



We are accustomed to the changing seasons. Spring comes after a long winter, the long-awaited spring. This year it has a different flavour. We feel it not only from the snow that is still on the ground but from our television screens and other media outlets and even among people. The world is different and we can feel it. It is sick. Besides human grudges and anger that are expressed

in wars there are also diseases for which there are no cures. All this weighs upon us like a heavy burden that we cannot carry. Our outlook on the world is changing. So are our values. So simply do our lives begin to resemble chaos. How can we orient ourselves in this chaos?

Into this human chaos comes spring with its Easter message. Into this chaos our Lord Jesus' cry "It is finished!" loudly resonates. It is as powerful as it was on the cross when the earth was afflicted by the same sickness as today. It is a sickness that has been slinking behind humans for thousands of years, and it sinks its teeth into a person when they turn their back on the cross and ignore the voice of the Lord Jesus. How easily people fall into this situation!

The cry "It is finished" dismisses the possibility of any continuing action. The Lord Jesus completed the work of salvation for people. His sacrifice and immense suffering on the cross formed a large punctuation mark after the various miseries of people. That cry changed the world into a blossoming crown of a tree. It is filled with the flowers of hope, and they retain their freshness despite the passing millennia. They bring hope for a better life, for a life in communion with the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior. They are flowers of hope for an eternal life in the kingdom of God.

Flowers of hope are quite different from the plants in gardens or in vases. Those die. Flowers of hope, however, blossom on, and there are many of them. They blossom for every person. It is enough to reach out of the misery of this earth and pick one. It is, however, necessary to care for these flowers so they do not wilt. The freshness of these flowers of hope depends on our personal contact with God. Their freshness overcomes chaos. Their scent influences the taste of spring. From their scent peace also spreads.

Are our flowers wilting? Let fresh flowers adorn the Church of Christ.

Editor-in-Chief *Natasha Legierski*



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Zvykli jsme si již na střídající se roční období. Po dlouhé zimě přichází jaro. Očekávané jaro. Tento rok má však jinou příchuť. Cítíme ji nejen z ležícího sněhu na polích, z televizních obrazovek a dalších sdělovacích prostředků, ale i mezi lidmi. Cítíme, že svět je jiný. Svět je nemocný. Kromě lidské zloby a nevráživosti projevující se ve válkách, ohrožují lidstvo i různé nemoci, na které neexistuje lék. Všechno to na nás doléhá jako těžké

☞ Pokračování na straně 38



Front Cover: Maria Gabankova—Amazing Grace,
acrylic, 38" x 26"

Back Cover: Corel Photo—Japanese Garden



From the Executive Secretary

The theme and verse of the 94th annual convention, which has been set for July 3-6, 2003, in Philippi, are: *You'll Never Walk Alone*.

I will place my dwelling in your midst, and I shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

Leviticus 26:11,12

Bible Studies: *High Priestly Prayer* John 17

Jesus Prays for Himself John 17:1-5

Jesus Prays for Disciples John 17:6-19

Jesus Prays for Future Believers John 17:20-26

Dr. Andrew Kmetko—English, and Slavo Kral—Slovak

Special guests at the 94th convention will be a musical group, *Methuselah (Matuzalém)*, from Bratislava. It is a very talented group of five members from Bratislava Baptist Church, Slovakia. They will also perform in many churches in Canada and the USA. They have just finished recording a new CD, which will be available at the convention in Philippi.

Other important information:

- Canadian delegates will be paying the registration fee, meals, and accommodation in Canadian dollars. This will simplify payment procedures and will be easier on their pockets.
- There will be a lot of exciting events during the 94th annual convention. Also *Third Annual Independence Day Fireworks* with ice-cream social, "*Old Fashioned Hymn Singing with Bob Dvorak at the Piano*," *Methuselah* concerts, *Saturday Night Concert*, obecnstvi at the Sommers Sunday afternoon, to name just a few. And of course—*Methuselah* every night. Come and see!!
- Prices for accommodation will be the same as last year:
Kincaid, \$12/night/bed. **Children 12 and under sleep free** on a bed! Kincaid is an air-conditioned dormitory. Suite consists of 3 bedrooms and living room.
Priestley will be closed for renovation this summer. Also Benedum will not be available.
- For **Philippi Lodging Motel** accommodation, make your own reservation: 304-457-5888. Price \$45.00 plus state tax per room per night. State that you are from the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention to qualify for a special price. Ten rooms are reserved until June 29, 2003.
- Meal prices will be the same as last year: Breakfast—\$3.90, Lunch—\$5.80, Dinner—\$6.60, and Banquet—\$9.90. Children 13-17 pay ½ price; the other half is paid by the convention.

For children 4-12, the convention pays meals.



- Dates for the 95th annual convention are tentatively set for July 1-4 or 8-11, 2004.
- Next mid-year meeting of the General Board will be held at Hatch Hollow Baptist Church, Union City, Pennsylvania, in October or November 2003. Hatch Hollow Baptist Church will be celebrating its 75th anniversary.
- The **Registration Form** is available on the convention web page. You can print it, fill it out, and mail it to Helen Pojman. We have more information about the annual convention, including the convention program, on our web page:

www.ab.edu/czslbaptconv

George V. Sommer

George Sommer,
Executive Secretary
Annual convention coordinator



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Spring, 2003

Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention:

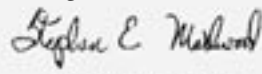
As the sun melts away snow from what we hope is the last vestige of a long, harsh winter, we in the Alderson-Broaddus College family begin to think of warm summer days. With the warmth of summer also comes the warmth of renewing our long friendship when you visit the mountaintop in July.

For over fifteen years, the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention and Alderson-Broaddus College have been partners in carrying out God's calling in the Baptist tradition: your members serving God by spreading the good news of Jesus' love in your local communities, while we here at A-B serve God by providing an excellent education rooted in Christian values.

Yet today, in a time of war in Iraq, a stock market which has suffered losses for three years, and national and state economies bordering on recession, we struggle to find hope while living in two of the greatest countries in the world. Yet we know that our hope is not in things of this world, but our hope is in Jesus, for "faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).

As always, we look forward to welcoming you back up on the mountaintop in the hope that we all can find hope in strengthening our faith in God.

Yours in Christ,



Stephen E. Markwood
President

Easter Meditation

Ján Banko

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you" (Romans 8:11).

This Bible verse brings the essence of the Easter message, which has also been expressed by the apostle Paul in another passage of the Holy Scriptures: "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

In Romans 8:11, though, the apostle Paul moves even further and teaches us the full meaning of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. The resurrection of Christ is an assurance for every child of God, for every newborn believer, that he or she will also be quickened by the Holy Spirit. Let us now study the Bible truths that are strongly proven by Christ's resurrection.

- The reality of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ proves the existence of an omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent God, who is the sovereign Creator and Lord of the whole existing universe—of all living creatures as well as of the material world. Only the Creator of life has the power to raise a dead person to life again. God is motivated for this action by His love for His creation. The apostle John speaks about this love of God in the following words: "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:9-10).
- The resurrection of Christ also proves that the Lord Jesus Christ is the very Son of God. We can see it also in the statement of the apostle Paul, who in the letter to the Romans teaches about "...His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:3-4).
- One of the most important facts for us human beings is that



the resurrection of Jesus Christ proves that He is the Saviour of the world. It is a vital testimony, that God sent the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth to redeem, save and give the gift of eternal life to all who believe in Him. The Word of God explains: "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation" (Romans 10:9-10).

- The Holy Spirit that dwells in every believer is a guarantee that God, who has raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead by the power of the

Holy Spirit, will by the same Spirit give life to the mortal bodies of God's children. It is a total remake and renewal of life, based on the qualitatively new foundation of the resurrection of God's children in incorruptible, eternal and perfect bodies. The particular phases of this fascinating event of resurrection are described by the apostle Paul as follows: "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (1 Corinthians 15:50-53).

This Easter meditation based on God's Word is not a mere sequence of biblical facts; its purpose is to lead every reader to a deeper consideration. To those who do not yet believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, the following words of Christ resound: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). All who desire to partake

in the resurrection to eternal life must personally acknowledge God's absolute sovereignty and then confess their sins in a godly sorrow of repentance, abandon the old life-style and believe in the gospel—that joyful message about salvation in the substitutional sacrifice and the resurrection of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And for all of us, who already believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, there is a compelling warning from our Lord: "Take heed, watch



📖 Continues on next page

Veľkonočné zamyslenie

Ján Banko

A ak prebýva vo vás Duch Toho, ktorý Ježiša vzkriesil z mŕtvych, tak Ten, ktorý Krista Ježiša vzkriesil z mŕtvych, aj vaše smrteľné telá oživí svojím Duchom, prebývajúcim vo vás.” (Rímskym 8,11)

Uvedený Biblický verš nám predkladá podstatu Veľkonočného posolstva, ktorú apoštol Pavel na inom mieste Svätého Pisma vyjadril takto: „Odovzdal som vám totiž predovšetkým, čo som aj sám prijal, že Kristus umrel pre naše hriechy podľa Písem a bol pochovaný a v tretí deň bol vzkriesený podľa Písem.” (1. list Korinským 15,3-4)

V liste Rímskym 8,11 však apoštol Pavel ide ešte ďalej a vyučuje nás, čo všetko pre Božie deti znamená vzkriesenie Pána Ježiša Krista z mŕtvych mocou Svätého Ducha. Vzkriesenie Kristovo je totiž uistením pre každého znovuzrodeného veriaceho človeka, že tiež bude oživený Duchom Svätým. Poďme však po poriadku a pozrime sa najprv na to, ktoré Biblické pravdy sú Kristovým vzkriesením mocne dosvedčené a potvrdené:

- Skutočnosť vzkriesenia Pána Ježiša Krista potvrdzuje existenciu všemohúceho, vševedúceho a všadeprítomného Boha, ktorý je zvrchovaným Stvoriteľom a Pánom celého existujúceho sveta – živého i neživého. Jedine Tvorca života má moc znovu vzkriesiť mŕtvu bytosť k životu. Pán Boh tak koná z lásky ku svojmu stvoreniu. Apoštol Ján sa o tejto Božej láske vyjadruje nasledovnými slovami: „V tom sa prejavila Božia láska k nám, že svojho jednorodného Syna poslal Boh na svet, aby sme žili skrze Neho. V tom je láska, že nie my sme milovali Boha, ale že On miloval nás a poslal svojho Syna ako obeť zmierenia za naše hriechy.” (1.list Jánov 4,9-10)
- Kristovo vzkriesenie z mŕtvych okrem iného potvrdzuje aj to, že Pán Ježiš Kristus je naozaj Boží Syn. Vidíme to napríklad z výroku apoštola Pavla, ktorý v liste Rímskym učí „o Jeho Synovi, ktorý sa podľa tela narodil z potomstva Dávidovho, ktorý je podľa Ducha svätosti ustanovený od vzkriesenia z mŕtvych ako Boží Syn s mocou – o Ježišovi Kristovi, našom Pánovi.” (Rímskym 1,3-4)
- Mimoriadny význam pre človeka má však skutočnosť, že vzkriesenie Kristovo je potvrdením toho, že On je Spasiteľ sveta. Je svedectvom o tom, že Pána Ježiša Krista poslal na túto zem Pán Boh, aby vykúpil a spasil každého, kto v Neho uverí a daroval mu život večný. Slovo Božie o tom svedčí nasledovne: „Ak ústami vyznávaš Pána Ježiša a v srdci veríš, že Ho Boh vzkriesil z mŕtvych, budeš spasený; lebo srdcom veríme na spravodlivosť a ústami vyznávame na spasenie.” (Rímskym 10,9-10)
- Duch Svätý, ktorý prebýva vo veriacom človeku je zárukou toho, že Pán Boh, ktorý mocou Svätého Ducha vzkriesil Pána Ježiša

Krista z mŕtvych, tým istým Duchom oživi aj smrteľné telá Božích detí. Jedná sa tu o znovuoobnovenie života, ovšem na kvalitatívne novom základe vzkriesenia Božích detí v neporušiteľnom, večnom a dokonalom tele. Pribeh tejto fascinujúcej udalosti zmŕtvychvstania popisuje apoštol Pavel takto: „To však tvrdím, bratia, že telo a krv nemôžu dosiahnuť dedičstvo kráľovstva Božieho, ani porušiteľnosť nezdedí neporušiteľnosť. Ajhľa, poviem vám tajomstvo: všetci neumrieme, ale všetci sa premeníme, razom, ihneď, len čo zaznie hlas poslednej trúby. Lebo zaznie trúba a mŕtvi budú vzkriesení neporušiteľní a my sa premeníme. Veď porušiteľné telo musí obliecť neporušiteľnosť a smrteľné musí obliecť nesmrteľnosť.”

(1. list Korinským 15,50-53)

Táto Veľkonočná úvaha nad Božím Slovom nie je len púhym zoradením Biblických faktov, ale má viesť každého čitateľa k hlbokému zamysleniu. Pre tých, ktorí ešte neuverili v Pána Ježiša Krista, ako svojho osobného Spasiteľa, znejú Kristove slová, keď „zvestoval evanjelium Božie a hovoril: Naplnil sa čas a priblížilo sa kráľovstvo Božie; pokánie čiňte a verte v evanjelium!” (Marek 1,14b-15) Každý, kto túži mať účasť na vzkriesení k životu večnému, potrebuje osobne uznať Božie zvrchované Panstvo, v zármutku pokánia vyznať svoje hriechy, opustiť starý spôsob života a uveriť evanjeliu – tej radostnej zvesti o spasení v zástupnej obeti a vzkriesení Božieho Syna, Pána Ježiša Krista.

A pre všetkých nás, ktorí sme uverili v Pána Ježiša Krista, znie naliehavé varovanie nášho Pána: „Majte sa na pozore, bďte, lebo neviete, kedy príde čas. Ako človek, vzdialený na cestách, keď opúšťal dom a svojim sluhom dal moc, každému určil jeho prácu a vrátnikovi naložil, aby bdel, tak aj vy bďte; lebo neviete, kedy príde pán domu, či večer, či o polnoci, či keď kohút spieva, a či ráno. Aby vás nenašiel spať, keď príde nečakane. A čo vám hovorím, hovorím všetkým: Bďte!” (Marek 13,33-37)

□

Easter ... Continues from page 28

and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!” (Mark 13:33-37)

□

Jubilee

Kulaté jubileum



The life of a person goes through different phases. These differ from one another and are set in different circumstances. Every individual has their own array of characteristics, skills and gifts. In that lies the beauty of fellowship and the richness of human existence. It knits relationships between people into giant ropes of understanding. Mutual communication is a natural part of life. A person does not have to experience joys

and hard times on their own.

A joyful event was meeting our beloved Marija and George Sommer. We remembered the significant anniversary of sister Marija, which happened this January. We cannot believe that our sister should belong in the group of honoured people whose age begins with the number six. Sister Marija's approach to both her professional and personal life certainly does not testify to it! Her élan, enthusiasm and readiness to help everywhere she is needed amazes the participants of our annual convention again and again. At the convention she faithfully serves with her musical gifts, giving glory to God and uplifting everyone, including the young generation. Our sister is a faithful partner in work to our general secretary, brother George. I cannot leave out the words of a wise observer: "Behind every successful man there is a woman!"

Sister Marija was born in the former Yugoslavia into the family of the preacher Ivan Vlasic. She began musical studies in childhood and after finishing them she taught piano. She married into the former Czechoslovakia and, together with her husband, traveled to the United States, where she was offered a position as a professor of music and music education at Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, West Virginia. The fact that our sister still works at this school speaks for itself. The beginnings could not have been easy, especially without English. Sister Marija with her approach overcame all situations and has numerous achievements on her resume. (She

Continues on page 47

Život člověka probíhá v různých fázích. Jednotlivá období se od sebe liší a jsou zasazena do rozdílného prostředí. Každý jedinec je vybaven pestrou paletou vlastností, schopností a nadáním. V tom spočívá krása společenství a bohatství lidského bytí. To splétá vztahy mezi lidmi do mohutných provazců porozumění. Vzájemné sdílení se je přirozenou součástí života. Člověk nemusí prožívat své radosti a strasti sám.

Radostnou událostí bylo setkání s našimi milými Marijou a Jiřím Sommerovými.



Marija Sommer

Připoměli jsme si vzácné jubileum sestry Marije, kterého se dožila letos v lednu. Nechce se nám věřit, že by sestra měla patřit do této skupiny oslavenců, jejichž počáteční číslici je číslo šest. Rozhodně o tom nesvědčí přístup sestry Marije k její práci v profesionálním i soukromém životě! Svým elánem, nadšením i pohotovostí pomoci všude, kde je potřeba, překvapuje znovu a znovu účastníky naší každoroční konvence.

Na této konvenci sestra věrně slouží svým hudebním nadáním k Boží slávě i povzbuzení přítomných, včetně mladé generace. Sestra je věrnou společnicí při práci našeho tajemníka konvence, bratra Jiřího. Nemohu nevzpomenout slova moudrého pozorovatele: „Za každým úspěšným mužem se skrývá žena!“

Setra se narodila v bývalé Jugoslávii v rodině kazatele Ivana Vlašice. Hudbu studovala

od útlého dětství a po dokončení studií vyučovala hru na klavír. Provdala se do bývalého Československa a spolu s manželem vycestovali do Spojených států, kde bylo sestře nabídnuto místo profesorky hudby a hudební výchovy na Alderson-Broddus College ve Philippi, v Západní Virginii. Skutečnost, že sestra na této univerzitě stále působí, hovoří sama za sebe. Začátky jistě nebyly snadné, zvláště bez znalosti anglického jazyka. Sestra Marija se svým přístupem dokázala vypořádat se

Pokračování na straně 47

Schedule of the ministry of the Christian singing group **Methuselah** in Canada and in the USA

In the last issue of our magazine we informed you about the visit of the Christian singing group *Methuselah* from Slovakia. They will minister with their program in North America between June 12 and July 14 this year. Now we would like to inform you about the tentative schedule of their performances. A detailed program will be available in late May on the web page of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of the USA and Canada—<http://www.ab.edu/czslbaptconv>
A preliminary schedule of their ministry is as follows:

- Saturday, June 14 – Picnic of Czechoslovak Association, St. Jacobs, Ontario, Canada
- Sunday, June 15 – Czechoslovak Baptist Church, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Sunday, June 15 in the evening – Bayfair Baptist Church, Pickering, Ontario, Canada
- Wednesday, June 18 – Czechoslovak Baptist Church, Toronto
- Saturday, June 21 – Czech and Slovak Day of Canada, Masaryktown, Toronto
- Sunday, June 22 – St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Toronto
- Between June 23 and June 29 – performances organized by Grace Baptist Church and by the Evangelical Slavic Mission, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
- Between July 3 and July 6 - ministry at the 94th Annual Convention of Czechoslovak Baptists in the USA and Canada, Philippi, West Virginia, USA
- Between July 7 and July 12 – ministry in some of the churches affiliated with the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention in the USA.

Dear readers, we invite you to visit these performances, and we wish God's manifold blessings for the singing group *Methuselah* during their ministry in the USA and Canada.

Ján Banko



Vystúpenia kresťanskej hudobnej skupiny **Matuzalém** v Kanade a v USA

V minulom vydaní nášho časopisu sme Vás informovali o pripravovanej návšteve slovenskej hudobnej skupiny *Matuzalém*, ktorá vystúpi so svojim programom na severoamerickom kontinente v období medzi 12. júnom a 14. júlom tohto roku. Chceme Vás teraz poinformovať o predbežnom programe ich vystúpení. Presný program jednotlivých vystúpení bude už od druhej polovice mája k dispozícii na internetovej stránke Československej Baptistickej Konvencie USA a Kanady, ktorú nájdete na adrese <http://www.ab.edu/czslbaptconv>

Predbežný zoznam jednotlivých vystúpení je nasledovný:

- Sobota, 14. júna – Piknik Československého združenia, St. Jacobs, Ontario, Kanada
- Nedeľa, 15. júna – Československý baptistický zbor, Toronto, Ontario, Kanada
- Nedeľa, 15. júna večer – Bayfair Baptist Church, Pickering, Ontario, Kanada
- Streda, 18. júna – Československý baptistický zbor, Toronto
- Sobota, 21. júna – Český a Slovenský Deň Kanady, Masaryktown, Toronto
- Nedeľa, 22. júna – Slovenský evanjelický zbor a.v. sv. Pavla, Toronto

- V období od 23. do 29. júna vystúpenia organizované cirkevným zborom Grace Baptist Church a cirkevným zborom Evanjelizačná Slovanská Misia, Windsor, Ontario, Kanada
- V období od 3. do 6. júla vystúpenia v rámci 94. výročného stretnutia Československej Baptistickej Konvencie USA a Kanady vo Philippi, West Virginia, USA
- V období od 7. do 12. júla služba v niektorých cirkevných zboroch, ktoré sú súčasťou Československej Baptistickej Konvencie v Spojených štátoch.

Milí čitatelia, srdečne Vás pozývame k návšteve jednotlivých podujatí a hudobnej skupine *Matuzalém* prajeme pri ich pobyte a službe v USA a v Kanade hojnosť Božieho požehnania.

Ján Banko



Miss L. Vedra and Václav Králíček

Miss L. Vedra

Mrs. A. Čepeláková passed away after a severe illness, on March 21, 1894. A new woman missionary was needed. Miss L. Vedra, a consecrated Christian woman, was called by the First Bohemian Baptist Church to fill the vacancy. Deciding to equip herself for this great task, she went to the Baptist Missionary Training School for two years of study. In 1898 she undertook the work in the church. Her activities in Sunday School, Girls' Club, women's mission circles, and among the sick, deserted, and forsaken won the recognition of God and of the people she served. To Miss Vedra belongs the distinction of organizing the first Women's Circle as well as the first Girls' Circle in the church. Thousands of boys and girls of the First Church have passed through Miss Vedra's Boys' and Girls' Clubs. Because of her many services, it is hard to estimate Miss Vedra's extensive work for the Lord. After her retirement, she continued with the church; her prayers and interests followed the activities to which she gave much of her life.

The minutes of the First Bohemian Baptist Church show that the year 1900 was a difficult one. Rev. J. Kejř received an invitation from Lorraine, Kansas, to preach among the Czech farmers. He spent about three weeks upon this new field, and knowing the need of the spiritually deserted people, he decided to go to Kansas as a missionary. The need was to him the Macedonian call, "Come over and help us." The loss of Mr. Kejř was a hard blow for the church. However, his leadership had not been appreciated by all of the congregation; there had been dissatisfaction among some members, and several left the church and established a new mission. The church once more faced the problem of where and how to get a pastor. Upon the recommendation of Rev. H. Novotný of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the church extended a unanimous call to Rev. Václav Králíček. John Kejř left the church for Wilson, Kansas, on July 1, 1900; and Mr. Králíček arrived on August 11 of the same year.

Václav Králíček

Václav Králíček was born in Tismice, a district of Český Brod, Czechoslovakia, on April 5, 1866. He attended the Academic Gymnasium in Prague where he was a fellow student and a roommate of the famous scholar and philosopher Professor Frank Drtina. In

1888-89 he acted as the first assistant to the head of the Fire and Telegraph Department of Vinohrady, a suburb of Prague. Mr. Králíček was converted in 1886, when he was twenty years of age. On April 25 of the same year, he was baptized by Rev. H. Novotný and officially accepted into the church. Immediately after his conversion Mr. Králíček began to be active in mission work in Prague.

Mr. Králíček received his theological training in the Baptist Theological Seminary of Hamburg, Germany, from which he was graduated in 1894. For two years after his graduation, 1895-1897, he served as associate pastor with Rev. Henry Novotný in the Baptist Church of Prague. From 1898 until 1900 he served as pastor of a mission in Roudnice, Czechoslovakia. It was during this pastorate that he received the call from the First Bohemian Baptist Church of Chicago to succeed Rev. John Kejř. Mr. Králíček came to Chicago in 1900, together with his wife, the former Anna Krejcek, whom he had married on March 31, 1898. Three children were born to Rev. and Mrs. Králíček: Ruth, deceased; Martha, married and settled in Provo, Utah; and Jaroslav, former consular officer of the United States Consulate in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Needless to say, Mr. Králíček was not only a good pastor but also a good husband and father, who cared well for his family.

Upon his coming to Chicago, Mr. Králíček discovered the various difficulties in the church caused by the departure of several members during Mr. Kejř's ministry. In an attempt to remedy the situation, the new pastor tried for years to serve also the group which had left the church, but a union was never achieved. However, even the schism had a few good features, because through it new missions were started which grew into independent churches, whose history will be traced separately.

Mr. Králíček ministered to his church in Chicago until 1911; then he resigned and accepted a call in Brno, Czechoslovakia. The church remained without a minister for some time while the members preached and took care of their church. Among the leading members were J. J. Zmrhal, V. Shuldes, J. Brázda, V. Brázda and others. The church extended a call to Rev. M. J. Hnůta, but his pastorate was very brief. In order to have some permanent missionary help, the church called Charles Brázda, one of its own members at that time farming in the state of Washington, to become its colporteur-missionary. Because the church was unable to find an acceptable

The Observation Tower

The Rev. John E. Karenko
1330 Normandy Dr., Godfrey,
IL 62035



I Have Sinned

Rev. John E. Karenko

Nobody likes to admit they've been wrong, but when the wrong is against God it's called sin, and that's a problem we can't neglect, because of the dire consequences: "The wages of sin is death..." (Rom. 6:23).

The three words *I have sinned* are really one word in the original Greek, *hamarton*, which indicates the fact that an individual has "missed the mark." It's an admission that someone has missed the bullseye, the center of the target. The above verse in Romans indicates that 100% of us have failed the test. Whether by much or by little, we've all failed in the quest for perfection, for obedience, for keeping the commandments, i.e., what God requires.

However, only admitting you are wrong is not asking for forgiveness, unless there is with the confession also contrition and resolve to change in the areas of failure. That's called repentance, a requirement for forgiveness.

I have selected a few of the many times we read the three words *I have sinned* in the Bible as examples of both those who made no resolve to change their behavior and also those who, in contrast, did.

Many folks say they are wrong, but do not change their previous misbehavior. Examples of such insincerity are Judas (Matt. 27:3,4), Pharoah (Exod. 9:27,34; 10:16), Balaam (Num. 22:34), Achen (Josh. 7:20) and King Saul (1 Sam. 15:24,30; 26:21). These men were all caught

with their hands in the proverbial cookie jar, but there was no remorse, regret or repentance to go along with their hypocritical "confessions."

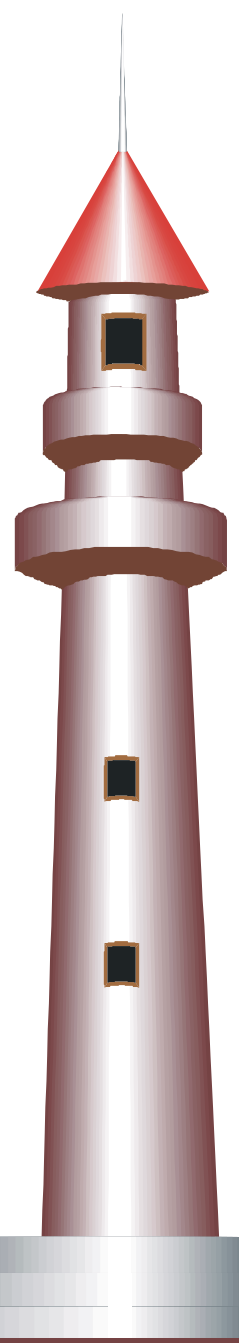
On the other hand, the prodigal son (Luke 15:18,21), King David (2 Sam. 12:13; 24:10,17), Job (7:20; 42:5,6), Nehemiah (1:6,7), and Micah (7:9, 18,19) are examples of true and sincere contrition and change.

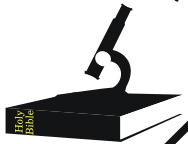
God knows the heart, and rejects sham and hypocrisy. "...*they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24). "*A contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise*" (Ps. 51:17).

Any sin is a capital offense and the penalty is death (Rom. 6:23). Sin must be paid for and it's our choice as to who will pay. Be assured, this is not a trivial matter. We will pay the penalty, unless we accept the gift of salvation through repentance and faith in the only Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.

Jesus said, "*I am the way...; no man cometh unto the Father except by me*" (John 14:6). "*Neither is there salvation in any other...*" (Acts 4:12). There is hope and room at the cross for you. Do not delay in making this most important decision. Come to saving Christ now. Tomorrow may never come; only today is the day of salvation for you (2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 2:3).

□





Part 4

The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her" (Gen. 16:9).

It is impossible to talk or preach about Abraham without mentioning his wife Sarah and her handmaid Hagar.

Abraham was promised a son by God, and this son was to be Isaac, whose descendants would be as numerous as the stars. And, of course, the most important descendant would be Jesus Christ the Saviour.

Keep in mind the fact that Isaac was born 26 years after the promise was made. How long do you have to wait for a promise to be fulfilled? With Abraham and Isaac it was about 26 years. That's why Hagar came into the picture. Sarah was about 77 years old when she hired Hagar and then persuaded Abraham to sleep with her. Hagar became pregnant and bore Ishmael. Of course, Sarah considered herself beyond the child-bearing age and, of course, she was. Sarah's faith at this point was weakened. After all, it had been about 13 years and still no child. Sarah did a very interesting thing. She hired a mistress named Hagar with the express purpose of Hagar becoming a surrogate mother. She persuaded Abraham to sleep with Hagar. Now, I am not sure how much persuading Sarah had to do, a lot or just a little. Well, the result was that Hagar bore Abraham a son, who was named Ishmael.

I don't believe this was God's will. Abraham was a strict monogamist (only one wife), but the laxer notions of those days warranted the filling of the harem with others who occupied an inferior rank to that of the principal wife, Sarah, and whose children, according to common practice, were reckoned

as if they were her own. Why should not her husband fall in with those laxer notions of marriage? Why should he not marry the slave girl whom they had either purchased in an Egyptian slave market or acquired among the other gifts with which Pharaoh had sent them away?

As observed in the life of Abraham, it is evident that the principle of faith is the true philosophy of the Christian life. It builds on God and is satisfied with Him. It thus becomes the source of all righteousness. Faith, therefore, is the highest activity of reason.

All this stands out in even more startling vividness by contrast in the story of Hagar in the sixteenth chapter of Genesis. Here we have the account of the second deflection from faith in the conduct of Abram. It is a sad one, and the issue of the failure continued through the following history. The failure of faith consisted in Abram attempting at the urging of Sarah to further the purposes of God by human cleverness and strategy. This is human. If we had to wait some 26 years for a promise to be fulfilled, we just might lose our patience. At this point, it was about 13 years since God had promised a son to Abram and Sarah. We sometimes make a big issue of Sarah laughing when told she was to bear a child (Gen. 18:12) "*So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, 'After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?'*" But Abraham also laughed (Gen. 17:17) "*Abraham fell face down: he laughed and said to himself, 'Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?'*" I think he laughed in disbelief. So they were in the same category; Abra-



ham laughed and so did Sarah, and it says they laughed within themselves. There is an interesting comment on this event in Romans 4:19-22: "*Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred*

years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised. This is why it 'was credited to him as righteousness.'" The N.I.V. Bible has an interesting comment on this text: "Abraham had some anxious moments (Gen. 17:17-18), but God did not count these against him. He 'faced the fact.'" Faith does not refuse to face reality, but looks beyond all difficulties to God and His promises. Sarah's womb was also dead. Sarah was ten years younger than Abraham but well past child-bearing age. They laughed. The verb is a play on words of the name Isaac, which means "he laughs." The seed was promised, and when there appeared no likelihood of the promise being fulfilled on the human level, there was diversion from the divine line for raising seed through Hagar.

To deal with her barrenness, Sarah's plan of offering her maid to Abraham to bear him an heir was apparently within the social custom of the day. However, her plan was one more example of the futility of human efforts to achieve God's blessing. Although seemingly successful, Sarah's plan did not meet with divine approval.

□



Picture a bouquet of flowers, bathed by sunlight through a window. The flower of encouragement glistens in vibrant yellow, lifting the heart: "Your programs lead to new birth—salvation—a living relationship with God. That is encouragement to my everyday life and in my walk with the Lord."

The purple flower shows royalty:

"The Bible is really the queen of all books and it was written by people who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Send me the comments on Psalms 23 and 53."

Add the variegated blossoms showing the many faces of grace:

"We live in the last times, the time of grace. My prayer is that the Lord will go on leading you and giving you wisdom."

The crimson blooms speak of richness:

"Thank you for your wonderful programs. They enrich us."

"Your programs are a great encouragement—they enrich me. You always touch me with something."

Then there is the fellowship flower—one stalk with several blossoms and buds, but one blossom has dropped off:

"I miss the fellowship of Christians. I want you to give me a contact to some Christian church where the Bible is studied. I suffer in loneliness."

And finally there is a bright red rose, the stem covered with thorns:

"Right now I am in prison. Every day I listen to your Bible comments in the program. This program is very interesting."

This bouquet donated by Czech listeners.

George Cooper for TWR SK/CZ



Makers and Builders ... Continues from page 32

candidate for the position of pastor, they called back Mr. Králíček from Brno. He accepted the call and returned to Chicago in 1913.

Under the Králíček ministry the church advanced. There were some families of the church who resided in the neighborhood of Millard Avenue and 24th Street. Permission was secured from the Millard Avenue Baptist Church to hold weekday services in their building, as well as Sunday School on Sunday afternoon. The Millard Avenue Baptist Church eventually disbanded, and the First Bohemian Baptist Church took over their building in 1916.

During World War I the church was very active in the work of liberation of the Czech and Slovak people in their native land. Both the pastor and the members were very active in the movement. Rev. V. Králíček and Mr. J.J. Zmrhal traveled widely in the interest of this cause. Many other members served in the National Alliance. The comparatively small church sacrificed thousands of dollars for the suffering people—orphans and others—in their homeland. One great achievement of Mr. Králíček and Mr. Zmrhal was the securing of a resolution from the Southern Baptist Convention demanding the breaking up of the old Austro-Hungarian empire and the freeing of the subjugated Czechoslovaks. This resolution was sent to Washington, D.C., where many similar protests were received from other organizations in America.

Mr. Králíček resigned as pastor of the church in 1921, closing twenty years of his remarkable ministry to the church. At the time of his resignation, the church of two hundred fourteen members was working in three different districts in Chicago—on Throop Street, Millard Avenue, and Keeler Avenue. Mr. Kralicek entered the personal

services of President T.G. Masaryk as an adviser, in which capacity he served until 1925. In the early summer of that year he returned to Prague, Czechoslovakia, where he spent the last four years of his life in independent cultural, literary, and religious work. During this time he lectured extensively throughout Czechoslovakia and contributed to various religious and secular publications. He was an energetic man of few words, a deep thinker, a practical theologian, a wonderful leader, an able teacher, and above all a sincere and practical Christian. His life was a great asset to the Czechoslovak Baptist denomination.

On February 13, 1929, Mr. Králíček came to the end of his earthly journey. Many mourned his loss, but he, being dead, "yet speaketh." His fruitful life will be an immortal monument to his followers. Unto this day, many are learning from him—learning how to sacrifice their lives for God, for the Church, and for the nation.

Adapted from V. Vojta's book *Czechoslovak Baptists*

In the next issue: Jaroslav Zmrhal and Edward Čatloš



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Baptist World Alliance News

From the General Secretary

Denton Lotz

A Prayer of Lamentation

Cry aloud to the Lord!...Arise, cry out in the night...Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord!" (Lamentations 2:18, 19)

"And when Jesus drew near and saw the city he wept over it, saying, 'Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace!'" (Luke 19:41)

O Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, forgive our warring ways!

As you wept over Jerusalem of old because she did not know the things that made for peace, again we have caused you to weep. We weep with you!

We weep for the death of your children in Iraq, created in your image, no matter the nationality, whether American, British, or Iraqi. We weep with you!

We weep for the families who have buried their sons and daughters, their mothers and fathers!

We weep because of the hatred and anger that has further engulfed the Middle East. We weep because of the alienation that has pitted nation against nation worldwide.

We weep that the name of Christ has been associated with one group of nations and has furthered religious hatred and rivalry between men and women of other religions.

We weep because we know Scripture teaches us that war is a sign of our failure and our sin. We weep because we, your Church, have failed to follow your word and become Peacemakers. Forgive our sin, O Lord!

We weep that the mission and the message of the love of Christ and His redemption for the world has now been hindered by what seems to others to be a religious crusade.

We weep for the innocent boys and girls, men and women, whose dignity for so long has been violated by a brutal dictator. Lord, save us from evil dictators!

We weep for the effects of war upon your people: destruction, hunger, refugees, loss of faith!

O Lord Jesus Christ, we weep with you again over Jerusalem, your city, which has become the battlefield and root of so much war between Jews and Muslims, and this war! Teach us the things that make for peace! Give us the power and courage to hear your words, "Blessed are the Peacemakers!"

Give us peace, O Lord: "Dona nobis pacem!"

□

Odpuštění

Sylvia Kulich

Myslel jsem, že mám dostatek lásky,

vždyť jsi byl v mém srdci, Pane,

stačilo však zlé slovo,

nepravdivé slovo

zraňující slovo,

slovo bez lásky

a najednou sám žebrám o lásku.

Kam se poděla? Vždyť jsem jí tolik měl.

Něco se bolavě dotklo mého já,

mé nitro je zraněno,

hledám svou ztracenou lásku,

hledám jí, nemohu bez ní žít,

vím, kde jí hledat je u Tebe Ježíši,

ale nemůže proniknout,

protože mé já mne cele zaplnilo

prosím o ně znovu a znovu,

ukazuješ mi cestu Pane

a já vidím Tvůj kříž,

tyčí se přede mnou a ke mě jasně

doléhají Tvá slova...

Otče, odpusť jim, neboť nevědí co činí.

Najednou se stydím, Pane,

a čím více se stydím, tím více zalévá

mé srdce Tvá Láska

a již je tolik, že jí mohu přinést

i těm co mi tolik ublížili.

Děkuji Ti Pane, že mé já vyprázdnilo

znovu místo pro Tebe!



Zprávy Baptist World Alliance

Denton Lotz

Generální tajemník

Modlitba nářku

Volej k Hospodinu!...Povstaň a běžuj za noci...Vylévej své srdce jako vodu před tváří Panovníka!“ (Pláč Jerem. 2;19 Ekum. překl.)

„Když se pak přiblížil a spatřil město, rozplakal se nad ním. Řekl: „Ó, kdybys i ty poznalo aspoň v tento svůj den, co by ti přineslo pokoj!“ (Luk. 19;41 NBK)

Pane Ježíši Kriste, Kníže pokoje, odpusť nám naši bojechtivost!

Znovu jsme dali příčinu k pláči. Pláčeš tak, jako jsi plakal tenkrát nad Jeruzalémem, který nepoznal to, co přináší pokoj. Pláče s Tebou!

Pláče nad Tvými umírajícími dětmi v Iráku, stvořenými ke Tvému obrazu bez rozdílu národnosti, ať je to Američan, Angličan nebo Iráčan. Pláče s Tebou!

Pláče s rodinami, které pochovaly své syny a dcery, matky a otce!

Pláče, protože nenávist a zloba pohltila Střední Východ. Pláče, protože vzájemné odcizení postavilo národ proti národu v celosvětovém měřítku.

Pláče, protože jméno Kristovo bylo zneužito skupinou lidí, která vyvolala náboženskou nenávist a boje mezi muži a ženami jiného vyznání.

Písmo nás učí, že válka je důkazem našeho selhání a hříchu, proto pláče. My, Tvoje církve, jsme selhali v poslušenství Tvého Slova a nestali jsme se prostředníky pokoje, proto pláče. Odpusť nám naše hříchy, Pane!

Pláče, protože té zvěsti o vykoupení světa a lásce Pána Ježíše Krista je bráněno náboženskými konflikty, připomínající křížácké tažení.

Pláče nad nevinnými chlapci a děvčaty, muži i ženami, jejichž důstojnost byla tak dlouho pošlapávána krutým diktátorem. Chraň nás před zlými diktátory, Pane!

Pláče nad Tvým lidem, který čelí následkům války: zmatek, hlad, vyhnanství, ztráta víry!

Pane Ježíši Kriste, znovu pláče s Tebou nad Tvým městem, Jeruzalémem, které se stalo bojištěm a půdou tolika válek mezi Židy a Muslimy! Nauč nás přinášet pokoj! Dej nám sílu a odvahu k slyšení slov, „Požehnání jsou ti, kteří přinášejí pokoj!“

Ó, Pane, daruj nám pokoj: „Dona nobis pacem!“

□

Poutník

Sylvia Kulich

Sluneční paprsky hřejí moji tvář,
je tu nové ráno, nový den.
Kam se jen poděl můj sen?
Tak rád bych se vrátil do růžového
světa zapomnění.

Ale už je tu zas,
kvas radostí, obav a trápení.

Unavený vstávám a vykročím,
jsem hladový a žíznlivý, sláb...
čas běží, den končí
a já zaznamenávám,
další prohraná bitva...

Odpusť Pane!

Jak lehce jsem zapoměl,
ano, byl jsi tu každé ráno
a čekal na setkání se mnou,
tvá bedra byla připravená
nést mé břemeno,
tvá dlaň byla vztažená k uchopení
mé,
byl jsi tu i každodenní chléb pro mou
hladovou duši
připravil jsi odění, mapu, kompas,
vše na cestu,
na nic jsi, Pane, nezapoměl,
to jen já zapomínám,
že Tvá láska je mnohem větší, než
má víra.

Grace Baptist Church, Windsor, Ontario

Grace Happenings

It has been a while since we updated you on our life and ministry here at Grace Baptist Church in Windsor.

A new item in our church calendar over the past months has been a periodic Sunday night Home Fellowship. Meeting in various homes, each gathering has been an occasion for singing and enjoying God's Word, as well as strengthening ties of Christian community over refreshments and enjoyable conversation.

A recent project has been to renovate our church lounge as the Nobles Memorial Room. For many years a unique and dear part of our fellowship, Ray and Anne were called home to be with the Lord in September and November of 2001. We look forward shortly to dedicating this room to their loving memory.

Ministry to the children and families of the surrounding community continues through the hosting of Community dinners as well as Sunday school, Pioneer Clubs and a Tuesday after-school program. A Thursday afternoon tutoring program is a recent addition to these efforts. Outreach and service to children is a significant attribute of the character and life of our church. Already the touch of God on the lives of the children is evident. A future pastor or minister may well be raised by God from among their number.

The Great Lakes Celebration with Ralph Bell, at the end of May and beginning of June last year, was a city-wide evangelism thrust. From the Information Session, Christian Life and Discipleship Classes, and Operation Andrew beforehand, to involvement in different aspects of the Celebration itself, our church actively participated and was correspondingly blessed. How wonderful it was to see Christians from many different

churches working together to make Christ known in our city and country. What a blessing to see many folk responding to the gospel and receiving the Lord as their Savior.

We are presently looking forward to a joint Good Friday Service with several local churches and the wonderful resurrection celebration of Easter Sunday. This will happily coincide with the baptism of one of our young people, Benjamin Blake.

A picture which informs our life as the people of God, whether in Windsor or wherever the Lord has placed us, is the one sketched by Paul in Philippians 3:14:

I press toward the mark for the **PRIZE**
of the high calling of God in **CHRIST JESUS**.

This was illustrated in living color one evening last summer, as we held our 10th annual four-mile run. For the occasion each participant wore a bright gold T-shirt. As the race proceeded, a line of bright gold shirts spread out along the course of the Gnatcatcher Trail. It was a vivid picture of the life of faith.

As followers of Christ, we are spread along the trail of contemporary society. Perhaps our shirts are not as obvious as the bright gold ones on the Gnatcatcher Trail. We have one nevertheless, which through our witness and service proclaims the name of Christ. Running together, encouraging, upholding and appreciating one another along the way, we press on for the prize. As we do, God willing, not a few who see us pass will wonder at the meaning of the golden streak and be drawn to the One who is its inspiration, strength and incomparable goal.

Rev. Stan Mantle

□

Editorial ... Pokračování ze strany 26

břemeno, které nevíme jak nést. Náš pohled na svět se mění. Mění se i naše hodnoty. Život jedince tak lehce dostane podobu chaosu. Jak se v takovém chaosu zorientovat?

Do tohoto lidského chaosu přichází jaro, nesoucí s sebou velikonoční zvěst. Do tohoto chaosu zaznívá mocné Ježíšovo „Je dokonáno!“ Zní stejně silně, jako tenkrát na kříži. Tenkrát, kdy byl svět zasažen stejnou chorobou, jako je zasažen dnes. Tato choroba, která se plíží lidstvem po tisíciletí, zatne své zuby tam, kde se člověk otočí ke kříži zády a přestane vnímat hlas Pána Ježíše. Jak snadno se do této situace člověk dostane!

Zvolání „je dokonáno“ vylučuje jakoukoli možnost další pokračující činnosti.

Ano, Pán Ježíš dokočil dílo spasení pro člověka. Jeho obět a nezměrné utrpení na kříži udělalo velkou tečku za neštěstím člověka, přicházejícím v různých formách. Zvoláním „je dokonáno“ se svět proměnil v kvetoucí korunu stromu. Je obsypán květy naděje, které si zachovávají svěžest po tisíciletí.

Jsou to květy naděje na lepší život. Na život ve společenství Pána Ježíše Krista, našeho Pána a Spasitele. Jsou to květy naděje na věčný život v Božím království.

Květy naděje jsou docela jiné, než květy na zahrádce nebo ve váze. Ty odkvetou. Květy naděje však kvetou stále a je jich velice mnoho. Kvetou pro každého člověka. Stačí se pozvednout z té mizérie světa a květ si utrhnout. Je však potřeba o květ pečovat, aby nezvadl. Svěžest květu naděje zaručuje osobní kontakt s Pánem Bohem. Svěžest květu naděje přemáhá chaos. Vůně květu naděje ovlivňuje příchutí jara. S vůní květů naděje se šíří také pokoj.

Nevadnou nám naše květy? Necht' svěží květy zdobí Kristovou církev!

Šéfredaktorka Nataša Legirská

□

In Memory



Betty Sadowski

April 21, 1918 – November 27, 2002

God called Betty Sadowski to her home in heaven on November 27, 2002, at age 84. She was a stroke victim and had had several heart attacks, causing her to be bed- and wheelchair-bound for more than seven years, praying always for

others and trusting God for her healing as well, but never a word of complaint about her suffering. As a born-again child of God, she entered heaven's gate by virtue of the sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus.

Betty grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and was a member of the now Scranton Road Baptist Church. She grew spiritually under the fundamental teaching of Reverend Bohatec, Reverend Kmetko and others. During a brief few hours off (WWII) we were married by Reverend Marshall, pastor of First Baptist, Ada, Oklahoma.

Our dear mom is survived by and missed very much by me and our children: Louise, Tom, Janet, and David, as well as out ten grandchildren and her brother Richard.

And now we thank our Lord for the beautiful memories we have of the fifty-nine years of marriage which God blessed us with, and for the sweet, loving and kind Christian example she was to all who knew her.

Felix Sadowski



Donation

Please note the change how to send your donations:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

USA:

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

Canada:

Henry Pojman
1516 Pembroke Dr.
Oakville, ON L6H 1V9

George Sommer





Dear Natasha Legierski:
Last year I was introduced to *Glorious Hope* and it stirred up my Baptist Czech blood, especially being 100% Czech, and the periodical has continued to arouse my interest.

In the last issue I enjoyed your editorial on loneliness. It's right on. I hope you can keep that perspective when you get to be my age, an octogenarian born in 1915.

Anyway, this issue was like meeting someone from the old neighborhood, Chicago, the cradle of Czech Baptist work. Even the name of Kejř sounded familiar. I just called an old friend, Mildred Hanzelon, in Largo, Florida, on your mailing list, who attended the Throop Street church as a little girl. My mother was baptized there, I believe. This brings me to my first question. Do you have access to any of that church's early records?

The biography of John Kejř (you have to be a Czech to pronounce that name), as you say, is adapted from N. Vojte's book *Czechoslovak Baptists*. Is there more written about the Throop Street church and the churches that sprung from there, like Lawndale, Millard, (where I was married), Cicero, and Berwyn, (my home church, founded by Rev. Vaclav Shuldes and where I was baptized in 1927 and later pastored by Rev. Bobelik). Is Vojte's book still available? How can I get a copy if written in English?

As for Rev. Bobelik, are there any biographical sketches written about him that are available?

As you can see, *Glorious Hope* has opened up a glorious hope that I can learn more about the early Czech Baptists in Chicago that I long to know.

May I hear from you?

Yours sincerely in Christ, John Doudera



March 27, 2003

Dear friends,

I was so happy to see the story *Fireflies (Broučci)* in the Children's Corner of *Glorious Hope*. In 1942 when I was 4 years old, my grandfather donated the book *Broucci* (printed in 1908) to me in remembrance of him. Each evening my mother would read a section of it. I can remember how I looked forward to hearing the story.

You can't imagine how delighted I was to see the English translation since I cannot read Czech. I am saving the pages so one day I can put them together in the form of a book. Is there an English translation already published as a book? I hope to share the story with our grandbabies when they are older.

Many thanks to Natasha Legierski for printing the story in *Glorious Hope*. Enclosed is a check for the Convention or *Glorious Hope* wherever it is needed. May God continue to bless the work that is done.

Sincerely,

Evelyn S. Hanzlik

[You can find the information how to obtain this book at the end of the *Fireflies* story in this issue].



March 29, 2003

Dear Friends,

I want to thank the Editor, staff, and all who has a part in getting *Glorious Hope* together for all of us to enjoy it. You all deserve a medal for the excellent magazine, glorifying our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God bless you all!

Lillian Adam, Kalamazoo, MI



Check it out!

Nepřehlédněte!

Are you interested about Czech and Slovak Christian resources, videos, and tracts? Look at following web sites:

- www.missionresources.com/slovak.html
- www.gospelvideos.com
- www.tractlist.com

Check our Convention Web page:
www.ab.edu/czslbaptconv



Mission Trip to the Czech Republic

“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” “I, Here am I; send me” (Isa. 6:8).

Remember:

The door into the Czech Republic is wide open. God desires that all people be redeemed. God is capable of bringing the whole Czech nation unto Himself as He did during the time of John Hus. But remember that God uses His missionaries to bring about a great awakening. Are you still ready to become God's ambassadors? (Dr. Josef Solc, *Doing Missions in the Post-Communist Czech Republic, Glorious Hope*, January 2002)

Dear Friends,

I am glad to be able to invite on a small collective adventure those of you who are considering visiting a small exotic country—the Czech Republic, the land of many of your parents, grandparents or friends.

Are you interested in becoming familiar with the former steel town Ostrava?

Would you like to encourage our congregation?

Are you interested in volunteering your time for a week to children from a housing development? If so, then my invitation is for you.

The program will be prepared and published at the 2003 Baptist Convention. Housing in a “luxury church apartment” and delicious meals will be provided. Prayers and preparations for this program are currently underway.

It will be a pleasure to meet you!

Katherina Jariabkova
Czech Baptist Union,
Ostrava

Anyone interested, please contact Natasha:
natasha.legierski@primus.ca



Ostrava, Czech Republic

Misijní cesta do České republiky

„Koho pošlu? Kdo půjde? Aj já, pošli mne.“ (Iz. 6:8)



Ostrava Church, Czech Republic

Milí přátelé,
Mám radost, že mohu pozvat k malému společnému dobrodružství všechny vás, kteří uvažujete o návštěvě tak malé a exotické země jako je Česká republika. Země mnoha vašich rodičů, prarodičů nebo známých.

Máte zájem se seznámit s kdysi „ocelovým“ městem Ostravou?

Chcete povzbudit náš sbor?

Máte chuť týden věnovat svůj čas dětem ze sídliště?

Pak tedy mé pozvání je právě pro tebe.

Program bude po vzájemné domluvě upřesněn a zveřejněn na konvenci 2003.

Ubytování v „luxusním“ sborovém apartmá a vynikající místní strava bude zabezpečena.

Podpora modlitbami probíhá již nyní a podpora praktická bude na místě.

Těším se na tebe!

Za ostravský sbor,

Kateřina Jariabková

Zájemci hlase se u Nataši Legierské:
natasha.legierski@primus.ca

Fireflies

Jan Karafiát

Translated by Daniela Bisková

Part 4

And they slept and they slept and they slept. When at last Lucius opened his eyes his father and mother were already wide awake. They lay in bed talking.

"Mummy," said Lucius, "can I have some honey?"

"What honey? We have no honey, Lucius."

"But you know, Mummy. The honey Jeanine sent us yesterday."

"Yesterday? Jeanine? You've been dreaming, dear."

"Don't you remember, Mummy, giving me some honey already yesterday?"

"What are you talking about, Lucius? You're still half-asleep. The last thing we did was to go to Godmother's house. Don't you remember? And after that we closed everything up quickly because the cold weather had come. We've been asleep ever since."

She was right. Lucius made a face. Then he had an idea. "Daddy, what is it like out-of-doors? Can I go and have a look?"

"I'm afraid not, my son. It's winter-time and very, very cold. You'd freeze to death if you went out. Besides, the door is all blocked up with wood."

"Couldn't I just have a peep out of the window, Daddy?"

"Better not; the window is blocked up too, and covered with boards, and if we took it all away the cold would get in."

Then mother said that she, too, would like to look out—just a little peep through the window. She could light the fire for a bit; it would be quite a good thing. So then father gave in. He got up and took down the boards from the window. Lucius was allowed to help. Then they carefully removed the moss, and at last they were able to look out. Everywhere there was nothing to be seen but snow. They could not see the meadow nor the green hill-side, only snow, snow everywhere. The juniper tree under which their house lay was so heavily laden that its branches were bent right down with the weight. But the sun was shining, and the snow glistened in the light. It was very beautiful, and very, very still. Lucius would have liked to stay there looking at it, but his father wouldn't let him. The cold outside was so bitter that he didn't dare to leave the window exposed for a moment longer. So they got to work and packed in the moss again, and boarded the window over.

Meanwhile mother was busy lighting the fire. She thought it would be a good idea to make a little soup, and so she did. They

said grace and ate up the nice hot broth. But they still began to feel cold, so they hurried back to bed and talked.

"Daddy, supposing Godfather, Godmother and Lucinda got buried by snow!"

"But they won't be. Their house is under the big oak. That'll keep off the snow."

"And what about Jeanine? Where does she live, Mummy?"

"In the moss, among the heather."

"But she'll be all covered up by the snow, won't she? And she said she'd come and see me off when I go flying for the first time."

"Don't worry about that. Even if her house is covered with snow she will be all right. She can always make a fire if she is too cold."

"Do you know if she has any wood, Mummy?"

"She's sure to have plenty."

"Is she all alone?"

"Yes, all by herself."

"Why is she alone?"

"You see, she's got no one; her father and mother died a long time ago."

"Oh, I couldn't live all by myself."

"But if God wanted it you would have to."

"Anyway, Jeanine has honey and grapes, hasn't she? I think it was Jeanine who brought Godmother the grape."

"I really don't know, dear. It may have been."

And now father joined in. "Lucius, do you really think Jeanine is all alone?"

"Well, there's nobody with her."

"Are you sure there's nobody with her, Lucius?"

"Who, then?"

"The Lord God is there with her. I've often heard Jeanine's father say that God looks after obedient fireflies and that nothing can happen to them. And even if something does happen he knows about it. Jeanine knows all that. She's obedient and so she's not at all afraid."

"And do you like her, Daddy?"

"Why, of course I do."

"And you, Mummy?"

"Of course I do."

"And does Godmother also like her?"

"Oh, of course she does. All fireflies love one another."



"And Daddy, when is it that we're going to fly out?"

"We shall have to wait till summer comes round; maybe on Midsummer night."

"What do you have to do when you want to give light to people?"

"You don't really have to do anything. You just keep flying about and people can see your light."

"But supposing you get tired and your wings begin to hurt?"

"Well, then you rest for a bit. But as soon as you feel better you start off again."

"And Daddy, what do people do in the winter when we don't give them light?"

"This I don't know, dear. Perhaps they all go to bed and sleep through the winter as we do. Or perhaps they sit round the fire and tell stories. But I hear they aren't always obedient and are often in trouble."

"What does that mean? What do they do?"

"Well, they are not always kind to one another."

"Then I don't see why we should give them light if they aren't kind."

"That's not ours to decide. The Lord God wants us to give them light; so we do."

Lucius suddenly remembered something his father had said about sitting round the fire telling stories. "Mummy," he said, "tell me a story."

"I'm afraid I don't know any."

"Yes, you do, Mummy. You once told me a story, a long time ago."

"What was it about?"

"Don't you remember? About two cats, Mrs. Pussy and Mr. Tom."

"Once upon a time," began his mother, "a long, long time ago, there were two cats—Mr. Tom and Mrs. Pussy. Mr. Tom was as handsome a cat as ever, coal-black from the end of his tail to the tip of his nose. Mrs. Pussy was even more lovely, for she was as white as milk from the tip of her nose to the end of her tail. They were very fond of one another and they had three kittens—Inky Jim, Johnny-Snow and Speckled Jane. Jim was coal-black, Johnny was snow-white and Jane was black and white. Those three were all very fond of one another and usually got on well together. They had great romps and races and used to sing nice little purring songs with their father and mother. One fine spring morning their mother said—'Now, my dears, I'm going out with your father to see what we can get for dinner. Be good children and don't quarrel. We shan't be away long. I'll make up the fire before I go so that you'll be nice and warm.'

And she made up the fire and locked the door from the outside so that no one could get in. The kittens had a good romp. But soon they began to get rather rough. Inky Jim and Johnny-Snow started fighting and Speckled Jane didn't mean to be left out of the fun; so she joined in. They had started in fun, but they got fiercer and fiercer, and soon Johnny-Snow had had enough of it. The other two were on top of him and he got annoyed and said he wasn't going to play any more. He went and sat by the fire and started cleaning himself with his little pink tongue. Then he began talking out loud. 'I'm glad I'm white,' he said; 'I should hate to be black like a chimney sweep. It must be horrid to be black; you could never tell if you were clean.' Then Inky-Jim got annoyed and started talking. 'I'm glad I take after father,' he said;

'it's so much nicer.' And now Speckled-Jane chimed in, 'I am the most beautiful, I am black and I am white, too.'

This started a quarrel. They soon began pushing one another this way and that. And so it happened that they knocked over the hearth brush, and it caught fire; it fell on to the hearthrug and that caught fire and set fire to a chair; the chair set fire to the table, and soon the whole room was ablaze. The kittens tried to get out but the door was fastened. They cried for help but to no avail. The house was burnt to a cinder because the kittens were naughty. Their father and mother cried. And not far from there was a hill and there they hung a bell and it went ding, dong, ding, dong—and that's the end of the tale—ding, dong, ding, dong..."

Lucius listened attentively to the story, holding mother's hand all the time; and when it was finished he still kept hold of it. Ding—dong, ding—dong, he went on repeating softly to himself till he went to sleep, ding—dong. And they all slept and slept.

Reprinted with permission

Drawings: Nicole Malek



You may order English version of *Fireflies* for US\$19.50 postpaid at following address:

Glorious Hope, Rt. 4, Box 58D, Philippi, WV 26416, USA



Attention! Attention! Firefly!

Do you children enjoy the stories about Lucius?

Surely you can imagine what the little firefly looked like. We know that it had wings so that it could fly and he certainly had little legs so that he could crawl.



He also needed a lamp with which to light his way. You know what kids? Draw a picture of Lucius, and send your picture to the publishing office. We would like to know what you think he looks like. The story about Lucius is very long, so we will publish it in short episodes that will be continued in every issue. We will gladly illustrate your picture of Lucius in our magazine.

Don't wait! Pick your pencil or crayons up now and draw! You can even paint Lucius if you want to. Send your picture as soon as possible because we are preparing the next issue of *Glorious Hope* and we need your picture in it!

Broučci

Jan Karafiát

4. Část

A spali a spali a spali. Když se Brouček probudil, byli tatínek a maminka vzhůru. Leželi v posteli a povídali si.

„Maminko, dáte, mně medu?“

„Medu? Jakého pak medu? Broučku, vždyť žádný nemáme.“

„Ale víte, co nám včera Janinka poslala,“

„Včera? Janinka? I to se ti, holečku, něco zdálo.“

„I ne, maminko. Vždyť už jste mně včera dala.“

„I toto. To se ti zdálo. Jen se zpamatuj. Víš, naposledy jsme byli u kmotřičky, pak jsme hned všechno ucpali, a od té doby spíme.“

níčko tak trošku svítilo, a sníh se tak krásně třpytil, a bylo prachounko. Brouček by se byl rád ještě na to díval, ale tatínek, že tam mrzne, a že musí honem zas okno ucpat a zabednit. A tak okno ucpali a zabednili.

Maminka zatím už zatápěla, a že při tom uvaří kapku polivky. A uvařila. Pěkně se pomodlili a jedli. Ale bylo jim přece trochu zima, a tak si honem zas lehli a povídali.

„Ale, tatínku, jestli se u kmotřičky zachumelili?“

„Ó nezachumelili. Oni zůstávají pod dubem.“

„Ale Janinka! Maminko, kde že zůstává?“

„Ona zůstává v mechu mezi vřasou.“

„Ona se zachumelila, vidíte? A ona povídala, že mne vyprovodí, až ponejprv poletím.“

„I neboj se. Ať se zachumelila. Však ona si zatopí, když ji jest zima.“

„A má dříví?“

„I bodejť by měla.“

„A ona tam jest sama?“

„Sama.“

„Proč pak jest sama?“

„Inu, když nikoho nemá. Tatínek a maminka jí už dávno zemřeli.“

„Ó, to já, bych nebyl sám!“

„I, kdyby to tak Pán Bůh chtěl! To bys musel pěkně poslechnout.“

„Nechť. Však Janinka má med a víno. Vidíte, to víno dostala kmotřička od ní?“

„Já nevím, milé dítě. Snad.“

Tu je tatínek vytrhl: „Broučku, myslíš opravdu, že jest tam Janinka sama?“

„I když tam nikdo s ní není.“

„Co pak s ní nikdo není!“

„A kdo pak?“

„Pán Bůh jest s ní. A její tatínek říkával, že poslušné broučky má Pán Bůh na starosti, tak že se jim nemůže nic stát, a i když se jim něco stane, že jest to tak dobře, A Janinka to dobře ví a poslouchá, a nic se nebojí.“

„A máte ji rád, tatínku?“

„I, bodejť bych neměl.“

„A vy, maminko, také?“

„I arcit že mám.“

„A kmotřička ji má také ráda?“

„I toť, má. Broučci se mají všickni rádi.“

„A tatínku, kdy že tedy už poletíme?“

„Inu počkej, až bude zas léto. Tak asi o svatém Janě.“

„A jak pak se to dělá, když se těm lidem svítí?“

„I to se nijak nedělá. To se jen lítá a oni vidí.“



Škoda. Ale když to tak bylo !

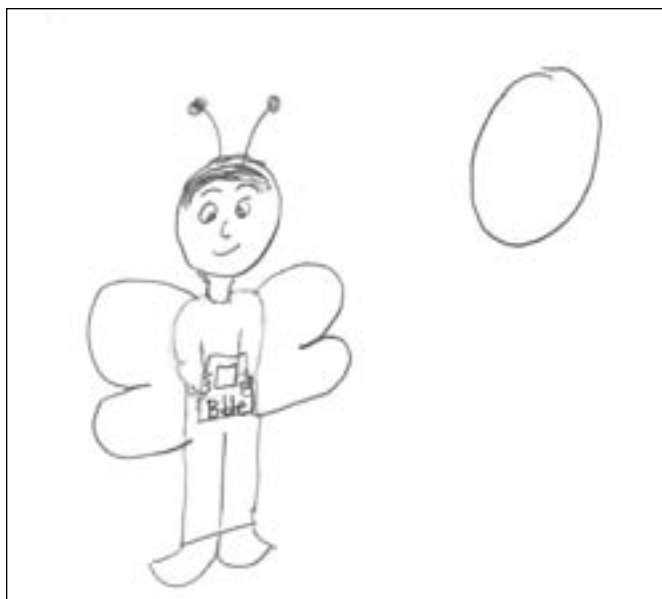
Brouček se skoro mračil, tu mu napadlo. „Tatínku, jak pak jest venku? Já bych se rád podíval.“

Ale tatínek; „Milý Broučku, jest tam zima, to bys zmrzl. A vždyť máme dvěře zarovnané dřívím.“

„Ale, tatínku, mohli bychom se podívat oknem.“

„I, to jest také zabedněné a ucpané. A našlo by nám sem zimy.“

A teprv, když maminka povídala, že by se také ráda podívala, jak to venku vypadá a že by pak trochu zatopila, tak tatínek, že ano. Vstal, odbednil od okna prkénko, a Brouček mu pomáhal. Pak pomalounku oddělali mech, a tu to viděli. Samý, samý sníh, palouk pryč, stráň pryč, a nic než sníh. Na jalovci nad chaloupkou jim ho tolik leželo, že se větve až prohýbaly. Slu-



„Ale jak pak, když už bolí křídla?“
 „Pak se jim trochu odpočine. Ale hned se zas letí.“
 „A tatínku, co pak ti lidé teď dělají, když vy jim nesvítíte?“

„Milé dítě, to já nevím, co oni si počínají. Oni snad také spí, anebo si povídají pohádky. Ale já vždycky slýchám, že jsou neposlušní, a že se jim nedobře vede.“

„Nedobře? Co pak to jest?“

„Inu, oni se nemají rádi.“

„Ale, to já bych jim nesvítíl, když se nemají rádi.“

„I, do toho nám nic není. Když Pán Bůh chce, abychom jim svítili, tak my jim svítíme.“

Broučkovi uvázly na mysli ty pohádky. „Maminko, povídejte mně nějakou pohádku.“

„Ale, když já, Broučku, už žádnou neumím.“

„I víte, tu, kterou jste mně povídala už dávno.“

„O čem pak byla?“

„I, víte, o tom kocourkovi a kočičce. Víte?“

A maminka že bude povídat 'a povídala:

„Tak byl jednou jeden kocourek a jedna kočička. Už jest tomu dávno. Kocourek byl celý krásný černý jako uhel, a kočička celá krásná bílá jako mléko. A měli se rádi. Tu se jim jednou narodila koťátka. Tři, dva kocourci a jedna kočička. Ten jeden byl celý krásný černý jako uhel, ten druhý byl celý krásný bílý jako mléko, a ta kočička byla krásná morovatá. Měli se rádi a byli hodní. Vždycky si pěkně hráli, anebo pomáhali tatínkovi a mamince příst. Jednou pak z jara povídala maminka: Děti, já půjdu s tatínkem chytout nějakou myšku anebo něco, abyste neměli hlad. Buďte hodní a mějte se rádi. My přijdeme hned. A ještě vám zde drobátko zatopím, aby vám nebylo zima.“

A ještě jim drobátko zatopila, a šla a zavřela za sebou dveře, aby jim tam někdo nevlezl. Koťátka si pěkně hrála. Až pak kocourci že se budou porážet. A kočička že také. A tak se poráželi a poráželi, tak že se ten bílý kocourek dostal dospod. Jeho to bolelo, a také ho to zlobilo. A tak že on si

už s nima nebude hrát. Sedl si ke kamnům, pěkně se lízal, a povídal jim: Však hleďte, já jsem krásný bělounek jako mléko, a ne takový špinavý jako sopouch, a takový černý jako uhel. Ale druhý kocourek: Ó, že on jest mnohem krásnější, že jest na vlas takový jako tatínek. A kočička se teprv počala chlubit: Ó že ona jest nekrásnější, že jest černá i bílá.

A tak se začali hádat, a hádali se a hádali, a pak se začali strkat, a strkali se a strkali, až strčili do kamen. Kamna se zbořila, oheň se vysypal, ve světnici to počalo hořet, police, postel, almara, stůl, všechno hořelo—a koťátka chtěla utéci, ale dveře byly zavřeny. A tak křičeli a křičeli, ale oheň je přece sežral. A když přišli tatínek a maminka, už byli kocourci a kočička spaleni, a chaloupka byla spálena, a všechno bylo spáleno, proto, že byla koťátka neposlušná. A tatínek a maminka plakali. A tam nedaleko byl kopec, oni na něm pověsili zvonec, a zvonili a zvonili, a už jest té pohádky konec. Bim bam, bim bam, bim bam.“

Brouček poslouchal. Jemu se to líbilo. Držel maminku za ruku, říkal si bim bam, bim bam, až při tom usnul, bim bam. A tak spali a spali.

Přetištěno s povolením



Kresby: Nicole Malek



Pozor! Pozor! Brouček!

Líbí se vám vyprávění o Broučkovi, děti?

Jistě si umíte představit, jak takový malý Brouček vypadal.

Víme, že měl křídélka, aby mohl létat.

Určitě měl nožky, aby mohl lézt. Potřeboval také světélko, aby mohl svítit. Víte co, děti?

Nakreslete Broučka tak, jak si myslíte, že vypadal a pošlete obrázek do redakce. Rádi bychom věděli, jak si Broučka představujete. Vyprávění o Broučkovi je velmi dlouhé, budeme Broučkova dobrodružství otiskovat na pokračování. Vaše obrázky s radostí použijeme pro ilustraci.

Nečekejte, vezměte si tužku nebo pastelky a kreslete! Můžete použít i barvy a Broučka namalovat. Pošlete obrázek, co nejdříve, protože připravujeme další část a možná váš obrázek bude právě ten nejvhodnější!



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. Just think about the war weeks we have so recently been through. Or about the diminishing strength that comes along with increasing age. Or the repeated disappointments that life has brought into every life. Or the vicious diseases that keep popping up. Yesterday it was AIDS. Today it is SARS. There are times when I think, Why do I keep on starting my day with the discouragements of the newspaper or going nightly to the TV to visit with CNN?

This, however, I know: that at a certain foundational time in my life, word got through that Jesus Christ is alive forevermore. That is a conviction somehow overshadowing everything else going on round about. And here was the further good news: his aliveness (in dimensions of reality so very different from the world I experience daily) is something he wishes for us to be able to share also. It is said he prays this at the very side of God the Father.

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 debilitations 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.



Rev. Robert Dvorak



Velikonoce- přicházejí s příchutí radosti a hlubokého vnitřního zadostučinění. Nezáleží na tom, kolikrát velikonoce prožijeme v průběhu našeho života, tato pohoda z nich nikdy nevymizí. Nikdy nezevšední ani se neomrzí. Nikdo také neříká: “Viděl jsem, zažil jsem”. Velikonoce jsou prostě velice úzce spojené s jádrem naší osobnosti a víry. Kdysi jsme slyšeli : “Ježíš žije, i já budu žít”, a ta slova nás jednou provždy sformovala.

Jestliže by toto nebylo zaměřením našeho života, život by mohl být docela bezúčtný. Jen si to promítněme do několika posledních týdnů války, které jsme svědky. Promítněme si to do situace, kdy s přibývajícím věkem ubývá sil, nebo do života se stále se opakujícími zklamáními, která s sebou život přináší.

Včera to bylo AIDS. Dnes to je SARS. Někdy si říkám, proč vlastně začínám den deprimujícími novinami nebo večer zapínám televizní stanici CNN?



Jistě však vím, že v klíčovém období mého života jsem pochopil, že Ježíš Kristus žije na věky věků. Toto přesvědčení jaksi zastírá všechno, co se kolem mne děje. Za tím následuje ještě lepší zpráva: Pán Ježíš si přeje, abychom se dokázali s jeho hmatatelnou existencí (jenž denně prožívám, a která se projevuje ve skutečnosti zcela jinak, než tento svět), také sdílet. Čteme, že se takto modlí k

Bohu Otci.

Kristus chtěl, abychom měli stejnou výsadu. Písmo říká, že s Ním se můžeme ztotožnit skrze dar smrti proměněný v život...tedy, to pomáhá vyrovnávat se s tím, co život v současnosti přináší. Odcizení světa a zhoubnost hříchu a tisíc dalších disfunkcí nejsou na programu stále. Přijde čas, kdy se s úsměvem ohlédneme na to, jak jsme se dokázali vypořádat s bezvýznamnými věcmi.

Je možné se dostat do velkých zmatků zde na Zemi, jestliže nevěříme, že „Ježíš Kristus žije, i já budu žít“. Naopak víra ve vzkříšení zakotvena hluboko v duši, způsobí, že i denní zprávy budeme vnímat ve správné perspektivě i se všemi senzacími.

Pán Bůh žehnej toto velikonoční období a občerství vás tou nejlepší zvěstí!

Přeložila Nataša Legierská

Finally it seems that spring is in the air. The days are warmer, and the grass is starting to turn green. Spring flowers are beginning to push through the ground. When I wake up early in the morning, I hear the birds singing. Soon it will be Easter.

This year as we come to this joyous celebration, I feel there are many people with heavy hearts. There are loved ones away at war—mothers anxious about their young sons and daughters on the front lines, families grieving the loss of loved ones. Unemployment and serious illness burden the hearts of individuals and families. A general feeling of unrest presides over the world situation. We are living in troubled times.

Lately when my thoughts dwell on things like this, the words of an old hymn keep coming to my mind.

*In times like these I have a Savior,
In times like these I have an anchor;
I'm very sure I'm very sure,
My anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!*

*This Rock is Jesus,
Yes He's the One,
This Rock is Jesus -
The only One.*
Ruth Caye Jones



What a joy and comfort it is to have Jesus with us in the hard times of life. This Easter I am so thankful that Jesus is my Lord and Savior. In times like these there must be many who are searching for something to hold them steady and provide assurance. It is my hope and prayer that I will have the opportunity to share Jesus with some who are looking for an anchor for their life.

Heather Mantle

Ladies' Contribution:
see *Donation*
on page 39

Jubilee ... Continues from page 30

now speaks English as if she were born American!) Among other things she was president of the Union of Music Teachers in West Virginia and president of the sisters at the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of the United States and Canada.

If you visit our beloved Sommers, you will encounter some uncommon hospitality. In their home you truly feel like part of a royal family. With this experience you suspect hidden motives, which we find in the book of Joshua “...*me and my house will serve the Lord*” (Joshua 24:15).

We wish for our sister Marija the closeness of God into her future years and the strength and health that He provides so that she can continue to spread God's love. That has been the motto of her life. We are grateful to God that he brought this amazing woman into our fellowship. And to you, our dear sister, we are grateful for how you have faithfully followed the Lord Jesus Christ. May God richly bless you!

Editors

Kulaté jubileum ... Pokračování ze strany 30

všemi situacemi (anglicky hovoří jako rozená Američanka) a na svém kontě má řadu úspěchů. Několik let byla také předsedkyní svazu učitelů hudby v Západní Virginii a předsedkyní sester při Československé baptistické konvenci Spojených států a Kanady.

Navštívíte-li naše milé Sommerovi, setkáte se s nebyvalou pohostinností. V jejich domě se opravdu cítíte jako členové královské rodiny. Za touto skutečností tušíte skrytý motiv, který nacházíme v knize Jozue: “...*já a můj dům budeme sloužit Hospodinu*.” (Jozue 24:15)

Přejeme sestře do dalších let Boží přítomnost na každý den, sílu a zdraví, aby mohla i nadále pokračovat v šíření Boží lásky, která je také mottem jejího života. Pánu Bohu jsme vděční za to, že sestru do našeho obcenství přivedl a Tobě, sestro za věrnost v následování Pána Ježíše Krista! Pán Bůh Ti bohatě žehnej!

Redakce

...plésejte a veselte se v Hospo-
dinu Bohu vašem; nebo vám dá
děšť příhodný, a sešle vám děšť
hojný, podzimní i jarní, v čas.

Joel 2;23

Spiritual Springtime

Leona Choy

Spiritual springtime:I need it over
and overin the soil of my heart.

O Divine SowerYou awakened my
lifeat the first plantingof Your
Living Seedin my fertile heart.It
began to bear fruitthirty-fold.

I continue to need
another springtime
so I welcome You
to plant more Seed
new varieties to plow deeper
furrows.Send Your sun and rain
that I may reap again
a greater harvest
to bear more fruit for You
sixty-fold.

