05.2018 to 06.05.2018 in Košice, Slovak Republic

Topic: *Power of the Word*

The central verse: “See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil.” (Deut. 30:15)

Main guests of the conference: Milka and Michal Lapčák

Bernolákovo, Slovakia

On Sunday, October 29, 2017, Darko Kraljik was appointed as the pastor of the local church. The act was carried out by Ján Szöllös, the acting head of the Baptist Union in Slovakia and the representative of the BJB West district, Pastor Miroslav Tóth.

□

BJB Česká republika:

Nový předseda BJB Pavel Coufal

Na sjezdu delegátů Bratrské jednoty baptistů 22. dubna 2017 byl zvolen nový předseda VV BJB ČR bratr kazatel Pavel Coufal. Narodil se v Ostravě – Porubě a dětství ztrávil v Olomouci. Svůj život vydal Pánu Ježíši ve 13 letech a byl pokřtěn v šumperském sboru. Několik let po skončení vysokoškolského studia uposlechl volání do služby kazatele v nově vzniklém olomouckém sboru. Při této službě studoval teologii na Institutu TCM v rakouském Heiligenkreuzu.

Od roku 2005 slouží v brněnském baptistickém sboru. Po zvolení do služby předsedy Výkonného výboru BJB, slouží již jen na poloviční úvazek. Za zmínku stojí skutečnost, že Pavel Coufal je vnukem kazatele Aloise Erlicha, věrného služebníka, jehož kázání Zjevená tajemství jste si mohli číst také na stránkách *Slavné naděje*.

Nový tajemník BJB Jan Jackanič

Na sjezdu delegátů Bratrské jednoty baptistů byl také zvolen nový tajemník VV BJB ČR bratr Jan Jackanič. Pochází z Prahy a z vinohradského sboru a postupně se zapojil do práce ve sboru a v mládeži. Zhruba před 12 lety se rozhodl odejít ze svého předchozího zaměstnání a začal v církvi pracovat naplno jako vedoucí Odboru mládeže, později pak jako člen VV a jeho místopředseda.



Doc. MUDr. Pavel Smilek, PhD

25 let Brněnské tiskové misie (BTM)

Myšlenka založení tiskové misie se zrodila již v době hluboké totality. Stál za ní Ing. Josef Sečka, který v r. 1968 z náboženských důvodů emigroval do Rakouska. Zde se zapojil do dopisové služby ilegálního křesťanského vysílání TWR z Monte Carla pod pseudonymem Pavel Bolar. Jeho velkým snem od samého počátku byla

snaha posílat lidem do Československa co nejkvalitnější křesťanské tiskoviny. Jeho vize později vedla k založení tiskové misie v Čechách, v Brně.

“Okuste a uzříte, že Hospodin je dobrý.” (Žalm 34, 9)

“Díky Bohu jsme se za 25 let přesvědčili, že On je dobrý. Obhájil smysl naší činnosti, použil BTM k záchraně lidí pro Krista, dal nám přežít v době primitivního porevolučního kapitalismu. Vyzkoušeli jsme Boha a zjistili jsme, že On je dobrý a že i ve chvílích těžkostí je dobré se k Němu utíkat. A to je pro nás velký důvod k vděčnosti i odvaze v práci pokračovat.”

Doc. MUDr. Pavel Smilek, PhD, předseda Správní rady BTM

Nový časopis BJB Zpravodaj

Zpravodaj bude vycházet 4x ročně, a to jak v elektronické, tak i v tištěné podobě.

BJB Slovensko

Konferencia Odboru sestier BJB v ČR a SR

Konferencia sa uskutoční v dňoch 4. mája 2018 – 6. mája 2018 v Košiciach, Slovenská republika

Téma: *Moc slova*

Ústredný verš (5. Mojž. 30:15) „*Hľadže, dnes som ti predložil život a dobré, smrť a zlé.*“

Hlavní hostia konferencie: Milka a Michal Lapčákovci

Inštalácia v Bernolákove



Darko Kraljik

V nedeľu 29. októbra 2017 sa v modlitebni v Bernolákove uskutočnila inštalácia brata Darka Kraljika za kazateľa miestneho zboru. Akt inštalácie vykonal zastupujúci predseda Bratskej jednoty baptistov v SR brat Ján Szöllös a zástupca Rady BJB za západnú oblasť brat kazateľ Miroslav Tóth.

□

When Your Life Turns Upside Down

Based on a true life story

Part Eight

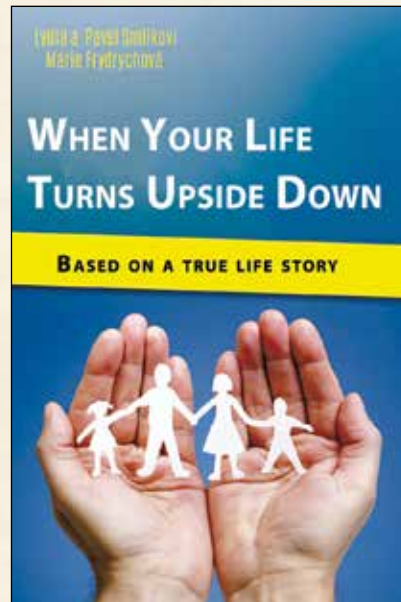
7 – Pavel's Story

The histological examination after the first operation in 1993 confirmed the diagnosis of Langerhans cell histiocytosis. As there was a persistent discharge from the trepanation cavity, two months later we performed a histological examination of the granulation tissue, and a relapse was confirmed. So the next radiation therapy was given in relatively high doses. The radiation therapy technique was not as well developed as it is these days. The extent of damage to the surrounding tissue was greater. Lydie's brain received a full dose of radiation, which turned out to be the cause of most of the problems that she has today.

The discharge and fistula persisted, and so in 1994 she underwent actinotherapy, chemotherapy (vinblastine) and other medication. And in 1995, we had to perform an excochleation of a tumour in the lower jaw on the right and the histological examination again confirmed Langerhans cell histiocytosis.

In November 1995 Lydie underwent a second operation of the middle ear and trepanation cavity, and Langerhans cell histiocytosis was confirmed yet again. Associate Professor Dr. Čada, the head of the clinic, performed the examination. So Lydie had to have more actinotherapy and chemotherapy (vinblastine + prednisone).

In November 1999, Lydie had a third operation—an antromastoidectomy on the right side, performed by the senior obstetrician, Dr. Hložek,



and again extensive infiltration into whole pyramids of pale pink granulation tissue was found.

Due to persistent discharge and granulation in the trepanation cavity and repeated histological confirmation of LCH, Lydie was treated with radiation therapy and chemotherapy with vinblastine from 1998 to 2006. Altogether she was given 125 doses of vinblastine in doses of 10 mg. The total radiation to the external ear and the right pyramids during the illness exceeded 120 Gy.

In October 2004, Lydie slipped on the street and fell onto a sign right on the back of her head. The X-ray showed destruction of the atlanto-occipital joint, but functional images of the cervical spine did not demonstrate a pathological shift, so she was recommended a conservative treatment, which lasted for about a year.

In 2006 she began to have facial palsy and from October 2008 Lydie

started to complain of increased fatigue and sleepiness again. I observed that her psyche was slowing down. She started to faint and she often felt nauseous, which is a sign of intracranial hypertension. We did a CT scan and found a tumour in the temporal lobe on the right. On 29th October 2008 she had another operation and the histology examination had quite good results. There was no confirmation of LCH and I personally took it as a side effect of the large doses of radiation she had had. Lydie was just treated with high doses of corticosteroids and she recovered well.

In 2010 our son graduated in Economics and Engineering and as we were having a celebratory lunch in a restaurant Lydie slipped and fell off a raised stage where the lunch table had been set.

A bit later we went on holiday to East Bohemia to Veliny. But Lydie started to feel unwell again. Her lips were blue and she couldn't walk properly. Just a short walk completely tired her out and she had to go and lie down afterwards.

We are always learning something new. It didn't even occur to me that she was suffocating.

She actually had severe pneumonia without a fever, which was later evaluated by experts as a result of histiocytosis of the lungs and an infection.

Her condition upset me so much that I took her back from Veliny in our car directly to the hospital, where she was admitted to the intensive care unit. It looked very bad. Without oxygen she had a saturation level of

only 63. The normal saturation level is over 90.

It was a really disastrous state, almost incompatible with life. The conclusion of the various tests: diffuse advanced emphysema, hypostatic pneumonia in certain areas. LCH was shown to be there too.

The worst of the condition was treated but Lydia remained dependent on oxygen. I even ordered an oxygen concentrator.

There are three organs vital to life—the brain, the heart and the lungs. Death was pushing on two of these organs. It was a very hard time.

It was not long before there were further complications. After the fall at the graduation ceremony her brain swelled up again and along with the exhausting pneumonia Lydia's health rapidly deteriorated.

In autumn 2010, she had a CT scan of her brain again and a colleague from the neurosurgery department said to me: "We need to take her to the operating theatre immediately... It's urgent..."

8 – Lydie's Story

I was supposed to have the operation on Monday and Pavel got permission for me to go home on Sunday so the elders of the church could come and pray for me. I really needed it.

When they sent me from the Bohunice hospital back to St. Anne's neurosurgical ward and the doctor decided that I had to have brain surgery immediately, I felt scared for the first time. My nephew Tomáš had died after brain surgery shortly before that.

What if I was going to be standing in front of God in a couple of minutes!

It was strange. I love Jesus and I believe His words that I read in the Bible. I believe that I am God's child. But suddenly I was filled with fear of the Lord.

Several years before that – I think



daughter Dagmar with family

it was after my first ear operation – I had experienced quite a morbid picture in my mind over a period of time. I had imagined myself in the crematorium, lying in a coffin, with Pavel and the children sitting in the front row. Of course, I hadn't been able to tell anyone in my family about it, but the picture had come back to me several times a day.

During that time, a lady called Alena had come to pray with me every morning on her way to work. She lived in our street and had a really tough family situation. I told her about my picture and we prayed about it together. As we were praying, I said out loud,

"Satan, in the name of Jesus I order you to leave me alone!" And at that moment I was freed from the picture and was able to think of normal things again.

The image in my mind came back to me several times but I always told it to go away in the name of Jesus and it disappeared again. And then after a while it went away completely.

But now I wasn't suffering from any kind of image in my mind. I realised that there was a very real chance that after being ill for thirty-two years I could really die. I wanted to be ready.

The elders came to our home on Sunday afternoon. My husband and my mum were there too. The elders prayed for me as it is written in the fifth chapter of the book of James, where it explicitly tells us how the church should pray for the sick. I confessed my sins again and the elders anointed me with oil. My mum prayed too, but Pavel couldn't.

9 – Pavel's Story

I just couldn't express what I had on my heart in words. Lydie was saying her final farewell to life. She packed up the clothes she wanted to wear in her coffin. She sorted out a lot of her things. She threw a lot away and gave away some others. She sometimes misses those things now.

Lydie once said to me that she had the feeling that the Devil wanted to kill her, and that's really what it looked like. For the thirty-two years we had been married, the one who steals, kills and destroys had been trying to destroy Lydie. And for thirty-two years Jesus, the Good Shepherd, had been giving Lydie back life in all its fullness. (John 10:10)

I didn't know what to say to the Lord. From my heart there were just muffled sobs, which I couldn't control for some time. But through those tears which I couldn't put into words, all my stress, fear and pain left me. Your will be done, Lord.

(Romans 8:26–27)

10 – Lydie's Mum

The time after my husband's death wasn't easy. We had been together for a long time. While he had been ill, I had looked after him, and when he died, I started to have my own health problems, mostly with my vascular system and my heart.

☞ Continues on page 15

Když se život obrátí naruby

Skutečný životní příběh

Část osmá

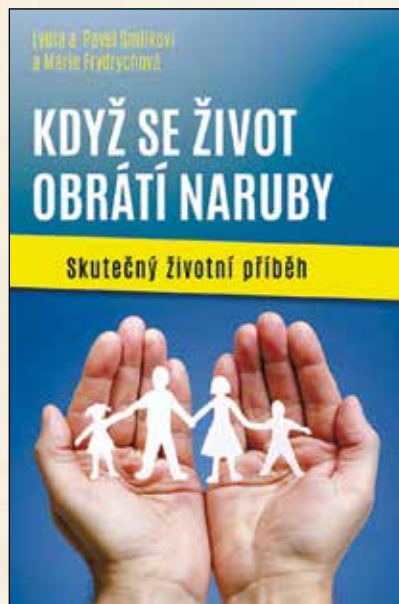
7 – Vypráví Pavel

Histologické vyšetření po první operaci v roce 1993 odpovídalo diagnóze histiocytóza z Langerhansových buněk (dřívější název: histiocytóza X). Pro přetrvávající výtok z trepanační dutiny jsme ještě po dvou měsících provedli histologické vyšetření granulací a byla potvrzena recidiva. Takže další ozařování v poměrně vysokých dávkách. Tehdejší technika ozařování nebyla ještě tak dokonalá jako ta dnešní. Rozsah poškozené okolní tkáně byl větší. Část Lydiina mozku dostávala plnou dávku záření. Což se později ukázalo jako příčina většiny potíží, které má dnes.

Výtok a defekt ve spánkové kosti však přetrvával i v roce 1994, a proto byla aplikována aktinoterapie, chemoterapie (Vinblastin) a jiné léky (Etoposid, Cladribin aj.). A v roce 1995 jsme museli provést odstranění tumoru v dolní čelisti vpravo a histologicky byla opět potvrzena histiocytóza z Langerhansových buněk.

V listopadu 1995 se Lydie podrobila druhé chirurgické revizi středouší a trepanační dutiny a histologicky byla znovu potvrzena histiocytóza z Langerhansových buněk. Tuto revizi provedl pan docent Čada, tehdejší přednosta kliniky. Takže další aktinoterapie a chemoterapie (Vinblastin + Prednison).

V listopadu 1999 byla provedena třetí operační revize antromastoidektomie vpravo, kterou udělal pan primář Hložek, a opět byla zjištěna rozsáhlá infiltrace celé pyramidy spánkové kosti



bledě růžovou granulační tkání.

Pro přetrvávající výtok a granulace v operované krajině a opakovaně histologicky potvrzovanou histiocytózu z Langerhansových buněk byla Lydie léčena od roku 1980 do roku 2006 ozařováním a chemoterapiemi Vinblastinem. Celkem jí bylo podáno 125 dávek Vinblastinu v dávkách po 10 mg. Celkové ozáření zevního ucha a pravé pyramidy spánkové kosti v průběhu onemocnění přesáhlo 120 Gy ložiskové dávky.

V říjnu 2004 Lydie na ulici uklouzla a spadla naznak přímo vzadu na hlavu. Počítačová tomografie ukázala destrukci atlantookcipitálního skloubení (místa spojení lebky a krční páteře), ale funkční snímky krční páteře neprokázaly patologický posun, takže byla doporučena jen konzervativní léčba, která trvala asi rok.

V roce 2006 se objevila obrna

lícího nervu a od října 2008 si Lydie znovu stěžovala na zvýšenou únavnost a spavost. Pozoroval jsem, že se jí zpomaluje psychika. Začala upadat do bezvědomí a často měla nutkání ke zvracení, což je známka nitrolební hypertenze. Udělali jsme CT mozku a zjistili ložisko v oblasti temporálního mozkového laloku vpravo. 29. 10. 2008 byla provedena další operace a histologie dopadla poměrně dobře. Histiocytóza z Langerhansových buněk se neprokázala a já osobně jsem to vzal jako nežádoucí projev velkých dávek ozáření. Lydie byla léčena jen vyššími dávkami kortikoidů a docela dobře se zotavovala.

V roce 2010 promoval náš syn jako inženýr ekonomie. Při rodinném slavnostním obědě v restauraci Lydie uklouzla a spadla z vyvýšeného pódia, na kterém byla prostřená slavnostní tabule.

O něco později jsme odjeli na dovolenou do východních Čech. Ale Lydie se opět dělalo špatně. Měla promodralé rty a nedokázala pořádně chodit. Každá sebemenší procházka ji nesmírně unavovala a musela si po ní lehnout.

Člověk se celý život učí. Vůbec mě nenapadlo, že se vlastně dusí.

Popravdě řečeno dostala těžký zápal plic bez horeček, který později odborníci vyhodnotili jako spojení histiocytózy v plicích s infekcí.

Její stav mě natolik znepokojil, že jsem ji z východních Čech dovezl naším autem přímo k nám do nemocnice, kde ji přijali na jednotku intenzivní péče. Vypadalo to velmi špatně.

Její krev byla nasycena kyslíkem jen z 63%. Normálně saturujeme přes 90%.

Byl to opravdu katastrofální stav, téměř neslučitelný se životem. Závěr všech vyšetření: Difuzní pokročilý emfyzém plic, hypostatická pneumonie (těžké poškození plic). I tady se už prokázala histiocytóza z Langerhansových buněk.

Akutní stav se zvládl, ale Lydia zůstala závislá na kyslíku. Dokonce byla nucena užívat koncentrátor kyslíku i doma.

Jsou tři životně důležité brány — mozek, srdce a plíce. Do života mé ženy se smrt tlačila už dvěma branami. Bylo to těžké. Její zdravotní stav se rychle zhoršoval.

Na podzim roku 2010 se znovu udělalo CT mozku a kolega z neurochirurgie řekl: „Okamžitě na sál. Tohle nesnese odkladu...“

8 – Vypráví Lydia

Na operaci jsem měla jít v pondělí. Pavel mi na neděli zařídil propustku, aby se u nás doma mohli sejít duchovní vedoucí našeho sboru a modlit se za mě. Potřebovala jsem to.

Když mě poslali z Bohunic zpět ke svaté Anně na neurochirurgii a lékař rozhodl, že musí dojít k okamžité operaci mozku, poprvé jsem zažila jakousi bázeň. Krátce předtím zemřel můj synovec Tomáš právě na následky operace mozku.

Co když za pár minut i já stanu před svým Pánem!

Bylo to zvláštní. Miluji Pána Ježíše a věřím jeho slovu, které čtu v Bibli. Věřím tomu, že jsem Boží dítě. Ale najednou na mě padla bázeň před Hospodinem.

Několik roků předtím — myslím, že to bylo po první operaci ucha jsem nějakou dobu zažívala morbidní představu. Opakoval se stále stejný výjev. Jsme v krematoriu, já ležím v rakvi a Pavel s dětmi sedí v první řadě. Samozřejmě jsem nikomu v rodině nemohla nic takového říci, ale tahle představa mě přepadala několikrát denně.



son Pavel with family

V té době k nám každý den ráno před odchodem do práce přicházela Alenka L., která bydlela v naší ulici a měla velké rodinné trápení. Modlily jsme se spolu. Svěřila jsem se jí a modlily jsme za moji mysl. Při modlitbě jsem řekla nahlas: „Satane, ve jménu Ježíše Krista ti příkazuji, odejdi ode mne!“ A v tu chvíli jsem byla volná a mohla jsem myslet na normální věci. Aha, tak to tedy je!

Představy se ještě několikrát vrátily, ale vždycky znovu jsem tomu ve jménu Pána Ježíše poručila a ono to zmizelo. A pak už se ani nevracely.

Nyní jsem však netrpěla žádnou představou. Velmi realisticky jsem si uvědomovala, že po třiceti dvou letech nemoci mohu opravdu odejít. Chtěla jsem být připravena.

Bratři starší přišli v neděli odpovedne k nám domů. Byl přítomen i můj manžel a maminka. Bratři se za mě modlili podle 5. kapitoly Jakubovy epistoly, kde je přesný návod, jak se má církev modlit za nemocného. Já jsem znovu vyznávala hříchy a bratři mě mazali olejem. Také maminka se modlila, jen Pavel nemohl.

9 – Vypráví Pavel

Ano, nebyl jsem schopen vyjádřit slovy, co jsem měl v srdci. Lydie se loučila se životem. Zabalila si oblečení, které chtěla, abychom jí dali do rakve. Dělal pořádek ve věcech. Mnohé vyhodila a jiné rozdala. Některé jí dodnes chybí.

Kdysi dávno mi Lydie řekla, že má dojem, že jí chce ďábel zabít. Opravdu to tak vypadalo. Třicet dva roků, po celé naše manželství, ten, který krade, zabíjí a ničí, se snažil Lydiu zničit. A po celých třicet dva roků Pán Ježíš—ten dobrý pastýř—vracel Lydiu život, a to život v hojnosti. (Jan 10,10) Neměl jsem slov, která bych pronesl před Hospodinem. Z mého srdce vycházel jen tlumený vzlykot, který jsem určitou dobu nedokázal ovládnout. Ale skrze toto nevyslovitelné lkaní (Řím.8, 26–27) ze mne odcházelo veškeré napětí, strach i bolest. Buď vůle tvá, můj Pane!

10 – Vypráví Lydiina maminka

Období po manželově smrti nebylo lehké. Byli jsme na sebe hodně zvyklí. Dokud byl těžce nemocný, ošetřovala jsem ho, a když odešel, začala jsem mít sama zdravotní problémy, především s celým cévním systémem a se srdcem.



Lydie after last surgery

A do toho znovu a znovu se vrací Lydiina diagnóza. Tak ráda bych jí dala svůj život, ale člověk nemá život ve své moci.

Před poslední nejnáročnější operací jsem se snažila denně za ní docházet. Těžko se mi dýchalo a doslova jsem před každým odchodem z domu prosila: „Pane Ježíši, prosím tě, dej mi sílu, ať tam dojedu a ať jsem pro ni povzbuzením.“ A Pán Ježíš mě skutečně posiloval.

Po modlitbě staršovstva v předvečer operace jsem se rozhodla, že zůstanu u Lydie v nemocnici, jak nejdéle to půjde. Povíдали jsme si o minulosti. Lydie vzpomínala na zážitky z dětství a také z posledních třiceti let, na různé dovolené a hlavně na to, komu všemu mohla povídat a svědčit o Pánu Ježíši. Najednou se usmála a řekla: „Maminko, měla jsem krásný život. A jsem za něj opravdu vděčná.“

Zatrnulo mi. Třicet dva roků tak strašné nemoci a ona řekne: „Měla jsem krásný život.“ Těžce jsem se s tou myšlenkou srovnávala. Jako matka bych si pro své dítě představovala úplně jiný život, ale nakonec jsem řekla:

„No, Lydinko, asi si tě Pán Ježíš vybral právě pro tuto službu a právě takovým způsobem.“

Lydie se rozzářila.

„Já si to také myslím. Jsem, maminko, v Boží ruce. Buď se probu-

dím a budu v Boží ruce tady, anebo budu přímo v náručí Pána Ježíše.“

Držely jsme jedna druhou a Lydie se usmívala. V nemocničním pokoji bylo tak nezvykle jasno a krásně. Byl to přímo dotyk nebe. Ano, dotýkalo se nás samo nebe.

Přišla vizita. Jeden lékař a sestra.

„Nechcete nějaký utišující prostředek, abyste mohla spát?“ zeptal se lékař Lydie.

„Děkuji, já opravdu nepotřebuji,“ odpověděla.

Když sestra otevřela lékařův pokoj, aby mohl vyjít na chodbu, otočila se k nám a usmála se: „Vy máte ten nejlepší lék, že?“

11 –Vypráví Pavel

Operatér odstranil poměrně velkou část temporálního laloku. Operace se zdařila. Zdařila se výjimečně. Nenašly žádné zvláštní komplikace a také rekonvalescence proběhla dobře. Po operaci Lydie ležela na samostatném pokoji. Nebyla tím příliš nadšená. Měla kolem sebe ráda lidi, aby s nimi mohla sdílet své duchovní zážitky.

„Co budu dělat sama na pokoji, komu budu svědčit?“

Ale přicházeli za ní lékaři i sestry a vyptávali se na naši víru, protože si přečetli letáček. Každý jednotlivě. Lydiino největší přání, aby byla svědkem Pána Ježíše a rozdávala naději, se naplnilo i po této operaci.

Mám dojem, že to bylo při této hospitalizaci, kdy za ní přišla kolegyně z endokrinologie, aby zjistila, jestli je dostačující dávkování antidiuretickým hormonem nebo se má upravit. Lydie jí samozřejmě začala vyprávět o svých dětech. Když řekla, kolik je Pavlíkovi let, doktorka vykřikla: „Vyloučeno, nesmysl. Vždyť to už vám nefungovala hypofýza. Je naprosto vyloučené, že byste mohla otěhotnět v té době.“

Právě jsem vstupoval do dveří Lydiina pokoje a všechno jsem slyšel.

„Ale je to pravda, paní doktorko, opravdu manželka otěhotněla, i když jí nefungovala hypofýza. Opravdu máme dvě dospělé děti.“ Kolegyně se na mě zamračila.

„Hm, říká se, že jsou věci mezi nebem a zemí, ale jak mohla otěhotnět s nefunkční hypofýzou, to tedy nechápu. Ne, to je pro mě nepochopitelné a skoro nepřijatelné,“ prohlásila téměř nahněvaně.

Když odešla, Lydie se na mě tázavě podívala: „Paní doktorka byla nějaká rozhozená, nezdálo se ti?“

Pokrčil jsem rameny. Pro někoho je těžké přijmout zázrak. Ale to znamená, že ti, kteří Boží zázrak prožijí, o něm mají mlčet.

Lydie se úplně zotavila. Dokonce odezněly i dechové potíže. Dnes Lydie dýchá přibližně stejně dobře jako kterákoliv jiná žena jejího věku. Ale má velmi oslabený imunitní systém. Je těžké určit, je-li oslabený jen samotnou histiocytózou anebo i důsledkem dlouhodobé léčby. Obojí je možné. U snížené imunity je však vždycky riziko, že se jakákoliv infekce začne šířit dál a napadne další orgán. Největším rizikem zůstala možnost šíření infekce po lebeční spodině a do nitrolebí. Proto byla později na naší klinice provedena amputace pravého, ozářením již zdeformovaného ušního boltce, aby byl odstraněn zdroj infekce. Transplantovaný kožní lalok se sice dobře přihojil, ale pod ním přetrvává infekce dodnes a vyžaduje pravidelné ošetřování.

Nicméně dnes, čtyři roky po této těžké operaci, je Lydie schopná běžného života.

To všechno dohromady vidíme jako Boží zásahy, projevy Boží lásky a Božího milosrdenství. Samozřejmě že bylo použito medicínských prostředků k léčbě. Bůh si může použít cokoliv – i medicínu. Ale i v tom, jak jsme ke způsobu léčby přicházeli, vidíme Boží vedení. Konečně pořád je to nemoc u dospělých velmi vzácná. Němečtí lékaři uvádějí v německé populaci v současné době dva pacienty na jeden milion obyvatel. Ono staré rčení, že lékař léčí, ale Bůh uzdravuje, se v našem případě mnohokrát potvrdilo. A proto především Pánu Bohu vzdáváme díky.

□

And Lydie's diagnosis kept coming back. I would have loved to be able to give her my own life but we don't have anyone's life in our hands.

Before she had the last operation I went to visit her every day. I couldn't breathe very well and before I left the house I always prayed,

"Lord Jesus, please give me strength to be able to get to Lydie's and to be an encouragement for her." And the Lord Jesus really did give me strength.

After the elders had prayed with her the evening before the operation, I decided to stay with Lydie in the hospital for as long as I could. We spoke about the past. Lydie remembered times from her childhood and from the last thirty years, as well as various holidays and people she had spoken to about Jesus. Suddenly she smiled and said,

"Mum, I've had a great life. I'm really grateful for it."

I felt myself tense up. Thirty-two years of such a terrible illness and she was saying that her life had been great. I really struggled with that thought. As a mother, I would have imagined a completely different life for her, but in the end I said,

"Lydie, I guess the Lord Jesus must have chosen you to minister in this way."

Lydie beamed.

"Yes, that's what I think too, mum. I'm in His hands. Either I will wake up and be in God's hands here or I will be there in the hands of Jesus."

We held each other and Lydie smiled. It was really light and beautiful in the hospital room – we felt God's touch from heaven. Yes, heaven touched us.

A nurse and a doctor came to check on Lydie as they were going around the wards.

"Would you like to take something so you can sleep?" the doctor asked her.

"No thanks, I'm fine, really," she answered.

As the nurse opened the door to go out into the corridor, she turned back and said to us with a smile,

"You've got the best medicine."

11 –Pavel's Story

The surgeon performed a resection on a relatively large portion of the temporal lobe. The operation was a success. An amazing success. There were no complications and Lydie recovered well. After the surgery, Lydie was in a room on her own, which she wasn't too happy about. She liked having people around her, so she could share her spiritual experiences.

"What I am going to do here all on my own? Who am I going to speak to about God?"

But lots of doctors and nurses came to see her on their own and asked her questions. Lydia's greatest desire to witness to the Lord Jesus and to give hope to people was fulfilled even after this operation.

I think it was during this time in the hospital when one of my colleagues from the endocrinology department went to see her to see if she had a sufficient dosage of antidiuretic hormone or if it needed to be changed. Lydia started talking about her children. When she said how old little Pavel was, the doctor exclaimed:

"Impossible, nonsense. After all, your pituitary gland wasn't working and you had a dysfunctional hypothalamus. It is absolutely impossible that you could have got pregnant at that time."

I had just walked through the door into Lydie's room so I heard everything.

"Doctor, it's really true. My wife did get pregnant when she had a malfunctioning pituitary gland. We have two grown-up children."

My colleague frowned.

"Hmm, some people say that things happen which we can't explain, but getting pregnant with a malfunctioning pituitary gland? There's no way that

could have happened, I can't believe it," she answered, quite angrily.

After she had left, Lydie turned to me and asked,

"The doctor seemed a bit put out, didn't she?"

I shrugged. Some people just can't accept miracles. But it doesn't mean that if a miracle happens to you, you should be quiet about it.

Lydia recovered fully. Even her breathing problems subsided. Now she breathes about as well as any other woman of her age. But she has a very weak immune system. It is difficult to know if it is due to the histiocytosis or if it is a consequence of long-term treatment. Both options are possible. When someone has a weak immune system, however, there is always a risk that any infection will spread further and attack some other organs. The biggest risk of infection was in the skull and the skull base. For this reason, our clinic later performed an amputation of the right ear, which had already been deformed by radiation, to remove the source of the infection. The transplanted skin flap healed up well, but underneath it there is still an infection to this day which requires regular care.

Nonetheless, four years after the operation, Lydie is able to live a normal life.

In all this we see God's intervention, proof of His love and His mercy. Of course, medicine was also used to treat Lydie – God can use anything. But we can see God's guidance in the way in which we came across the methods of treatment. Lydie's illness is still very rare among adults. In Germany the statistics show that at the moment two patients in a million suffer from it among the adult population. The old saying that doctors treat, but God heals showed itself to be true in our case over and over again. And so we thank God for everything.

□

I believe in the community of women and although I have no biological sisters, I have been blessed with many "sisters". We share, we cry, we support, we pray for each other and we encourage. Today I want to encourage my sisters... so grateful for all of you!

Deborah Lev Mulder

God's Word in a Heart



Perhaps you know these signs.... A quickened pounding pulse and shoulders tense, tears threatening to erupt at any moment.... Something has gone wrong. Something could go wrong. What should I do? What if I mess up? What if...? Insecurities streaming through your mind...

Paralyzing fear of failure looms over every endeavour, and devastating

regret defines your mistakes.

In desperation for control and success, dread is festering in the pit of your stomach and fretting is an everyday enemy....

But it doesn't have to be if we truly grasp the grace of Jesus.

A wave of peace comes when we seek the Lord, when we remember that our life rests in His steadfast love and power.

We can rely on Christ's perfection and turn to Him in our inadequacy. Our worth is not in ourselves, but in our Saviour, who gave Himself up for us. Galatians 2:20: *My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.* (NLT). So we can live in our earthly bodies by trusting in the Son of God, who loves us and gave himself for us, and what a relief and joy that is!

But anxiety still makes little visits, doesn't it? And the problem is, that though the Spirit is in us we still dwell in our sin-inclined body. Romans 7:18–25: *18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. 19 I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. 20 But if I do what*



I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. 22 I love God's law with all my heart. 23 But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. 24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? 25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin. (NLT)

Until heaven, the struggles with self are all too real, but Christ gives us gradual victory.

Can you relate all too knowingly? Are you in that place too? Are the cares of this world too troubling to bear?

Cast your cares upon God and let Him heal you with truth. When caught in the bondage of anxiety, remember that your life—everything you are—is in the total faithfulness, sovereignty, and love of God. We may experience anxiety, but it does not have to define us.

Our momentary mess is an opportunity to seek the One who longs to show His glory and orchestrate our good. Christ can redeem any hopeless or fearsome situation—we only have to wait and trust.

When we realize that help, strength, worth, and mercy come from Jesus and not ourselves, worst case scenarios and fears dwindle in the light of Godly courage and confidence.

I just love these truths and verses from Psalms—verses that I go to that will calm and heal:

1. Almighty God Helps and Keeps You – Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth... (v. 1–2)

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore. (v. 7–8)

2. The Lord Listens and Gives Rest – Psalm 116

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live... (v. 1–2)

The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. (v. 6–7)

3. He Loves and Forgives Without Limit – Psalm 103

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (v. 11–12)

4. God Protects and Acts in Perfect Timing – Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (v. 1)

... Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! (v. 14)

5. The Lord Responds and Revives the Broken – Psalm 34

I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from

all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed... (v. 4–5)

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! (v. 8–9)

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. (v. 18)

6. God Restores and Brings Joy – Psalm 40

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. (v. 1–3)

As for you, O Lord, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me! (v. 11)

7. He Secures and Holds Us Fast – Psalm 62

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. (v. 5–7)

A common thread in the Psalms is that God is near, ready to act on our behalf according to His glorious will. We only have to call upon Him.

Read these, write these, pray these, sing these – whatever will stick them in your mind! May God's Word fill your heart with hope as you walk in the freedom that only Christ gives.

Deborah Lev Mulder

□

In Memory

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day".

- 2 Tim. 4, 7-8

Jiří (George) Dedecius

20. 7. 1939 – 17. 12. 2017

Nestor of the Czech Broadcast Trans World Radio

Brother Jiří Dedecius was born in Novostavce, a town in Volhynia. In 1947, after the war, with his parents and sister, he moved to their ancestral homeland and settled in Velké Losiny. He graduated from the Secondary School of Electrical Engineering in Brno. He gave his life to Jesus in the Baptist Church of Brno and was baptized. In 1961 he married Ludmila (nee Holubová).

Around 1975, he felt God's calling to use his knowledge in electrical engineering and began to secretly record Christian musical groups, poetry and the spoken word of God. These recordings were then sent through various secret paths to the Christian radio station TWR in Monte Carlo.

From there, Christian programs were broadcast at the time of Communist totality in Czechoslovakia, and people could listen on short-wave radio receivers. At that time Christian broadcasting was not allowed in the country. From abroad, Christian literature circulated to Dedecius, which he and his wife helped to distribute. The fact that all this courageous service was a great risk was on the other hand balanced by many miracles and exceptional protection from God. George faithfully and bravely served his Lord. The "pulpit" was a mixing console and recording equipment. His service was not visible; he did it in his "free time" in addition to his job, but God used it mightily for His glory and spiritual blessing to many people George had not met personally. After the revolution, Jiří Dedecius stood at the birth of a separate Czech Trans World Radio, which is also behind the project of Radio 7.

He spent the last two years of his life with his family in Český Těšín. The farewell to George Dedecius took place on December 22, 2017, in the Church of Brethren.

"The memoirs do not contain all of our experiences with our Lord. That would make a thick book! I have nothing to boast about; I do not have any merit. But the word of the Bible, that he who does not have any strength is richly gifted with power from God, has been fulfilled. This is my experience and the experience of my wife. There is nothing more beautiful, fulfilling and secure than being available to God." *Jiří Dedecius*

From the story of brother Dedecius and his wife Ludmila recorded in Marie Frydrych's book *Guarded City*.



Bojoval jsem dobrý boj, svůj běh jsem dokončil, víru jsem zachoval. Teď na mne čeká koruna spravedlnosti, kterou mi v onen den udělí Pán. 2Tim. 4, 7-8

Jiří Dedecius

20. 7. 1939 – 17. 12. 2017

Nestor českého vysílání Trans World Radia (TWR)

Bratr Jiří Dedecius se narodil v Novostavcích na Volyni. Po válce v roce 1947 se s rodiči a sestrou vrátili zpět do vlasti

svých předků a usadili se ve Velkých Losinách. Vystudoval střední elektrotechnickou školu v Brně. Zde také v brněnském baptistickém sboru uvěřil a byl pokřtěn. V roce 1961 se oženil s Ludmilou, rozenou Holubovou.

Kolem roku 1975 cítil Boží povolání využít svých znalostí v elektrotechnice a začal tajně nahrávat křesťanské hudební skupiny, poezii i mluvené Boží slovo. Tyto nahrávky se potom posílaly různými tajnými cestami do křesťanské rozhlasové stanice TWR v Monte Carlu. Odtud se vysílaly křesťanské pořady, které v době komunistické totality v Československu mohli lidé poslouchat na krátkovlnných radiových přijímačích. V té době křesťanské vysílání nebylo v zemi povoleno. Z ciziny k Dedeciusovým pro změnu proudila křesťanská literatura, kterou pomáhali distribuovat. To, že celá tato statečná služba představovala veliké riziko, bylo na druhou stranu vyváženo mnoha zázraky a mimořádnou Boží ochranou. Jiří věrně a statečně sloužil svému Pánu. „Kazatelnou“ byl mixážní pult a nahrávací zařízení. Jeho služba nebyla vidět, dělal ji ve svém volném čase při zaměstnání, ale Bůh ji mocně použil ke své slávě a k duchovnímu požehnaní mnoha lidem, se kterými se většinou ani osobně nesetkal. Po revoluci stál Jiří Dedecius u zrodu samostatné české redakce TWR, která mimo jiné stojí i za projektem Rádía 7.

Závěrečné dva roky svého života prožil s rodinou v Českém Těšíně. Rozloučení s Jiřím Dedeciusem se konalo dne 22. 12. 2017 ve sboru Církve bratrské.

"Vzpomínky zdaleka neobsahují všechny zkušenosti s naším Pánem. Bylo jich tolik, že by vydaly na tlustou knihu. Nemám se čím chlubit. Moje zásluhy nejsou žádné. Ale naplnilo se slovo Bible, že tomu, kdo žádné síly nemá, Bůh moci hojně udílí. To je zkušenost moje a zkušenost mé ženy. Nic není krásnějšího, plnějšího a bezpečnějšího než být k dispozici Bohu." *Jiří Dedecius*

Z vyprávění bratra Dedeciuse a jeho ženy Lídy zaznamenané v knize Marie Frydrychové *Strážené město*.

Jozef Jaromír Hodul

April 17, 1934 – December 11, 2017



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live..." John 11:25

Joseph Jaromír Hodul was born in Komarno, Czechoslovakia. He was saved at fourteen when he heard James Stuart share the gospel. He married Martha in 1957 and they had two children and two grandchildren. He served

God in many ways: taped Bible passages in Slovak on audio cassettes, contributed with sermons to the TWR behind the Iron Curtain, worked as a translator for Our Daily Bread, and taught and preached whenever needed. He loved his family and friends but most of all his Lord Jesus Christ. He is now celebrating in heaven. Joe was deeply loved and will be missed by all who knew him.

Joe passed away peacefully on December 11, 2017. At his request, cremation and a private service have taken place at Windsor, Ontario.



Vivian (Vlasta) Hynek

June 27, 1923 – February 7, 2018



In her 95th year, passed peacefully into the presence of her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ with her family by her side on Wednesday, February 7th, 2018, at the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Beloved mother of Daniel Hynek (Patricia) and Darlene Higgins (Richard). Dear grandmother to Douglas (Krista), Melissa (Glenn), Lisa, Joshua, and Sarah (Terry); great-grandmother

to Benjamin, Caelan and Madelyn. Survived by brothers Mel and George Hibrant, and sisters Ann McMann and Carrolle Golow. Predeceased by husband Walter Hynek and brothers

Joe and Walter Hibrant. Lovingly remembered by her many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Vivian's life took place at Maple Grove United Church, 346 Maple Grove Drive, Oakville, on February 17, 2018, and the interment was on February 20, 2018, at Park Lawn Cemetery, Toronto.

Vlasta was an active member of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention and for many years she contributed with her poems. She worked as a Sunday school teacher for years in the home church. The love of the Lord Jesus was reflected in her face. This will remain in the memories of all who knew her.

Although we are sad that she will no longer be with us, we rejoice in knowing she is singing with the angels and dancing with the saints, with 20/20 vision and perfect hearing. Psalm 17:15: *"As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake with thy likeness."*



Rose Kilbrai

September 23, 1913 – December 22, 2017



On Friday, December 22, 2017, Rose Kilbrai (née Reichert) passed peacefully to her heavenly home with family by her side. Rose was born on September 23, 1913, in Michalovka, Volyn, Poland, to Bedřich (Fred) and Anna (née Tuček) Reichert. She moved with her family to Alžbětin Dvor, Slovakia, in December

1925, and then immigrated to Canada, settling on a farm in the Floradale district of Minitonas, Manitoba, in May 1930.

Rose married Erwin Kilbrai in Minitonas on October 27, 1934, and God blessed them with four children: George, Lilly, Ernie, and Evelyn. Rose was a dedicated homemaker and a wonderful cook and baker. She delighted in hosting family meals, and she never wanted anyone to leave her home hungry. "Eat, eat!" were her usual encouraging words to all who sat at her table. She always had a large garden for fresh produce and for preserves for the winter. A generous portion of her garden was devoted to colourful flowers. Besides cooking, baking, and gardening, Rose learned to crochet in her mid years, and she made hundreds of articles that adorned the homes of family and friends. When Rose moved into a suite in Heritage Manor in Swan River in 2001, she made new friends and was

☞ Continues on page 23

Meekness is NOT Weakness

Petar Vlastic

Matthew 5:5



Tanner and I have a sweet seven-month bloodhound named River, whose typical day is comprised of her four favorite activities: eat, sleep, play, repeat. Just like a child, she is full of energy, and one of her favorite things is when we go visit Tanner's mom and dad so she can play with their slightly

older puppy named Lacey. They will spend hours outside chasing each other, wrestling, stealing each other's toys...just playing. And even though Lacey has a few more months of life experience, is more powerful, has about 15 pounds on River, and realistically could with relative ease show River whose house this is, interestingly enough it is often our little River that can be seen chasing after or being on top of Lacey. As I observe, I marvel at the sight: this older, larger, stronger, and more experienced dog willingly letting the younger pup dominate...submitting herself so the younger one can have a fun afternoon.

Every time I watch them play, Lacey's actions remind me of something Jesus teaches us in his Sermon on the Mount: **Blessed are the meek...** Meekness, or power under control, virtually synonymous with gentleness and often mistaken for weakness, is a willful act of submitting ourselves to the control of another. In other words, meekness is to consciously refrain from exercising our own power or right to do something for the benefit of someone else. It means to have our personality, our nature, but to intentionally sacrifice our own will to another.

It is a tough concept to understand, let alone practice, so hopefully this picture helps us understand. One of the animals none of us would ever consider to be weak is a horse: a massively strong animal known to be wild, unruly, proud, and

determined. Yet throughout history these wild and powerful beasts have been disciplined to contain their wild and prideful nature and have been used to pull carriages, bear burdens, and as their peak achievement, become war horses. These disciplined horses never stopped being strong, determined, or passionate. They just learned to bring their wild, rebellious nature and power under the control of another. What once was an uncontrollable force now responds to the slightest touch of the rider, what once would scare at the slightest sudden noise now stands in the face of cannon fire, willing to roar into battle, and to stop at the slightest whisper. Its strength is present, and is under control; it is now meek. But definitely not weak.

Just as these meek war horses are under the control of their

master, a meek person is the one who submits to the will of God. The meek maintain their strength, power, drive, or goals, but now allow God to discipline them, to guide their steps, and to use those characteristics for His glory, building them into a person who shines the Light of Christ through their gentleness, patience, love, and self-control. Meek individuals are still strong, but now they use that strength to show God, not themselves.

Take Moses as an example. In Numbers 12:3, he was

described as the meekest person on earth, yet this man confronted the most powerful ruler in the world at the time, rescued the Hebrew people from slavery, then led hundreds of thousands of them through the desert, constantly dealing with their grumbling for 40 years. Moses was no weakling; in fact he is one of the top examples of godly leadership. Just like Moses, we can become examples of godly leadership if we submit our mind, body, and spirit to His training.

The bottom line is this: it takes confidence to be meek. No, not confidence in ourselves or our abilities, but rather confidence in God. When we submit to God's will and let Him mould us, when we let the Holy Spirit guide us, the true

BLESSED
are the meek
for they shall inherit the earth
MATTHEWS 5:5

Continues on page 23

God is in Control of Everything



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Mr. Pickles calls this the hardest and longest time of the year. It's the time from January till about late March, when he mostly just works and there really aren't any big holidays that we get to celebrate with our families. The trees are still bare, with not a lot of color decorating the ground or the trees. There are typically fewer vacations to be had, fewer conventions and family visits, and a lot more work to be done. Schools don't really break for more than a day here or there, at least until Easter/spring break. Plus, depending on where you live, it can be rather cold and not as sunny and warm as summer. Not to mention that summer break seems to be light-years away, and it's dark by 5:30 every night!! The time just seems to drag on and on.

But never fear! Springtime is just about here! In a few short weeks we will begin to see the signs of spring. The weather will start to warm up and clear out a little. Schools will have a spring break. April and May will bring bright, vibrant colors like greens and reds and purples as trees grow and flowers bloom, adding to the beauty of the world around us. Summer plans will be made, vaca-

tions planned, and excitement will build as countdowns begin. Soon we'll get to dip our feet into rivers and play for hours in the pool, ending the sweet days with cold popsicles that dribble down our faces as they melt faster than we can eat them. Not to mention, there will still be light past 5:30!

Just like the yearly gloomy time of January to March, we will sometimes have weeks or months where life just isn't very fun. Sometimes there will be hard times and sad times. Sometimes the days will be long and seem like there is no break in sight, like the schoolwork and household chores will never actually end. In those times it can feel overwhelming, like Jesus has forgotten us, just because life may not be sunshine and roses. The truth is, though, that in all times Jesus is there. If we look to Him, not only will we be able to get through the hard times, but eventually we'll get past them and before long 'spring' will be here. In Ecclesiastes 3:1 it says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven". God knows everything. God is in control of everything. Hard times and sad times are all a part of life, but with Jesus by your side, it is much easier to navigate the rough seas to smoother waters.

Mrs. Pickles

□



Mark and Gretchen Potma 2017 Annual Report January 2018

2017 was a year of anniversary milestones and remembrances:

25th anniversary of the founding of TEAM Czech, remembered at TEAM Czech annual conference.

20th anniversary celebration of the Šeberov church, where we were founding members in 1996.

10th anniversary of the beginning of ministry and outreach at the Skalka church.

Day of Thanksgiving for the Lord's provision of a permanent church home for South City Church.

5th anniversary of the establishment of the Ládví church, celebrated at our New Year's Eve service.

Gretchen's father passed away on December 3rd, only four days after his 60th wedding anniversary.

In addition, here are 17 more noteworthy events and achievements from 2017:

South City Church grew this past year to 111 members and almost 50 children in six locations. Mark baptized nine believers in 2017, all of whom joined our church at various locations.

Average attendance at five Sunday services (South City, Skalka, Mongolian church, Ládví, and Network Praha) has also grown to 120-150 people weekly, with many believers involved in ministry.

Mark continues to serve as elder at the Ládví church and administrative pastor of South City Church, encouraging the leaders, elders, deacons, pastors and interns at all locations of our church.

Mark joined our denominational church planting committee for another 4-year term, and continues to serve on the New Churches' Trust Fund and TEAM Czech's Ministry Area Leadership Team.

Mark was the main speaker at a two-day church planting conference, and participated in pastors' conferences in January, May, and September. Mark also chaired TEAM Czech's annual conference.

Mark continued mentoring and coaching pastors, elders, church leaders, and pastoral interns.

Gretchen is a language coach for new missionaries and has been mentoring a Bible school intern.

Gretchen continues to lead the weekly Mothers' Club at Ládví and teaches conversational English and evangelistic Bible classes as an outreach of the Ládví and Skalka churches.

Gretchen is enjoying teaching Sunday School again with seven children regularly attending Sunday services at the Ládví church with their parents. Ben and Elise are a big help with Sunday School.

In June, we reached out to 60 children at the LegoProjekt outreach for children at the new Bohnice church plant. Thanks to this outreach, Eva and her two children joined the Bohnice church plant.

Our family has been helping Eva as she launched a children's cooking class at the Ládví church as a neighborhood



TEAM Czech Republic

outreach. Each week's recipe is based on the cuisine of a different world culture.

Over 100 people attended English Camp in July, including a capable team of Czech and Canadian believers. One of the Canadian team members has been accepted as a missionary with TEAM Czech.

In August, we hosted a Passion Life conference at South City Church led by a team from the U.S., focusing on the biblical and practical aspects surrounding the lives of unborn children.

At the Bohnice and Prosek outreaches, we offered “The Money Course”, MyLife Workshop, Alpha, and Christianity Explored, led by our outreach worker, Petr Vlček, and a team of believers from Ládvi.

Through the Ládvi church, we hosted two rounds of the Preparation for Marriage course for nine engaged couples, who heard the gospel and learned important Christian principles of marriage.

South City Church began a partnership with Young Life to reach out to local teenagers through a new Friday evening outreach club for them. Young Life is now renting office space at South City Church.

Mark met with leaders from the Prague Evangelical Roma Church, and the Skalka elders approved that they can meet at Skalka every Saturday evening for services and Tuesdays for Bible study.

Luke (21) is more than halfway through his engineering degree. Noemi (19) started studying business in the fall, also at the University of Windsor. They are active in their church in Windsor and taking good care of each other. Ben (15) and Elise (13) are doing well at school and growing more mature each day.

PRAYER UPDATE

Godliness with contentment is great gain.

- 1 Timothy 6:6

Praise the Lord for good participation in The Money Course outreach in Bohnice and Prosek in January. PRAY that the participants will put into practice the biblical financial principles they have learned and that they would continue coming each week to the next round of Christianity Explored which will start next week in both locations. PRAY that God would draw many who have been invited to the course, including Gretchen's students from her English class at Ládvi.

Praise the Lord with us for an excellent annual conference for TEAM Czech Republic. It's the largest we've ever been, with 20 adults and 19 children. We were joined by TEAM's Senior Director for Europe, missionaries from the newly-opened TEAM ministry area of Poland, and TEAM's member care facilitators for Europe. TEAM has 150 missionaries serving in eleven European countries, making up 25% of TEAM's total global ministry. Please PRAY for TEAM's mission outreach in Europe.

Praise the Lord for our newest appointee to the Czech Republic, Becky Ferguson. After serving on last summer's English camp team from Windsor, she immediately applied to TEAM and was officially accepted in January. Please PRAY for Becky as she transitions from her current ministry into a season of raising prayer and financial support.

Thank you for your prayers for our trip to Minnesota for Gretchen's dad's memorial service. We are thankful that the six of us were able to be there together to participate in the service and to spend time with our extended family.

Thank you for your support and prayers for us in 2017 and into the new year!

Desiring godliness and contentment in 2018,

Mark & Gretchen Potma □

In Memory... Continues from page 19

soon seen in the activity room putting together many puzzles, until it became too difficult for her to see due to macular degeneration. Because of failing health, Rose moved into the Swan Valley Lodge Personal Care Home in 2010 where she resided until her passing.

Rose accepted Jesus as her Lord and Saviour as a young girl and was baptized at the age of fourteen. Upon moving to Canada with her family, she became a charter member of the First Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Minitonas. Rose memorized many scripture verses, poems, and hymns, which she could still recite during her final days. She spent much time praying and reading the Bible, and she was often heard singing hymns as she worked around the house. Her heart was filled with a spirit of rejoicing.

Rose was predeceased by her beloved husband, Erwin; her parents; her sisters, Vlasta, Aninka and Tona; her brother, Karel; and her son-in-law Rod Pumphrey. She is survived and lovingly remembered by her children: George (Marie), Lilly Pumphrey, Ernie (Jane), and Evelyn (Bernard) Bredin; grandchildren and many nieces and nephews and their families. □

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source of our strength, as found in 2 Timothy 1:7, will show up in our daily life: “...**power, love, and self control**”. Complete obedience to God will give us the wisdom to know when it's time to stand up, the strength needed to stand up, and the love and self-control to stand up the right way, so that our Lord is glorified and we shine His light in this world.

It's not an easy road, but the path of meekness is one worth taking. It might not lead you to an interview on the Today Show, a role in a major motion picture, or the top of the Billboard charts or the sports world. You might not become President of the United States or Prime Minister of Canada, but you will find that the reward God has is far more abundant than any found on this earth, for as Jesus promised in Matthew 5:5, “...**they [the meek] shall inherit the earth.**” □