

Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

Vol. 33 N° 1-4 2007

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Whoever Is in Christ
Is New

2 Cor. 5:17

Ak je niekto v Kristu,
je nové stvorenie

2 Kor. 5,17

Jestliže je někdo v Kristu,
je nové stvoření

2 Kor. 5,17

98. Czechoslovak Baptist
Convention
of USA and Canada
July 5-8, 2007

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.

Misijsní 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) předložit formu bohoslužby, obecnství a učení, vážit si dědictví těch, ve Spojených státech a v Kanadě, kterým leží na srdci národy, které reprezentujeme.

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Editorial



A group of people who have something in common and have a certain purpose get together. It was no different at this year's convention in Philippi. The premises of A-B College have become the favorite gathering place of all participants of the convention. Each year someone is missing, and on the other hand, someone new always appears.

This year was no different. The pages of this magazine bring you an overview of the happenings of Convention 2007.

The theme of this year's gathering was a reflection upon the reality that every follower of Christ is, in Christ, a new creation. "A new creation" is a somewhat unusual word combination, and an entirely foreign concept to an unspiritual person. How is the "newness" of a thing determined? When things such as new clothes, furniture, or even new types of food are in question, the state of that material or a combination of various types of material is understood. The material has not yet been used, and therefore it is new. A human being is a creation, but an adult is not considered to be a new human being. How, then, can an adult be a new creation?

In this context we are dealing with the inner person, the character of a person. Every individual is marked out with

☞ Continues on page 21

Sejde-li se skupina lidí, která má něco společného, plní určitý záměr. Nebylo tomu jinak ani během letošní konvence ve Philippi. Prostory A-B College jsou už dlouhá léta oblíbeným místem pro všechny účastníky. Při každoročním setkání někdo chybí a na druhé straně se vždy objeví noví lidé. Nebylo tomu jinak ani tento rok. Stránky tohoto časopisu vám přináší přehled o průběhu konvence 2007.

Záměrem letošního setkání bylo zamyšlení nad skutečností, že každý vyznavač Krista je v Kristu nově stvoření. Být "novým stvořením" je poněkud neobvyklé slovní spojení a naprosto cizí nezavěšenému člověku. V čem spočívá novost něčeho? Jedná-li se o nové oblečení či nábytek nebo také nový druh jídla, rozumí se tím stav materiálu či kombinace několika různých materiálů. Materiál nebyl doposud použit, proto je nový. Člověk je stvoření. Dospělý člověk není pokládán za nového člověka. Novorozeně je všeobecně vnímáno jako nový člověk, přeneseně nově stvoření. Jak tedy může být dospělý člověk novým stvořením?

V tomto spojení se jedná o vnitřního člověka, o osobnost člověka. Každý člověk se vyznačuje specifickými zvláštnostmi, které jsou všeobecně vnímány jako charakter, zvyky, chování a nadání. Celé lidstvo tak může být rozděleno do různých povahových kategorií,

☞ Pokračování na straně 17



Front cover: Collage-Vít Malek
Back cover: Convention 2007 picture
Other pictures: Darko Siracki, Tomáš Křiška, Pavel Vraj, Eva Rehak, George Sommer



Whoever Is in Christ Is New

2 Cor. 5:17

98th Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada Philippi, West Virginia, July 5–8, 2007

It is hard to believe, but a few of months have already passed since we had our last Convention. We still have so many wonderful memories that are fresh in our minds.

Here are the minutes from the first meeting of General Board, which took place on Thursday afternoon, July 5.

The President welcomed the members of the General Board and read Psalm 30. He commented that this Psalm deals with the whole scope of our emotional life. He also read Romans 8:28.

The President recognized Tomas and Ester Kriska, our special guests from the Slovak Republic. Tomas is the President of the Baptist Union in Slovakia, and he brought greetings from several friends. Other members who were recognized were Jerry Andrs, who has been suffering with eye problems; George Gregor, who is attending the first convention since the loss of his dear wife, Alice; Vera Dors, who has a new granddaughter; Richard Mazanec, in the loss of his dear wife, Cora; the Alac family, who have a two-week-old grandchild (and John Alac, the new dad, sends his greetings); greetings from William and Esther Widlicka, who were not able to attend because of health problems; Robert Struharik was not able to be here last year but is with us this time; Bill Rotar is here but will be leaving tomorrow because of responsibilities in his own church; Rev. Kenneth Devine will not be here because he is recovering from throat surgery. Jan Banko asked for prayers for Joe and Jean Hynek, Mary Hynek and daughter Linda. We want to remember Anne and Fred Opocensky, Shirley Mobley, Sue Senak, who is in assisted



Exchange of the gifts: Tomas, Ester Kriska, Bob Dvorak, George Sommer



Communion—Joza Novak, Don Shoff, Nico Mulder, Jan Banko and Vladimir Kralik

living in Florida, and John Gabor. Prayer time was led by Jan Banko, Joe Novak and Robert Dvorak.

The members of the Board were asked to review the secretary's minutes contained in their packets.

Financial secretaries Vera Dors and Henry Pojman gave their reports. Vera reported that giving is less than last year, but Henry stated that the giving in Canada is up approximately \$2,500.

Treasurer for the US, George Gregor, gave his report. He stated that although our receipts have been low our expenses have also been low.

Treasurer for Canada, Otilia Alac, referred to her report printed on Page 5 in the General Board report.

President Dvorak reported that the publishing of *Glorious Hope* is behind schedule for a variety of reasons. He suggested that we try to get on schedule by publishing July-August, and call it issue 1–4.

Joe Novak reported on the Tract Ministry and said that he was happy and excited, and he thanked the members for their prayers and financial support. He stated that in the last 22 years they have printed 3,614,915 tracts and distributed 3,573,150 of them. This literature is witnessing about Jesus in 79 countries, with some translated into 18 languages. Joe and Rose have recently spent 24 days in the Czech Republic, and he brought greetings from many friends.

Bill Rotar reported on the Boubelik and Michael Trust Funds, which he manages. All of the funds have shown an increase.



Fellowship—obecnstvi



Toronto Singers

Joe Novak gave the names of members for different committees. Any member who is not attending this year's convention will not be serving for the current year. His report is published on page 5 of the General Board Report. Amy Nesvadba, Jody Nesvadba and Filip Vlasic were added to the Youth Committee.

Committee members are:

Nominating: Joe Novak—chair, Daniel Widlicka, Kenneth Devine, Jan Banko, William Rotar, Jan Franka, Stan Mantle, Garth Priebe

Budget: Robert Dvorak—chair, George Gregor, Henry Pojman, Otilia Alac, Vera Dors, Bill Rotar

Publishing: George Sommer—chair, Joe Novak, Natasha Legierski, Jan Banko

Auditing: Jerry Andrs—chair, Stan Mantle, Donna Nesvadba

Missionary: Jerry Andrs, Jan Franka, Fred Opocensky

Youth: Darko Siracki, Tom Devine, John Alac

Awards & Recognitions: Robert Dvorak—chair, George Sommer, Anne Opocensky, Milan Lev

The President and the Executive Secretary are ex-officio members of all Committees

The President's report included a brief summary of a trip he and Dottie had taken to Nova Scotia and their visit at Arcadia Divinity School. They met with the Dean and had a very informative visit.

Normally the program for the convention is approved at the Board meeting, and the proposed agenda was printed in the General Board Report. Robert Dvorak suggested that after the business meeting on Friday we have Tomas Kriska talk with us about the life and work of the Baptist Union in Slovakia and that this session include a question-and-answer period.

Robert also stated that Don Shoff comes a long way and is not one of our churches' pastors. Don has graciously agreed to teach the English Bible Study, and Robert suggested that the convention pay for housing for him and Judy.

We were encouraged to prepare a list of people or churches that would be bringing greetings. Also, names of those to be remembered in the memorial service need to be reported before the Sunday service.

Page 8 of the General Board report contains the Mission Report and Proposal for our contribution for 2008 from Jan Titera, General

Secretary of the Baptist Union in the Czech Republic. Joe Novak made a motion to approve the report and proposal.

At the mid-year meeting the Board approved an ad hoc committee to plan the 100th meeting of the Convention. That sub-committee will meet Friday at 2:30 p.m.

Robert also suggested that we should spend down from our trust funds for mission purposes. When we send money to the Czech or Slovak Republic, it is worth half as much as it was seven years ago. We cannot spend the capital in the Michael Fund, and the interest is to be used only for non-North American seminary students. The interest on the Boubelik Fund is available. The Budget Committee will discuss this matter. George Gregor suggested that we publish in *Glorious Hope* the mission report from the Czech Republic for 2006 and the proposal for 2008.

The General Secretary report was given by George Sommer.

- As of July 4th there had been 3460 hits on the Convention web site.

- George pointed out that now all magazines being sent overseas must go airmail. This has greatly increased the cost of mailing *Glorious Hope*.

- The Friday night session of the Convention will be Youth Night. Darko Siracki will direct this program.

- On Saturday morning the youth will have a Bible Study and picnic.

- Next Convention will be July 10–13, 2008. The mid-year meeting will be held in October or November in Grace Baptist Church in Windsor, Ontario. This church will be celebrating its 80th anniversary on November 17 and 18, 2007.

- Each year our Convention gives \$1,000 to Alderson-Broaddus College. George, an employee of the College, has now installed a new sound system in the chapel, and during the summer new lighting will be installed. Also by next year there will be a new screen and video projector.

- The names and dates to be read at the memorial service on Sunday morning are to be given to Robert Dvorak. Robert pointed out that George has had a recent eye injury and a bad cut of one finger, and he thanked George for all his work for the Convention.

Bill Rotar pointed out that as an ex-officio member of the Board



A-B President Dr. Steve Markwood and Dr. Robert Dvorak



Convention Choir, Jud Bracey conducting

he is a non-voting member. This is necessary because of the investments he handles for the Convention.

It was announced that the Publishing Committee would meet immediately after adjournment.

The first business session of the 98th Czechoslovak Baptist Convention was held July 6, 2007. The meeting was opened by President Robert Dvorak, reading 2 Timothy 4: 1-5, followed by prayer.

Members were asked to quickly review the minutes of the annual meeting of 2006 as printed in the delegates' package. Joe Novak made a motion to accept the minutes as printed, seconded by Robert Struharik and passed.

The financial secretaries of the Convention, Vera Dors and Henry Pojman, referred to their reports in the delegates' package. Total contributions for the US were \$28,890 and for Canada \$15,719. Vera commented that the US contributions were slightly lower than the previous year, and Henry said that in Canada there was a slight increase.

The Treasurers, George Gregor for the US and Otilia Alac for Canada, referred to their reports in the delegates' package and were available to answer any questions asked of them.

George Gregor reported on the investment with New York Life Annuity. In the absence of Bill Rotar, Robert Dvorak summarized Bill's report. The Boubelik Funds, with Smith Barney, have shown an increase of 13%. The Michael Funds with Smith Barney have earned 13.8%, and with Franklin Templeton 15%.

It was announced regarding *Glorious Hope* that the General Board had concluded that the July/Aug issue will be 1-4; then we will print Sept/Oct and Nov/Dec. That will get us up to date.

Joe Novak reported on the Tract Ministry. He thanked the members for their prayers and financial support. He summarized his report and read excerpts from a few of the many letters he is privileged to receive regularly. He and Rose had recently visited the Czech Republic, and he had many opportunities to preach, pray and witness there.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the reports, and at the request of the President the motion passed enthusiastically.

The President reported that we are planning for the 100th meeting of the Convention. Members of the committee are Jan Banko, Natasha Legierski, Jan Franka, Darko Siracki, Esther Tarr, Vlado Kralik, Brian Dors, Amy Nesvadba, Marija Sommer, George Sommer

The Executive Secretary's report is the same as previously stated.

Robert commented that we are indebted to George and Marija for all they do to prepare for the convention and thanked them on behalf of the members.

A motion to accept all reports was made by Jan Banko, seconded by Judy Shoff, and passed.

Greetings were extended from Christ Community Church, Campbell Ohio; John & Margie Jeren; Elizabeth Jane Legierski Fields



Toronto Worship Team

of Victoria, B. C.; Doreen & John Gazo; Fred & Anne Opocensky; Dick & Grace Niswonger; Czechoslovak Baptist Church, Toronto; John Alac, Jr; Martin & Jenny Alac and family; and pastors of the Czech Republic, Rev. Jan Titera, Executive Secretary of the Czech Baptist Union; Rev. S. Stehlik of Zatec; Rev. Petr Cervinsky; Rev. Frank Hruza; and Radek Pospisil of Lovosice. The convention looks forward to the greetings we receive each year.

Members were again reminded to give the names for the memorial service to Robert Dvorak.

The second business session was held July 7 and opened by President Robert Dvorak.

The chairman of the Auditing Committee, Jerry Andrs, announced that the committee had reviewed the financial records of the Convention and found them in good order. He also commented that the financial secretaries and treasurers are doing a fantastic job.

The proposed budget for the next year was presented. The total amount of the budget is higher than givings. Members were encouraged to give on a regular basis. A motion from the Budget Committee to accept the budget was passed enthusiastically. The budget is published in the insert of this issue.

This was the business portion of the 98th Annual Convention. Even though the number of delegates was lower than in other years, (mostly because of the high price of gasoline), the spirit, blessings, and fellowship (as we say, "obecenství") were on a very high level. All messages were well prepared, and we were blessed.

On Thursday night, we were pleased to hear the choir of Philippi Baptist Church under the direction of Dr. Jud Bracey and accompanied by Marija Sommer. Both of them then worked with the Convention



Fellowship at the Sommers

and Robert Dvorak. Robert reminded the members that we cannot draw down the original investment of our investment funds. In the budget meeting the possibility will be discussed of using some of the interest in the next couple of years. The proposal from the Czech Baptist Union for 2008, printed in the delegates' package, was approved unanimously by the General Board.



Bible Study

choir. Also President Dr. Steve Markwood of Alderson-Broadus College welcomed our annual Convention.

Friday night was Youth Night. Darko Siracki was worship leader, Filip Vlasic hymn-singing leader, and Brian Dors in charge of "Recognition of the Nations." I am very pleased to report that the Youth Night was again very successful.

After our famous "Old-Fashioned Hymn Singing with Bob Dvorak at the Piano," we could cool down with plenty of ice-cream, and we enjoyed a lot of obecnstvi. (And the ice-cream was still melting.)

On Saturday all the young people, under the direction of Darko Siracki and Filip and Petar Vlasic, departed to Audra State Park for a picnic, devotions, play, swimming, etc. More about their trip can be found on the Youth Page in this issue of *Glorious Hope*.

The children, under the direction of Kristina Vlasic, had their studies and play during the day and evening services. Sunday morning Kristina led the children's talk. More about the work with children can be found in "Children's Corner."

Saturday morning, as usual, our ladies had their meeting with a very rich program

Saturday night, our usual Saturday Evening Concert was held. We heard many young and also "older" talents. It is always a special time enjoyed by everyone.

On Sunday morning, following the communion and memorial service and Sunday school, during the morning service, gifts were exchanged between the Kriskas and Convention officials. After the service the Convention picture was taken. At the banquet we certainly enjoyed a typical Czechoslovak meal—pork roast, dumplings and sauerkraut. What more could we ask for?

In the afternoon many of the delegates gathered at the Sommers' for refreshing watermelon, testimonies, obecnstvi and evening picnic.

In summary, we enjoyed very much the visit of the Kriskas, as representatives of the Slovak Baptist Union.

Tomas was Slovak Bible Study leader and also delivered the Friday night sermon during Youth Night. On Saturday morning Ester gave a report and testimony of ladies' work in the Czech Republic. She is a very talented violinist, and she enriched our program with violin-piano duets.

Although small in numbers, the Czechoslovak

Baptist Convention of USA and Canada is alive and doing great work on this continent as well as supporting the work of our brothers and sisters in the Czech and Slovak Republics. Our music program during every convention is of the highest quality, and we are very grateful to all who participated.

We should not forget the countless hours Helen Pojman and Deb Lev Mulder put into registering and taking care of all participants. I could not imagine that the Annual Convention could go so smoothly. Also thanks go to Jan Banko and Kristina Vlasic for their help.

In closing, we hope you will make every effort to be here next year. Nothing can replace the blessings you receive here and take home to share with others you come in contact with. How blessed we are to have such great Bible Study leaders, pastors, prayer time leaders, youth and children's workers. May our Lord bless you all for all you did to make this convention a memorable one. God willing, see you next year in Philippi, July 10–13, 2008.

The committee planning the Centennial meeting of Convention in 2009 met and made good progress. The Centennial Annual Convention will be held July 9–12, 2009. Guest speaker will be the former General Secretary of BWA, Dr. Denton Lotz, a very good friend of Czech and Slovak Baptists.

If you have some suggestions or ideas, please share them with us. Also if you have any pictures which we could use, send them to: Czechoslovak Baptist Convention

Rt. 4, Box 58D, Philippi, WV 26416.

We want the Centennial Celebration to be a memorable one for everyone. Start planning now to attend. We hope that ladies will be available and willing to bake some delicious Czech and Slovak kolacky and cukrovi (cookies) and bring them to the convention. They could be made ahead of time, frozen and brought in coolers. The College cafeteria has a big refrigerator to keep them fresh for days.

Above all, we need your prayers. There is a lot of work to be done and workers that are getting older with each passing day. If you can help and are

willing—welcome aboard.

For those who were not able to attend this year's Annual Convention, here is the program. Also pictures can be seen on the Convention web page: czslbaptconv.ab.edu

Program for the 98th Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention Thursday, July 5, 2007

1:00 p.m. General Board Meeting—Crim
Publishing Committee Meeting



Bob Dvorak at the Piano



Convention Youth

7:00 p.m. **Opening Service**

Worship Leader *Richard Mazanec*

Song Leader *Rev. Dan Widlicka*

Convention Welcome:

Dr. Steve Markwood, President of A-B College

Special Music

Sermon: *Bill Rotar*: "Nathanael: Fast to Believe" John 1:43–50

Friday, July 6, 2007

9:00 a.m. Prayer Time *Ester Kriskova*

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

English: *Don Shoff*

Slovak: *Tomas Kriska*

10:15 a.m. Hymn Singing *Rev. Dan Widlicka*

10:20 a.m. Missionary Report

10:45 a.m. First Business Session

12:15 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Activity Recess

(Swimming, Tennis, Golf, Racquetball, Soccer)

7:00 p.m. **Youth and Ethnic Night**

Recognition of Nations *Brian Dors*

Worship Leader *Darko Siracki*

Song Leader *Filip Vlasic*

Combined Choir

Sermon: *Tomas Kriska*: "Zachaeus: From Curiosity to Commitment" Luke 19:1–10

Old-Fashioned Hymn Singing with *Robert Dvorak* at the piano

Ice-cream Social

Saturday, July 7, 2007

9:00 a.m. Prayer Time *Nico Mulder*

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:15 a.m. Hymn Singing *Rev. Dan Widlicka*

10:20 a.m. Convention Reports

10:50 a.m. Ladies' Missionary Rally: *Esther Tarr*—President; Speaker—*Ester Kriska*

1:15 p.m. Activity Recess

7:00 p.m. **Evening Service**

Worship Leader *Vladimir Kralik*

Song Leader *Jud Bracey*

Combined Choir

Sermon: *Jan Banko*: "Woman of Samaria: Telling Out What She Knew" John 4:39–42

Saturday Night Concert

Robert Dvorak & Marija Sommer

Sunday, July 8, 2007

8:30 a.m. Communion, Memorial Service, Prayer Time, *Donald Shoff, Robert Dvorak, Joe Novak*

9:30 a.m. Bible Study (Sunday School)

10:45 a.m. **Morning Worship Service**

Worship Leader *Joe Novak*

Song Leader *Jud Bracey*

Combined Choir

Sermon: *Robert Dvorak*: "Nicodemus: Wondering about Complicated Things" John 3:1–10

Convention Picture and Banquet

May our Lord be with you and take care of all of your needs.

In His service

George Sommer, Gloria Andrs

□

A Little Retrospective Glance

Natasha Legierski

The course of a person's life is edged with numerous experiences and incidents, varying in character, much like trees along the river. A little path along the river Labe, where I grew up, was lined with tall poplars. Every so often, a bush would appear amongst the trees. Taking walks here, especially in the early evening, had a charm all its own. At dusk, the trees and other vegetation took on interesting shapes. Join that with youthful imagination, and all sorts of scenarios took place. Today they have already become mere memories of carefree years.

Beside all these experiences, there can also be many changes



Bible Study

and transformations with which each one of us must, in some way, come to terms. I am driving onto the A-B college campus with mixed feelings. During the long drive my mind raced with many thoughts and memories. Convention has always been a kind of oasis in an incessant, unending cycle of days, weeks and months. I am looking forward to meeting with those faithfully walking along the road of faith. At the same time I feel a certain sadness. My children will not be part of this meeting. We have had some wonderful times with them here. I remember a season of our lives when we would put the children to bed and linger in our groups of friends until the wee hours of the morning. Just a few years later we were reminding our children not to stay up too late. Oddly enough, both children and parents always looked fairly rested in the morning and ready for another day with a rich program. Not too long ago we had to have 'talks' with the youth so that they would not wake us up with their noise in the middle of the night. Since then, the number of children and youth has perceptibly dwindled, and we are asleep before midnight.

The familiar faces of those who arrived before me wake me up from my reminiscences. Warm welcomes ensue, with faces lit up with infectious smiles and sparkling eyes. A peculiar atmosphere hangs about the college campus. Surely that is partly due to the fact that we are in the hills, far from the industrial world. That, however, is not the only reason. I realize that it is an atmosphere of love—love from one person to another that only God could instill. Each and every individual is precious in God's eyes. This is the strength fellowship is founded on—the strength of love. And I am in its embrace.

Translated by *Elizabeth Jane Fields*

□

84th Annual Rally of the Czechoslovak Baptist Women's Missionary Union

Deb (Lev) Mulder

Our 84th Rally began with a warm welcome from our president, Esther Tarr, followed by her opening prayer. Our visitors from Slovakia, Tomas and Ester Kriskovi, sang a lovely duet in English, *Only By Grace*. This was followed by the singing of the hymn *Blessed Be the Name*. The scripture was Ephesians 2:19-22, read by Margaret Springle in Czech and by Libby Racinsky in English. The Toronto ladies provided us with special music this year. The first song they sang was *Na Golgote (At Calvary)*, and later in the programme they sang another Slovak song, *Krvou tvoou (Through Your Blood)*.

The business portion of our rally included the approval of the 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes, the Treasurer's Report, as well as



Deb Mulder, Libby Racinsky, Margaret Springle, Esther Tarr



Toronto Singers

greetings and a report from Rev. Joe Novak. Rev. Novak read from Isaiah 55 and reminded us that *His word will not return to me empty*. Donna Nesvadba read over the proposed budget for next year and prayed for the offering to be collected. During the offering we were blessed by Michele Moore, Ester Kriskova and Marija Sommer and their moving rendition of *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*.

Natasha Legierski then introduced and welcomed our speaker, Ester Kriskova, whom she has personally known for many years. Natasha shared with us that after the Convention, Ester and her husband Tomas would be traveling on to Arizona, where they were going to receive training in couples counseling. Ester then shared her



Ester Kriskova receives plaque from Esther Tarr

living testimony of her shepherd and Lord. She reminded us of the words of the Ladies' song and shared with us what the blood of Jesus has done for us. She opened herself up to all of us

in the chapel that morning and shared her past feelings of fear, inadequacy and imperfection, her struggle with the fact that she did not have assurance of God's unconditional love. But with

God's grace, she discovered a new land and God showed her the lies that Satan was telling her, and she began to fill her mind with God's truth. With the Lord's help, she accepted the truth about herself, gave up her rights and surrendered all to the Lord. Once she was able to do this and realize that all her needs were met in Christ, her struggles with lack of appreciation and frustration in her relationships disappeared. Ester encouraged us all to study the New Testament letters to remind ourselves who we are in Christ.

Ester shared with us about some of the work amongst the ladies in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. There is a new, fresh wind in Women's Ministry in these two countries. Recently there were 270 women in attendance at a conference and there is great anticipation that the numbers will continue to grow. Ester's hope is for the New Covenant teaching to continue to change the lives of women in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. She strongly believes in discipleship training and she is currently working with 30 women from around Slovakia.

As our rally concluded, Esther Tarr thanked Ester Kriskova and presented her with our convention quilt, a certificate of appreciation and a lovely book. Our closing hymn was *To God Be the Glory*, and Dottie Dvorak closed the rally in prayer.



Libby Racinsky, Margaret Springle



Dorothy Dvorak



Ester Kriskova



Dottie Kvasnica

From Our Readers



Dear Editor,

I have always been disturbed by the rapidly expanding gap between the affluence of countries such as the United States and Canada, and the extreme poverty of developing countries like India, Kenya, Pakistan and many others. In many cases the ones who suffer the most are the children of these countries. I always thought there was nothing one person like me could do; after all, it is a long-standing global crisis. Then I read *Free the Children* by Craig Kielburger. It is the powerful story of a twelve-year-old boy living an affluent life in Toronto and coming across a newspaper article that told the story of a child labourer in Pakistan. This twelve-year-old boy wanted to find out more about child labour. As a result, Free the Children is now the "world's largest network of children helping children through education, with more than one million youth involved in [their] innovative education and development programs in 45 countries." All because one boy wanted to see another boy freed.

Child labour is always found in developing countries teeming with the poor. But poverty is not bad luck, it's not an accident and as we have just observed, ONE person, no matter what age, can make a huge difference. There has been a strong international campaign to eliminate poverty since 2005, Make Poverty History.

I have a suggestion for this magazine and its convention. In the past, the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada made a difference internationally by aiding the Communist-oppressed people of Czechoslovakia. The Czech and Slovak Republics are no longer oppressed by Communism. There is, however, a widely neglected oppression, killing a

mother, daughter, son and father every three seconds. This oppression has found its way into just about every corner of the world, including our very own countries. I think it's time the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada and its supporters rose up to fight the good fight of faith. Pure religion and undefiled before God the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world. (James 1:27) In other words, God wants us to take care of, feed and clothe the orphans and widows, the poor who are being grossly exploited every day. If one twelve year-old boy can make such an impact, surely we who have the Spirit of Almighty God dwelling in us can make a difference that cannot be ignored, in at least Canada, Czech Republic, and the United States, if not the whole world.

In the last few years that I've attended the Convention, there was an obvious lack of vision and purpose to our meeting (besides seeing one another again, and enjoying each other's company). Christ gave us a vision two thousand years ago. Why don't we go with what He had in mind and succeed in bringing the gospel to thousands, millions, through getting their needs met?

Elizabeth Jane Fields



Winnipeg, MB

Dear Friends,

In October I sent a bulletin about the passing of my mother, Bessie Reichert. As yet I have not seen anything in *Glorious Hope* about it.

I am sending an article about Bessie Reichert and a tribute to her by her grandson, Allen Adrian.

Included is a cheque in memory of my parents, Bessie and Karel Reichert.

In Christ, George and Florence Adrian



June 13, 2007

Cooking Corner



Dear Editor,

Thank you for including the "Cooking Corner" section in the most recent *Glorious Hope*. I recently tried the recipe, and the pork and sauerkraut turned out very well but unfortunately the dumplings were an absolute disaster! Perhaps a bit more detail on making these would have been useful for those of us not used to working with yeast and dough. I've since learned that using pizza dough is a possible substitute.

I'd also like to see information not just on Czech food but also on the history and importance of hosting in Czech culture and in the church. What sort of role do food and hosting play in church life?

Regards, John Alac

Dear John,

I was delighted to receive your letter. Welcome to the ranks of successful cooks (and parents)! If you continue cooking Slavic recipes, little Matias will undoubtedly shoot up like a weed, and soon become a strapping young man!

I trust that with practice your dumplings will only get better. I appreciate your idea where the dough is concerned; I have personally never thought of that. No one can be inventive enough, especially when it comes to cooking. Of course it could not hurt to add more detail in the next recipe printed. An answer to your question will be expounded upon in the next issue of *Glorious Hope*.

Natasha Legierski

Note: We welcome any contributions by other readers, answering the question asked above.





Part 1

Principles of Effective Prayer: A Fresh Look at the Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:5–15

Dr. Donald Shoff

If we were asked, “Do you believe God still answers prayer?” all of us would enthusiastically answer, “Of course He does.” If we were asked, “Do you pray?” the response would undoubtedly be the same. However, if asked to tell of a specific answer to prayer in our own life within the last few months, the response would probably be less positive and enthusiastic.

The problem for some of us is that prayer has become a habit, not the vital expression of our walk with the Lord that it once was. One man put it this way: “My prayer life was a mechanical monologue. My prayers often went like this: Dear God, Forgive me for all the bad things I do, help me to do better. Thank you for all the things you give me. Help everybody everywhere. Amen. And I wondered why so little was happening in my Christian walk.” Most of us can identify with him. When pressed, most Christians admit that prayer is the weakest part of their Christian life.

In an attempt to address that need, let's take a look at what historically has been called the Lord's Prayer, or more accurately, the Model Prayer. Jesus intended this prayer to be something of an outline for our praying. While there is certainly nothing wrong with reciting the Lord's Prayer as part of a worship liturgy, this was not our Lord's intent, as we will see. The Lord's Prayer is one of the most profound passages in all of Scripture—yet it is profoundly simple. These 66 words contain seven prayer principles, which when understood and implemented can change our lives. Let's examine first...

1. The Principle of Motive

Our motivation for prayer must be communion with God, not a means to draw attention to us or to receive praise for our holiness. The Pharisees of Jesus' day fell into this trap. Jesus said:



5 And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.

6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you, (Matthew 6:5–6).

The word Jesus used most often when referring to or addressing the Pharisees was hypocrites. The root meaning of the word was an actor who played a part on a stage and eventually came to mean someone who assumed a counterfeit character, who pretended. Jesus repeatedly used this word to describe the Pharisees. They were utterly devoid of sincerity and genuineness even though outwardly they appeared very sincere, very holy. Prayer for them was simply playing a part on a stage for others to observe. Jesus said their praying sprang from a motivation “to be seen by men.” It is significant that the first thing Jesus does when teaching His disciples how to pray is to use a negative example and say, “do not be like the hypocrites.” What we do is important to God. But why we do what we do is even more important. If the act of prayer does not spring from a sincere motive to commune with God, we are wasting our time.

Our motivation for prayer, also, must be communion with God, not a religious ritual that seeks to manipulate Him.

7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him, (Matthew 6:7–8).

“Babbling like pagans” may have been a reference to Elijah's showdown with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. The test was simple: The god who answered by fire—he is God. The prophets of Baal went first. They built an altar, placed their sacrifice on it, and called on the name of Baal from morning 'til noon. Their calling soon gave way to shouting, and shouting gave way to dancing, and dancing to slashing themselves until their blood flowed. The text continues, “They continued their frantic prophesying [ecstatic raving] until the time of the evening sacrifice (1Kings 18:28–29). It was the assumption of pagans that the more words they uttered, the better chance of their prayers being answered. And the greater the intensity and volume of those words, the greater the efficacy of those words.

This was still the norm for pagan praying in Jesus' day. Even today, some religions have their mystical incantations, believing that if certain words are repeated often enough, their deity will hear them. Some Christians are not above the thoughtless, soulless repetition of words that supposes they can put God in their debt or entice Him to grant their wish simply “because of their many words.”

So, Jesus' first principle of prayer addresses our heart attitude. Motives matter greatly to God. Is our praying a religious performance, or an attempt to pressure God by the sheer number of our words? If so, we may mouth religious words but we do not truly pray.

Secondly, let's examine...

2. The Principle of Relationship

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,'" (Matthew 6:9).

Father was Jesus' favorite name for Jehovah. Six times in this prayer, He refers to God as Father. Jesus is not saying that we should begin our prayers by addressing God as Father just to get His attention. Rather, we call God Our Father to remind ourselves of our relationship with the God of the universe. He knows us and desires our fellowship. He is Our Heavenly Father.

When we address God as Father we confess to a family relationship. Some people speak of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man as though God is Father to all mankind. Certainly, He is the creator of all. Yet, Jesus never used the word Father in that sense. In fact, on one occasion when speaking to some religious leaders, He made it plain that not everyone is related to God as Father. He said to them, *"You belong to your father the devil,"* (John 8:44). In John 1:12, Jesus explains how one enters this Father-child relationship: *"To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."* That is, until we are in the family of God we cannot truly address God as Father.

Scripture is plain that the Holy Spirit takes up residence within individuals when they believe on Jesus Christ. The indwelling Spirit creates that loving heart-relationship with God that can best be described as a Father-child relationship. *"Because you are his children, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father,'"* (Galatians 4:6).

In one of his commentaries, William Barclay tells of an event that took place in the days when the Roman legions march in triumph throughout the Mediterranean world. A victory celebration was being

held in the city of Rome. The conquering soldiers carried the booty and led the captives down the streets that were lined with thousands of cheering citizens. As the Emperor's chariot came near the reviewing stand, his young son jumped off the platform and burrowed his way between the legs of the soldiers who were holding the people back. A soldier scooped the little boy up in his arms and said, "You can't go out there. That's the Emperor." The little boy replied, "He may be your Emperor, but he's my father." If God is only your Emperor, you need to join the family.

When we call God Our Father, we not only confess a family relationship but we also acknowledge His loving concern for us. Missionaries who take the Christian

God's family, Jesus said:

"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:9-11).

Finally, when we call God Our Father, we profess a desire to fellowship with Him. The word Father not only speaks of God's attitude toward us, but also of our attitude toward Him. One of the characteristics of a child is the desire to be with and to enjoy the presence of his or her father. A true child of God desires to fellowship with the Heavenly Father through worship, prayer, and time in the Word. He or she has more than a childish concept of God as a divine Santa Claus whose purpose is to give us everything we want. A child of God desires to spend time in His presence.

In one of his books, author Dr. Cecil Osborne tells of being in a church for a series of meetings and staying in the pastor's home. The pastor and his wife had a five-year-old son who was one of the most winsome, delightful children he had ever met. Dr. Osborne was up early one morning sitting

in the family room, when this child came racing down the stairs and threw his arms around him. Dr. Osborne said it was a very moving experience to realize that this little child loved him so much. In just a moment, however, the little guy asked, "Got any gum?" When he discovered that Dr. Osborne didn't have any gum or other treats, he was back up the stairs as quickly as he had come down. He said it was that morning that he began to realize that his relationship with God, especially as expressed in his prayer life, had been like that little boy's relationship with him.

God delights to "give good gifts to those who ask him." However, as we address Him with the confession Our Father, we profess that it is not just for His gifts that we have come to Him. We desire the fellowship of His presence.

□



Slovak Bible Study

gospel to pagan tribes say that one of the greatest blessings of those who believe on Jesus Christ is a release from a fear of the gods. Paganism believes in many gods. There is a god for the trees, one for the river, and one for the mountains. All the gods are hostile and capricious, and must be appeased by continual sacrifices and rituals. The worshiper can never be sure of having done enough to appease the gods, and thus lives in continual fear of harm from the gods. When the people came to understand the nature of the true God and learned that He loved them enough to have His Son die for them, they were able to rest in the assurance of His love. To be able address the infinite Creator as Father is one of the most comforting truths of the gospel—no matter where or when you live.

When speaking of that Father-child relationship that exists because we are in

Rev. Dr. Andrew Kmetko

90 Years Young



Alice and Andy Kmetko

who live in apartments or in villas which are separate from the apartment buildings.

It is a very attractive place and has many amenities for the seniors, such as walking paths, swimming pool, exercise room, and classes in many different subjects. There are two dining rooms and one of them is designed for family events. They also have a very good chef.

Andy's sons Tom and Steve and daughter Judy planned the party. There were children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even a nephew and a grandnephew at the party plus friends. Since their family is so spread out over the United States, there were

On Saturday, May 5th, 2007, Andy Kmetko's family and friends celebrated his 90th birthday. They all came to Luther Village in Arlington Heights, Illinois, where Andy and Alice now live. This is a large community of senior citizens

people present from Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and even Arizona and California.

Andy really enjoyed the company of so many of his relatives and friends. His health isn't of

the best and he usually uses a wheelchair when going out. He is a faithful member of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, but his health has interfered with traveling to the Convention in recent years. Andy and Alice would really like to be there in person, but their prayers as well as their support are with the ongoing program of the Convention.

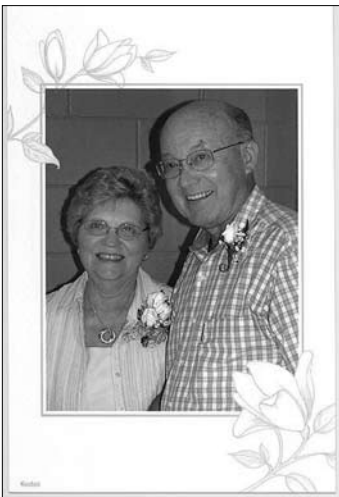
Alice Kmetko



Andy Kmetko Family

Bernie and Libby Racinsky

Married July 20, 1957



It was with great joy that 200 close friends and relatives met with Bernie and Libby Racinsky to celebrate 50 years of marriage. This celebration took place July 21, 2007, at their place of worship, Maple Avenue Baptist Church in Georgetown, Ontario.

Bernie and Libby have been blessed with four children (Mark, James, Miriam and Tim) and nine grandchildren. The program began with a video presentation of still shots of family and friends over the past 50 years and even a short

video of their wedding day. This compilation of memories was put to background music from recordings by the Toronto Czechoslovak Baptist Church Choir as well as duets by Bernie and Bill Springle (brother of Libby).

Their life together was honoured through their children's, grandchildren's and friends' reminiscences. These moments were interspersed with beautiful musical numbers. Their chil-

dren sang a quartet—Great is Thy Faithfulness—which certainly underlined that Bernie and Libby's marriage has stayed strong through God's great faithfulness.

Margaret Springle



**Check our NEW Convention Web page:
<http://czslbaptconv.ab.edu>**



Milan and Eileen Lev Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Their Wedding

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (Gal. 6:9)

Milan and Eileen Lev fulfilled a blessed 50 years of their marital life on July 4 this year. Celebration of this precious anniversary, however, took place on Saturday, August 25, at Masaryktown's Prague Restaurant. Among those who joined in were their family and friends, and also brothers and sisters from the Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Toronto.

In the warm family atmosphere of this festive meeting resounded memories of those who had known the Lev family for many years. Funny stories delighted and entertained, but also brought vestiges of wisdom and experience from the life of the celebrating couple. And of course, choir ministry, valuable musical performance and words of poetry were not missing. Beautiful wishes directed to Milan and Eileen enhanced in a dignified way the overall character of this event, already rich with a delicious meal.

Your beautiful marriage, Milan and Eileen, is a great encouragement for all of us. It leads us to carry honour and glory to the Lord, whom you have served already for more than 50 years. In an atmosphere of mutual love, honour and dignity, you brought up and directed to God's ways your children, your son Paul and daughter Deborah. Your service as loving parents, in-laws and grandparents continues in a blessed way.

Dear brother Milan, as you sincerely followed the Lord Jesus Christ, you never grew weary in doing good and high quality service in various areas—as an elder and deacon of the Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Toronto, as a self-sacrificial and skilled maintenance man taking care of the church building, and also as an excellent cook of tasteful picnic meals.

Dear sister Eileen, your devoted service to the Lord bears the seal of your sincere submission to God. The fruit of your service was manifested in many areas—leader of the Ladies' Circle, soprano singer in the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention and Czechoslovak Baptist Church choirs, and together with your husband an active servant in pastoral visitations, in financial generosity and in receiving guests in your hospitable home.

Dear Levs, please receive these few thoughts as a token of our gratitude to God for you—for your life, as well as for your ministry. We would also like to wish you an abundance of God's blessings in all areas of your life for many weeks, months and years to come.

Love in Christ, our Lord and Saviour

Your brothers and sisters from the Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Toronto.

Rev. Ján Banko



Manželia Lvovi oslávili 50. výročie svojej svadby

“A činiac dobré neustávajme, lebo svojim časom budeme žať neumdlievajúci.” (Gal. 6:9)

Manželom Milanovi a Eileen Lvovým sa naplnilo požehnaných 50 rokov manželského života vlastne už 4. júla tohoto roku. Oslava tejto vzácnnej udalosti sa však konala v sobotu, 25. augusta v prostredí reštaurácie Praha na Masaryktowne. Zúčastnila sa jej rodina, priatelia, známi, ako aj bratia a sestry z Československého baptistického zboru v Toronte.

V milej rodinnej atmosfére slávnostného stretnutia zazneli spomienky tých, ktorí poznajú rodinku našich jubilantov už dlhšiu dobu.

Úsmevné príbehy potešili, pobavili, avšak priniesli aj zrnká múdrosti a skúsenosti zo života manželov Lvových. Isteže nechýbala ani služba spevokolu, hodnotný hudobný programový vstup a slovo básnika. Krásne priania adresované oslávencom dôstojne vydvihli celkový ráz tejto udalosti, pri ktorej nechýbali ani chutné jedlá a nápoje.

Vaše krásne manželstvo, Milan a Eileen, je pre nás všetkým veľkým

povzbudením a vedie nás k tomu, aby sme vzdali slávu a česť Pánu Bohu, ktorému spoločne slúžite už viac ako 50 rokov. V ovzduší vzájomnej lásky, úcty a dôstojnosti vychovali a usmernili ste na Božie cesty Vaše deti, syna Pavla a dcéru Deboru. Vaša služba milujúcich rodičov, svokrovcov a starých rodičov pokračuje požehnaným spôsobom až do dnešných dní.

Milý brat Milan, pri Tvojom úprimnom nasledovaní Krista si neustával v konaní dobrej a kvalitnej služby v najrozmanitejších oblastiach—ako starší a diakon Československého baptistického zboru v

Toronte, ako obetavý a zručný majster pri údržbe budovy kostola a tiež ako výborný kuchár chutných piknikových občerstvení.

Milá sestra Eileen, Tvoja odovzdaná služba Pánovi nesie pečať úprimnej odovzdanosti Pánu Bohu. Ovocie Tvojej služby sa prejavilo v mnohých oblastiach—vedúca odboru sestier, sopránová speváčka v telesách spevokolov Československej baptistickej konvencie USA a Kanady i Československého baptistického zboru v Toronte a spolu s Tvojím manželom aktívne slúžiaca v oblasti pastoračných návštev, v oblasti finančnej štedrosti a v službe prijímania návštev vo Vašej pohostinnej domácnosti.

Milí manželia Lvovi, prijmite týchto pár riadkov ako znak našej vďačnosti Pánu Bohu za Vás—za Váš život i za Vašu službu. Chceme Vám do ďalšieho obdobia popriať hojnosť Božieho požehnania vo všetkých oblastiach Vášho života.

V láske Pána Ježiša Krista

Vaši bratia a sestry z Československého baptistického zboru v Toronte.

kazateľ Ján Banko



Memorial Service at the 98th Annual Convention

Sunday July 8, 2007

Grace Louise Ertner, July 14, 2006,
Emily Patrick Frasher, 99, Jan. 3, 2007,
Mirek Gabriel, March 2007,
Alice Gregor, Sept. 25, 2006,
Cora Mazanec, Sept. 13, 2006,
Mary Mala Skalsky, April 17, 2007,
Joseph Paul Skalsky, May 3, 2007,
Anna Stuszkova, Dec. 2006,
Fred Veselovsky, Dec. 2006,
Dolly Zapota, April 2007,

Cicero Bible Church, Ill
Canton Baptist Temple, Oh
Czechoslovak Baptist Church, Toronto, Ont
Hatch Hollow Baptist Church, Pa
First Baptist Church, Portland, Tenn.
Branches Baptist Church, Richmond, Va
Branches Baptist Church, Richmond, Va
Czechoslovak Baptist Church, Toronto, Ont
Czechoslovak Baptist Church, Toronto, Ont
Scranton Road Bible Church, Cleveland, Oh

Bessie (Božena) Reichert

1915–2006



Bessie (Božena) Reichert, born to Anastasia and Francek Jahoda on April 21, 1915, in Martinovka, Poland, went to be with her Lord and Saviour on Saturday, February 25, 2006 at the Poseidon Care Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Bessie was predeceased by her husband Karel in 1994, her brother Milton (Miloslav) and sister Josephine (Pepa) in 1982.

Bessie immigrated to Canada with her family in 1930 and settled in the Minitonas area of Manitoba. Bessie accepted the Lord as her Saviour while a teenager and was a charter member of the First Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Minitonas, Manitoba.

After working in Winnipeg for several years, Bessie returned to Minitonas and married Karel Reichert in October, 1936, and they farmed in the Floradale district. Bessie and Karel had four children, Florence, Anne, Charles and David. They lived on the farm until retirement, except for two breaks when they spent the winter in Toronto. In 1985 they moved to Winnipeg and began to attend Grant Memorial Baptist Church. In 1989 they moved into Lindenholt Place.

Bessie loved gardening and always had a large vegetable and flower garden. She always enjoyed it when her children and her grandchildren came to visit. She loved baking and cooking the favorite dishes her children and grandchildren enjoyed.

Bessie is survived by her sisters Marjorie Munchinsky and Mary Hynek, and her brother Stanley (Elaine) Richards; daughters

Florence (George) Adrian, Anne (Bill) Warner, and sons Charles (Phyllis) and David (Barbara) Reichert; grandchildren Sharon (Irv) Goertzen, Allen (Pamela) Adrian, Kevin (Brenda) Reichert, Lowell Reichert and Bryan (Theresa) Reichert, Ryan, Michelle Reichert and great-grandchildren Nathaniel, Samuel, Julia Goertzen, Zachary, Megan, Adrian, Amanda and Bradley Reichert, and six step-grandchildren and 14 step-great grandchildren.

Surviving her also are her sisters-in law Rose Kilbrai, Tona Springle, and Georgine (David) Nadeau, and many nieces and nephews and their children.

Her funeral service was held at Grant Memorial Baptist Church in Winnipeg, March 2, 2006. Pallbearers were her grandchildren Ryan Reichert, Michelle Reichert, Bryan Reichert, Lowell Reichert, Kevin Reichert, Allen Adrian, and Sharon Goertzen.

Grace Louise Ertner

May 14, 1920–July 14, 2006



Grace Louise Ertner, nee Dushek, was born May 14, 1920, in Chicago, Illinois, and entered her heavenly home on July 15, 2006. Accepting the Lord as her Savior at an early age, Grace ministered faithfully throughout her life. While an organ student of Joe Cech, Grace met Edward Ertner, son of Bertha Hlad Ertner and grandson of Vaclav Hlad. They were married on June 14, 1941, at Lawndale Emmanuel Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois.

She and Ed became a team, at home, in the workplace, and at church, he directing choirs and she by his side, playing piano and organ at Lawndale Emmanuel, Gethsemane Baptist, Cicero Bible and La Grange Bible Church. For almost seven decades, Grace played not only for church services, but for countless rehearsals, performances, weddings, funerals and special occasions. Superb at solo work and accompaniment, she always considered her playing a gift she gave back to God.

From an early age, Grace surely knew the blessing of giving. Her repeated kindness, love, strength, encouragement and endurance, and her sweet and gentle spirit made her name so very fitting. Today we rejoice that she is in a place filled with heavenly music. Grace is finally home.

"Let her works bring her praise." Prov. 31:31

Kroupa

□

A Tribute to Bessie Reichert

by Allen Adrian

Tribute to Babi (March 2, 2006)

Good morning! I am Allen Adrian, the eldest grandson of Bessie Reichert, and the son of Florence Adrian, Bessie's oldest daughter. I have been asked to represent the grandchildren in giving a tribute. We are gathered here today because Bessie Reichert, the woman that we as grandchildren and great-grandchildren call Babi, has gone to be with Jesus, forever leaving this place where sickness, pain and loneliness are experienced and expected in some measure.

On Saturday afternoon, after a short day of skiing with my son Zachary, we returned and got a call from Mom letting us know that Babi had opened her eyes briefly and then passed away into the presence of her Lord. While it was a time that was somewhat expected and in truth a good thing, I had trouble holding back tears. Probably many of you had the same reaction. Why? For over ten years now, Babi has missed her Karel and felt a pull toward heaven. As we watched her get weaker and weaker, we saw her yearning for her heavenly calling strengthen. So while we know Babi is in an infinitely better place and we know that she has wanted for some time to join her Karel in heaven, we miss her.

When asked to give this tribute, I realized that there can be quite a difference between memories and a tribute. Memories can be strange in that they are unpredictable. You may remember all sorts of things that are trivial, silly or unimportant, but forget very important or crucial things. That being said, please consider some of my memories of Babi. You will have different memories, maybe better or worse memories.

While my interactions with Babi span over 40 years, most of my memories come from the period when our family lived in the Swan River Valley, within 10 miles of Babi and Deda. I do have some recollections from earlier times, and remember well the fewer times we were together once I moved out of Manitoba, right up until this last Christmas when we visited her for the last time.


As you have heard by now, Babi's life was more than influenced by her heritage as a Czech, her vocation as a farmer's wife and mother of four, and her faith in Jesus. In all the aspects of her life that I remember, I think I see the influence of these factors. When I think of Babi, these things immediately come

to mind: the farm, Deda, the Czech language, gardening, food, Christmas and family times, and of course her faith and how it related to her family.

First of all, I remember the farm. The farm was a place where I loved to spend time. Whether it was in the summer cutting grass, in the winter having had to go through big snowdrifts to see Babi and Deda, in the fall helping to haul grain or in the spring at garden-planting time, whatever the season, there was something about the farm that was inviting and warm. I even ventured out on bicycle a couple of times, which took a lot longer than expected and caused a bit of worry for Babi when I didn't show until quite a while after I was due to arrive.

I always enjoyed family times with Babi and Deda, whether it was the annual Christmas traditions, where large numbers of family joined together or just a special, smaller visit. Up until she left the apartment, if she knew someone was going to visit, she would be looking out the window until they arrived. I think that each of the grandkids got excited if they knew they were going to visit Babi and Deda, or if Babi and Deda were going to come to visit us. I remember one time in Killarney where they arrived while we were in Sunday night church service. They hid in the basement and scared us when we got home from church. I'm sure Mom and Dad knew they were coming, but it was sure a surprise for me. Christmas tradition as I remember it (when we lived in the Swan River Valley) included going to Christmas Eve service and then returning to the farm where we waited for those that had to travel from Winnipeg or Edmonton to show up around midnight, when we opened gifts. Getting together with cousins just added to the fun. Other memorable experiences were blueberry picking, sucker fishing, Sunday afternoon drives and playing dominoes or Chinese checkers until late on Sunday nights.

The Czech language was something else that was absolutely distinctive about Babi. While she spoke English well enough, it was not her preferred language, and a number of times I attempted to get a better grasp of Czech than just knowing the words for my favorite foods. In the end, though, I have to be satisfied with knowing the words brambory, knedliky, rizky, ptacky, klusky and of course kvas. I also learned words that showed love

 Continues on page 17

The Youth at the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention

Kornel Bukovec



It has been another great summer for the youth at the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. There were many old faces this year as well as a good number of new ones. The convention was anticipated by many of us, and it certainly did not disappoint. I can think of a number of people to thank, and will mention Darko Siracki, whose role as leader of the youth involved leading and delegating Bible study, organizing youth events and making

sure we all had a great time. The Saturday morning Bible study

focused on the healing of the demon-possessed man, from Mark 5. We learned that Jesus is the initiator who comes to the rescue of those in need. The journey Jesus made across the lake to where the helpless man was reflects the bigger journey He made from heaven to earth, to save us. We saw how Satan and his cohorts have no choice but to be silent in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. All those who profess faith in Jesus sit at His right side above all the principalities of this world, and have a strategic advantage against anything the enemy throws against them. If we have Him, no evil stands a chance against us.



Convention Youth

Without Him, we are deceived and just end up hurting ourselves, as the man in the story. The Saturday picnic and Sunday morning Bible studies touched on a similar topic, found in Galatians 5. We were reminded of the importance of loving our neighbor as ourselves and not forgetting this important commandment. It is easy to see the effects sin has in our own lives. It is much harder to notice the results of our sin on others though—on those closest to us. Ironically, because of sin those who were and should be closest to us end up being the ones farthest apart. As Galatians 5:13 makes clear, in Christ we are free, and this freedom should lead us to serve one another in love, instead of serving ourselves in selfishness. The Saturday picnic, held at Audra State Park,

was not only a time of reflection and learning, but of relaxation and of course some physical activity. But this year the beautiful game of soccer, once a highlight of the convention, made way to a game of ultimate Frisbee. I hope the word spreads so that such tragedies are not repeated in the future. We swam in the beautiful Middle Fork River, and even found some great spots for jumping. The Saturday night concert, with a large contribution from the youth, showcased a

variety of musical talents, and I think it's safe to say was enjoyed by all. I know many of you are praying for the youth of this convention, and for that the youth and I are very grateful. Continue to hold them in your prayers, and it is my prayer that we will all see each other again next year.

□



Convention Youth at Audra State Park



Cassandra Habuda & Kristina Vlasic



Darko Siracki

kteří se navíc vzájemně prolétají. Podle toho, jaké povahové vlastnosti u jedinců převládají, je člověk označen a zařazen do určité kategorie. Nelze rovněž opomenout vliv prostředí, ve kterém se jedinec nachází. Prostor člověka ovlivňuje někdy více, někdy méně a podílí se na utváření charakteru.

Celkový pohled na lidské pokolení dělí lidstvo na dvě velké či základní skupiny lidí: dobré a zlé. Člověk je hned od narození formován do určité podoby. Jedná se pochopitelně o formování vnitřního člověka. Dosáhne-li jedinec dospělosti, předpokládá se, že formování je ukončeno. Nelze však hovořit o konečném "produktu", protože tento proces formování a přizpůsobování není nikdy ukončen. (Končí prakticky až smrtí člověka). Mezi dobrými a zlými lidmi neexistuje přímá čára, která by tyto dvě skupiny rozdělovala. Obě skupiny se kolem této pomyslné čáry prolínají a prolétají a směrem od středu (či od čáry) se krystalizuje charakter—dobrý nebo zlý. Na okrajích se snad nachází na jedné straně charakter ryzí a na straně opačné charakter podlý či zlý.

Do tohoto obrazu nyní vstupuje Bible se svým tvrzením, že v Kristu je člověk nové stvoření. A tak vyvstává výše položená otázka. Účastníci letošní konvence by měli být schopni odpověď znát aneb odpověď aspoň zformulovat.

Zamyšlení nad touto problematikou vyústí v přiznání si své osobní nedokonalosti. Nikdo není dokonalý, pouze Pán Bůh—ve své schvrcovanosti. Hovoří-li Bible o novém stvoření, jedná se o výzvu. O výzvu ke každému jedinci, který se hlásí ke Kristu, aby se Kristu podobal. Kristus je zjevená láska samého Boha k člověku. Z toho vyplývá, že každý následovník Krista se má chovat podobně jako Kristus. Podobat se někomu, znamená přivlastnit si jeho způsoby a napodobovat činy, přístup k životu či k bližnímu. Snaha podobat se Kristu nutně přetváří člověka do nové podoby. Z toho tedy pramení konstatování Bible: „...jestliže je někdo v Kristu (*rozuměj žije a chová se či jedná jako Kristus*), je nové stvoření (*rozuměj vědomě odstraňuje vrozené negativní sklony a přetváří je v pozitivní, tzn. nové*). Staré věci pominuly, hle, vše je nové!“ Jedná se tedy o změnu způsobu nejen života, ale i o změnu myšlení. Ke změně dochází směrem ven—zevnitř ven (proto se hovoří o změně srdce). Změna ve způsobu chování a myšlení formuje člověka do jiné podoby, tzn. nové podoby.

Být přetvářen do něčeho jiného vytváří konflikt. Jen na samotném člověku záleží, jestli konflikt přinese pozitivní či negativní výsledek. Znalost Božího Slova a vztahu Boha Stvořitele (či Otce všeho stvoření) k člověku a naopak vede k pozitivnímu výsledku. Jinými slovy, z bezcharaktérního jedince se může stát člověk, který má ryzí charakter. To je snad ta nejvyšší proměna, ke které na této zemi může dojít. Této změny nemůže docílit člověk, který se neřídí podle Kristova příkladu. Proto to upozornění: „...jestliže je někdo v Kristu, je nové stvoření...“ (Nová Bible kralická)

Vzniká další otázka: stalo se heslo letošní konvence motivací každému zúčastněnému k většímu úsilí o to nové? Kéž by tyto změny, které vyúsťují do nového způsobu života, byly patrné u každého účastníka i čtenáře!

Šéfredaktorka *Nataša Legierská*

□

and affection. Words like moje zlato, pusinky, and kluk.

The garden was of huge importance to Babi. It was always large, as was her raspberry patch or her strawberry patch. (So were the mosquitoes who also frequented the garden.) Even after she started moving with her walker, she was to be found in Sharon and Irv's garden, hoeing and weeding. She always made jams and jellies and Czech desserts. (I preferred the meat-and-potatoes-type meals.) There was just something about home-made, which started with her garden, continued with fruit and extended to baking bread in her wood stove in the basement.

As life slowed down for Babi, her faith remained strong. Every morning, she watched 100 Huntley Street and prayed and read her Bible. We know she prayed for each of her kids and grandkids. Many, many times during and after my illnesses, she reminded me of God's mercy and gift of life. She reminded me of God's faithfulness and made me know of her care and love for each of us.

The revisiting of all these memories reminded me of the fact that Babi was a very hard worker. She was strong-willed, loyal, faithful and loving, both to Deda and to those around. I remember one time when Babi wouldn't go out and vote because she would have cancelled Deda's vote. I remember when she would take over cleaning ducks and geese after my early morning hunting trips so I could have a nap, and she could make feather ticks and pillows. I remember the daily phone calls to our house in Swan River to see how we were doing. I remember her always saying "I love you," and then following that with "I love all my grandchildren the same."

In October of last year, I made a special trip to Manitoba to help my parents move into Babi's condo. Babi was in the hospital recovering from a fall, and by the end of my few days here, was actually in quite good shape. I had the chance to talk to her just a bit without much distraction. I asked her if she missed her home. She said, "That isn't my home. My home isn't here. I miss Karel so much!" She knew what Paul said in Phillipians, "Our citizenship is in heaven." We are but strangers and aliens in a foreign land. Deda was already where she wanted to be.

Babi, we miss you now and we will in the future, but we are happy for you. We thank you for your prayers, your love, everything you gave to us, whether it was food, gifts, knowledge of another culture, or just the knowledge that you loved us all the same. We will be waiting to see you again!

[Babi, Deda = Grandma and Grandpa]

□

Sorry....

We apologize to *Glorious Hope* readers for delay. We have had too many problems, to overcome. Also readers database was damaged and transfer and update is getting ready to be useable.

Editors



Children's Corner



Kristina Vlasic

Every year I am truly excited when I see the bright shining faces of the children of the convention. They always seem so eager to be there, not to mention five inches taller, that I am greatly inspired to do the best I can in teaching them. This year we hit topics such as... *"Loving Your Neighbor As Yourself."* We made "turtle friends" that they were to give to a "neighbor" back home. Another topic was, *"God Takes Care of Our Families."* They shared heart-warming stories of times when they could tell God was watching over them. Lastly, on Sunday we talked about packing. I brought out my

suitcase, and after I had showed off a few nonsense things like scarves, a stapler, and my Spongebob Squarepants Pinata, they reminded me of the most important thing I was missing; my Bible. They were quick to understand just how important it is to keep God first in all that we do and are. I was extremely blessed by the



children's sincere interest and enthusiasm. To the parents of these children, all I can really say is, You Are AMAZING, and thank you for giving your children to God so fully. They taught me just as much as I taught them. All in all, I am very excited for next year and have already started planning.

□ Kristina Sarah Vlasic

From the Executive Secretary



Dates to Remember

- 98th Annual Convention is behind us. I believe that it was very successful and very blessed. But more about the convention can be found in this issue of *Glorious Hope*.
- Grace Baptist Church will celebrate its 80th anniversary Saturday and Sunday, November 17 and 18, 2007. President Robert Dvorak will be guest

speaker on Sunday.

- Convention midyear General Board meeting will be held in Grace Baptist Church, Windsor, Ontario, on Monday, November 19, 2007. Do not miss this opportunity for good obecnstvi-fellowship.
- 99th Annual Convention will be held on July 10–13, 2008, in Philippi.
- Centennial Annual Convention will be held on July 9–12, 2009. Guest speaker will be General Secretary of BWA Dr. Denton Lotz.
- Check the convention web page for pictures from the 2007 Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada: czslbaptconv.ab.edu

George Sommer

□



Centennial Celebration

The Centennial Celebration of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada will be held July 9–12, 2009, in Philippi, W. Va. In order to prepare a good program about the life of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada from 1909 to 2009, we are asking our readers to send pictures and other convention material to the convention address below, with a caption or description of each photo (who, where, and when). All photos and other material will be returned to you.

Czechoslovak Baptist Convention
Rt. 4, Box 58D
Philippi, WV 26416-9717

You may also send it to: george.sommer@ab.edu in MS Word or WordPerfect format, pictures in JPEG or TIFF format.

Thank you

George Sommer, Executive Secretary

□

Malé ohlédnutí

Nataša Legierská



Natasha Legierski and Dottie Kvasnica

Zivotní cesta člověka je roubená různými zážitky a událostmi. Jsou různého charakteru, tak jako stromy podél řeky. Cestička kolem řeky Labe, kde jsem vyrůstala, byla lemovaná vysokými topoly. Občas se mezi nimi objevil košatý keř. Zvláště pro-

cházkzy v podvečer měly osobité kouzlo. Ve večerním šeru stromy a další porosty nabývaly zajímavé podoby. Ve spojení s dětskou fantazií se tak odehrávaly všelijaké scény. Dnes jsou to již jen vzpomínky na bezstarostná léta.

Vedle zážitků to mohou být také změny či proměny. S těmi se každý z nás musí nějakým způsobem vypořádat. Vjíždím do areálu A-B College se smíšenými pocity. Během dlouhé cesty se mi hlavou honilo mnoho myšlenek a vzpomínek. Konvence je vždy takovou oazou v nepřetržitém koloběhu dnů, týdnů a měsíců. Těším se na setkání s těmi, kteří kráčí věrně cestou víry. Zároveň pociťuji smutek. Naše děti jsou již mimo tato setkání. Prožili jsme zde s nimi mnoho krásných chvil. Vzpomínám na období, kdy jsme uložili děti spát a setrvali v přátelských skupinách až do ranních hodin. Později jsme již museli děti nahánět, aby ony nešly příliš pozdě spát. Kupodivu jsme ráno vypadali celkem odpočatí, připraveni na další den s bohatým programem. Nedávno jsme mládeži už jenom domlouvali, ať nás svou hlučností nebudí. V současné době dětí a mládeže podstatně ubylo a my chodíme spát před půlnocí.

Ze vzpomínek mne probírají známé tváře těch, kteří přijeli přede



Tomas and Ester Kriska, Donna and Ben Nesvadba

mnou. Následuje vřelé vítání, úsměvy zdobí tváře a září z očí. Nad areálem se vznášá zvláštní ovzduší. Jistě je to tím, že se nacházíme v kopcích, daleko od průmyslu. Není to však jenom tím. Uvědomuji si, že je to ovzduší lásky. Lásky člověka k člověku, kterou může do srdce vložit jenom Pán Bůh. Jeden každý je vzácný v Božích očích. V tom spočívá síla obecenství. Jsem v objetí lásky.

□

Obklopena láskou

Slzy
jedna za druhou
kane po tvářích
slzy štěstí
nepopsatelného štěstí
štěstí rozlité v nitro
pronikající do skulin duše
dotykem lásky způsobeno
radost a štěstí
věrní přátelé
mísí se v jedno vyznání
—ach Bože, tak Tě miluji.

Dotek Tvé lásky
zrcadlí se v očích bližních
v nevinném úsměvu dítěte
plyne s pera
slova v dopis syna proměněna
promlouvá květinami
šumí v korunách stromů
utvrzen stisknutím ruky přítele
rozsvěcuje hvězdy
proniká vesmírem
uzdravuje neduhy
objímá člověka
mé srdce přetéká

lásky Tvá je věčná

Nataša Legierská

□



MOVING ?

Please write to:

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Philippi, WV 26416 USA

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State of the Convention 2007

For some years now the president has made a statement each summer at our annual meeting regarding the progress and general state of convention life. This year my observations come in printed form here, rather than spoken report at the Saturday evening service, July 7th. I wish to highlight three areas for your consideration. Should you care to respond, I would be glad to hear from you. Feel free to communicate through our convention mailing address, Route 4, Box 58D, Philippi, WV 26416, or by e-mail at george.sommer@ab.edu

1) The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention is reaching a point of historical maturity not many voluntary organizations are privileged to see. We have been around now for 98 years. The founders of our convention would be astonished at all that has happened through this period and the multitude of changes that have occurred since their initial meeting in Chicago, Illinois, in 1909. I think, for example, of the diminished number of churches in formal affiliation with us (including the absence of some that were once strong congregations with flourishing memberships). The majority of original churches who constituted the convention are now gone, or they are so altered in character that they are aligned with other groups. On the other hand, we have seen such substantial growth in individual personal interest and participation that vitality of our mission purposes has continued unabated. We are, indeed, more a fellowship group now than a convention of churches strictly speaking, although we cherish the congregations who maintain formal connection, praying for them and watching with keen interest their local ministries.

Another change in our common life may be seen in the style of our business and worship experiences, so much more informal than customs of earlier times. Somewhere I have a picnic photo from 1926 showing the convention assembly in quite formal attire, and a softball game going on in the background with the competing teams dressed in shirts and ties (with only the concession of rolled up sleeves to a hot Saturday afternoon). The convention constituency has undergone other shifts too. Think of how much stronger Canadian influence is within the convention today. And our concern to cultivate the involvement of our youth increases all the time. Further, our outreach mission now strongly focuses on evangelism and outreach support for countries of central Europe which once gave us our own life here in North America.

Clearly, after 98 years of experience the convention is a far different creature than it was in formational times. One thing has not changed, however, and that is our keen desire to serve the same Christ who means everything to us as he did to our forebears.



2) Let me go in a slightly different direction now. In two years we plan a major program of centennial celebrations. It will take place July 8-11, 2009, at Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, West Virginia. We want very much at that time to honor the record of faithfulness over the past 100 years, remembering the whole scope of what has been accomplished and all who gave so much of themselves to make the convention an entity brimming with spiritual energy. But it is our intention also to consider carefully the calling God has given us in our present days and for the years

immediately ahead. We plan to explore a bit together what this means for the design of our activities and mission focus. Even as the first hundred years witnessed substantial changes in organizational priorities and habits, we should be anticipating fine tuning in the course lying ahead, asking what adjustments are necessary in conceiving our mission and expressing obedience to Christ. Since all our efforts take place before the Lord and

in partnership with one another, we will want to pray hard about these things and ask questions of ourselves. Our aim at the 100th convention will be for a rightful balance between remembrances, thanksgiving, and the good-natured fellowship we love and a responsible, godly approach to developments for the future. We long for your presence at that convention gathering especially, and for the attendance of many whom you may know who may have been missing in recent years—perhaps for persons, families, churches, or other connections to renew something deep in their own heritage.

3) The final matter I'll note with brevity, hoping that a straightforward sentence or two will underscore the urgency. We are losing from this earthly life friend after friend, member after member of the convention. Many of these folk have been magnificently generous in their financial support of the convention through most of their lifetimes. They not only made so much of our work possible, they modeled (without ever knowing they were doing so) faith as a commitment regardless of cost. They had in their hearts an intuition that life with Christ goes the way of an old Christian adage: Freely have you received; freely ought you to give. That mantle needs to be picked up by a succeeding generation. In these days when our beloved predecessors are less and less present to do all that God moved their hearts once to do, will you please remember whose child you are—theirs, and God's.

On behalf of all your brothers and sisters in the convention and its leaders across North America, blessings on your life today and always.

Robert Dvorak

□

Giving Thanks!!

Esther Tarr

In Canada we have just celebrated Thanksgiving, and what a beautiful fall season we have enjoyed thus far. So many things to be thankful for—our relationship with Jesus Christ and the fellowship of believers, the beauty of creation around us, our health, our family and friends, and memories of the past convention in Philippi.

We were indeed blessed especially with Ester Kriskova, who was our speaker at the Ladies' Rally. Esther reminded us that all our needs are met in Christ and urged us to study the New Testament letters to remind ourselves of who we are in Christ. The music during the whole convention was again awesome! We look forward to next year and trust that many of you will plan to attend!

Count your blessings...name them one by one...and it shouldn't surprise you what the Lord has done!!!!

□



Dorothy Dvorak, Esther Tarr and Ester Kriskova

Editorial... Continues from page 2

certain peculiarities, generally perceived as personality, habits, and abilities. Mankind in its entirety can be separated according to personality type into categories which overlap and intertwine. A person is marked, labeled and classified into certain categories according to the personality traits most apparent in that individual. It is also impossible to leave out the influence of the individual's environment. One is influenced sometimes more, sometimes less by the environment in which one lives, and it is always a contributing factor in the moulding of character.

An overview of mankind through the generations divides humanity into two large, if basic, groups of people: good and bad. Right from birth, each individual's character begins to be moulded into a specific likeness or shape. When a person reaches adulthood, it is assumed that development is more or less complete. It is impossible, of course, to speak about a finished product, because this process of formation and adaptation is never really finished. (It is finished practically when a person dies). A visible line separating the good people from the bad does not exist. The two groups mingle and blend over this imaginary line, and the direction from its centre crystallizes character—good or bad. Along the far edges of the two groups, perhaps you can find pure character on the one side, and wicked on the other.

Into this picture now steps the Bible with its assertion that in Christ man is a new creation. Once again the aforementioned question arises. Those who attended this year's convention should know the answer, or at least be able to formulate an answer.

Contemplation upon this problem leads to the admission of one's own imperfections. No one is perfect except for God—in His sovereignty. When the Bible talks about the new creation, it's all about invitation, an invitation for every individual that is calling to Christ, so that the individual gains a likeness to

Christ. Christ is the manifest love of God Himself to humanity. Consequently, each and every follower of Christ should behave like Christ. To be like someone means to imitate that person's ways and actions, and to develop the same approach to life and treatment of one's neighbour. In the effort to be like Christ, one is inevitably transformed into a new likeness. It is from this, then, that the Bible's proclamation stems: "...and if someone be in Christ (understood—lives, acts and behaves like Christ), he is a new creature (understood—consciously removes negative, inborn inclinations and transforms them into positive, hence new). "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!" So what is being dealt with is not only a change in how a life is lived, but also a change of mind, thoughts and way of thinking. This change comes from the inside out; that is why a change of heart is spoken of. A change in behaviour and way of thinking moulds an individual into a different person, that is, a new creature.

To be transformed into something else creates conflict. It depends only on the person alone whether this conflict will have positive or negative results. Knowledge of God's Word and the relationship between God the Creator and human beings will, alternately, bring about positive results. In other words, an individual lacking or having an amoral character can be transformed into a person with pure character. That is, perhaps, the highest and biggest transformation that can take place on this earth. A person who is not following Christ's example cannot achieve such a transformation. That is the reason for this warning, "...if someone be in Christ he is a new creature..."

Another question comes to mind: did this year's Convention theme become motivation to all participants to strive more for the new? I hope that these changes, which bring about a new way of life, will be apparent in every member and reader!

Editor-in-Chief *Natasha Legierski*

□

Music 2007 at the Convention



Vladko Kralik Family



Deb Mulder



Amy Nesvadba



Ester Kriskova



Michele Moore



Slavic Evangelical Mission Worship Team



Tim Racinsky



Convention Worship Team



Richard Mazanec



Banko's and Kriska's



Aaron Blata and Rachel Vika



George Pospisil



Petar and Filip Vlasic

Convention Echoes in Pictures Part I



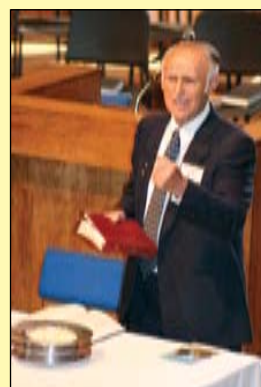
A-B President Steve Markwood



Convention President Bob Dvorak



Slovak Baptist union President
Tomas Kriska



V-P Joza Novak



Dan Widlicka



Executive Secretary George Sommer



Don Shoff



Jan Banko



Vladimir Kralik



Richard Mazanec



Bill Rotar



Fellowship—obecenstvi



Bob Dvorak at the Piano



Nico Mulder



Milan and Eileen Lev



Exchange of Gifts



98. Czechoslovak Baptist
Convention
of USA and Canada
Philippi, WV July 5-8, 2007