

# Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

Vol. 40, N° 2, 2014

Ročník 40, číslo 2, 2014

To the Lord your God belong  
the heavens, even the highest  
heavens, the earth and every-  
thing in it.

Deut. 10: 14

Hle, Hospodinu, tvému Bohu,  
patří nebe i nebesa nebes,  
země i vše, co je na ní.

Deut. 10; 14

Hospodinovi, tvojemu Bohu,  
patria nebesia i nebesia nebies,  
zem a všetko, čo je na nej.

Deut. 10; 14



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## Convention Mission Statement

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

## Misijní poslání konvence

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

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## Faithfulness in Your Calling

*"Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God."*

(Hebrews 13:7)

From the moment our Lord Jesus left planet earth, missionary work began. Every parting is a sad affair that brings certain changes into life. When their Lord abandoned them, the disciples must have been aware of this. The emptiness of abandonment must be filled, or else it becomes unbearable. This is why the apostle Peter urged the remaining disciples to start doing something (Acts 1:15–26). Naturally it is about the commission of the Master, Jesus Christ himself.

As we look through history, we see many examples of missionary work. We encounter instances where following Christ faithfully means sacrificing one's life. In many cases, however, the authority of this calling was abused. That is why in this letter the author reminds the faithful of those who preached God's word and were an example (Hebrews 13:7). And he adds to that, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever,"* (verse 8). These words are extremely important to our own individual callings as well.

I believe that this thematic verse was personified through the members of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada. The 105<sup>th</sup> convention bears witness to its rich history focused on missionary work. Our ancestors were aware of the reality that missionary work starts at home, in the family and in the closest relationships. And every person has their own calling. Let us each know our own calling and be faithful to it. Our callings take on different forms in which the dynamics of our environment and times are reflected. Jesus Christ, however, never changes.

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

## Věrnost v poslání

*"Mějte v paměti ty, kteří vás vedli a kázali vám slovo Boží."*

(Židům 13:7)

Od chvíle, kdy Pán Ježíš opustil naši zemi, se začala rozvíjet misijní činnost. Každé loučení je smutnou záležitostí a přináší do života různé změny. Toto jistě vnímali i učedníci, kteří se cítili svým Pánem opuštěni. Prázdnotu opuštění je nutné zaplnit, jinak se stává neúnosnou. Proto apoštol Petr vybízí pozůstalé, tedy učedníky, aby začali něco dělat. (Skutky 1; 15–26) Přirozené se jedná o navázání na poselství jejich Mistra, Pána Ježíše Krista.

Při procházce historií se setkáváme s mnohými příklady misijních činností. Nacházíme případy, kdy věrní následovníci Kristova odkazu obětovali i své životy, ale také jsme svědky mnohého zneužívání tohoto poslání. Proto autor dopisu připomíná v dopise ty věrné, kteří kázali Boží slovo a byli příkladem. (Židům 13:7) A hned na to navazuje: *"Ježíš Kristus je tentýž včera, dnes i na věky."* (8. verš) Tato slova se týkají i našeho osobního poslání.

Věřím, že tento úvodní verš našel své naplnění také v řadách členů Československé baptistické konvence USA a Kanady. Svědčí o tom již 105. výročí konvence a její bohatá historie zaměřená na misii. Naši předchůdci vnímali i tu skutečnost, že misie začíná v domácím prostředí, v rodině, ve vztazích s těmi nejbližšími. A každý své poslání má. Znejme tedy své poslání a buďme věrní. Poslání má různé formy, ve kterých se odráží dynamičnost prostředí a doby. Ježíš Kristus se však nemění.

*Natasha Laurincová*, šéfredaktorka





# From the President

Photo: Vit Malek  
Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania  
Glass sculptures



## Dear Members and Friends of the Convention:

I can't believe it: we are just a few short weeks away from our annual Convention, plans for which are well under way. We hope you are planning on joining us as the Convention gathers for the 105<sup>th</sup> time. How much has changed since newly arrived immigrants of Czech and Slovak background began to gather in the early 1900s for Christian worship and fellowship. They were busy building new lives in a foreign land, but they made time to come together, enjoy and nourish what was most important to them—their faith. With all the changes happening these days in the United States and Canada, it can feel like we are strangers in a foreign land. As much as those who preceded us, we also need a place of refreshing and retreat. After a busy time of ministry, Jesus said to his disciples:

*"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."* Mark 6:31.

We are returning once again to the lovely campus of Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. The theme of this year's Convention:

### **"Gospel Transformations"**

describes both our need and our mission. I hope to see you there. In this age of ceaseless communication at a distance, through cellphones, internet, and email (plus many more which I am not up on), there is something rich and refreshing about real face-to-face community, and we have a most precious kind—*obecenství*. As we gather from distant places I know the Lord has something special for us. I have never gone home from a Czechoslovak Baptist Convention sorry that I went. Have you? I didn't think so. See you then, July 10–13 in Meadville—the Lord willing. I think He is willing.

Peace and blessings, *Stan Mantle*





Photo: Vít Malek  
Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania  
Vukovich Centre

## Vážení členové a přátelé konvence!

Nemohu uvěřit tomu, že  
zbývá jen několik týdnů do naší kon-  
vence. Přípravy jsou již v plném proudu.

Bude to v pořadí 105. sejití konvence a dou-  
fáme, že se zúčastníte. Tolik se změnilo od dob,  
kdy se po roce 1900 začali scházet k bohoslužbám nově  
příchozí emigranti z Česka a ze Slovenska. I přes usilovné  
– zabydlování se v cizí zemi si dokázali udělat čas k sejití, vzájem-  
nému potěšení a občerstvení ve víře, na které jim velmi záleželo.

Díky všem změnám, které se dějí dnes ve Spojených státech a v Kanadě,  
se můžeme snadno cítit jako příchozí v cizí zemi. Také potřebujeme místo k  
občerstvení a odpočinku. Učedníkům po dlouhé službě Pán Ježíš řekl:

„*Pojďte sami stranou na pusté místo a trochu si odpočíte!*“ Marek 6;31

Vracíme se opět do krásného areálu Allegheny College v Meadville v Pensylvánii.

Téma letošní konvence *“Proměny evangelia”* se vztahuje k našim potřebám a našim posláním. Věřím, že se tam setkáme. V době, kdy se díky mobilním telefonům, internetu, elektronické poště a mnohým dalším vymoženostem udržují kontakty nepřetržitě, existuje ještě něco vzácného a osvěžujícího, týkající se opravdového společenství tváří v tvář, a to je to nejvzácnější – obecnství. Víím, že Pán má pro nás přichystáno něco neobyčejného. Nikdy jsem nelitoval toho, že jsem na Československou baptistickou konvenci jel. Vy ano? Myslím si, že ne. Uvidíme se tedy v mezi 10. – 13. červencem v Meadvillu, bude-li Pán chtít. Myslím si, že bude.

Pokoj a požehnání, *Stan Mantle*  
přeložila *Nataša Laurincová*

# Walking Wisely In a Wacky World

Judy Shoff

Excerpts from a study in Proverbs (Part 6 and 7)

## The Foolish Woman and the Wise Woman



There are a lot of questions going around today concerning women, questions like:

- What is my purpose in my present world?
- What is my role in society, in my church or in my home?
- Am I inferior to the male species; am I superior?

• Do I have to prove my worth by competing with men?  
Besides having practical answers to the questions above, the book of Proverbs also describes a foolish woman and, in the well-known passage in Chapter 31, a wise woman.

Proverbs tells us that a foolish woman lacks discretion.

*“A beautiful woman lacking discretion and modesty is like a fine gold ring in a pig’s snout.”* (Proverbs 11:22 LB)

Discretion is defined as “the quality of being reserved in speech (self control) and having the ability to make responsible decisions; of having good judgment in conduct and especially in speech; unpretentious and modest.”

The woman who lacks discretion is totally selfish, and self-centered. Selfishness colors all relationships and drives a wedge between herself and others.

We also learn from Proverbs that the foolish woman creates contention. The dictionary defines contention as: “to argue, to maintain that one is right; to create discord, to exhibit an often perverse and wearisome tendency to quarrel

and dispute; to be belligerent, opposite of peaceable.”

*“It is better to live in a corner of a roof, than in a house shared with a contentious woman.”* (Proverbs 21:9)

*“It is better to live in a desert land, than with a contentious and vexing woman.”* (21:19)

*“A rebellious son is a calamity to his father and a nagging wife annoys like a constant dripping. A father can give his sons homes and riches, but only the Lord can give them understanding wives.”* (19:13–14 LB)

*“A constant dripping on a day of steady rain and a contentious woman are alike. He who would restrain her, restrains the wind and grasps oil with his right hand.”* (27:15–16)

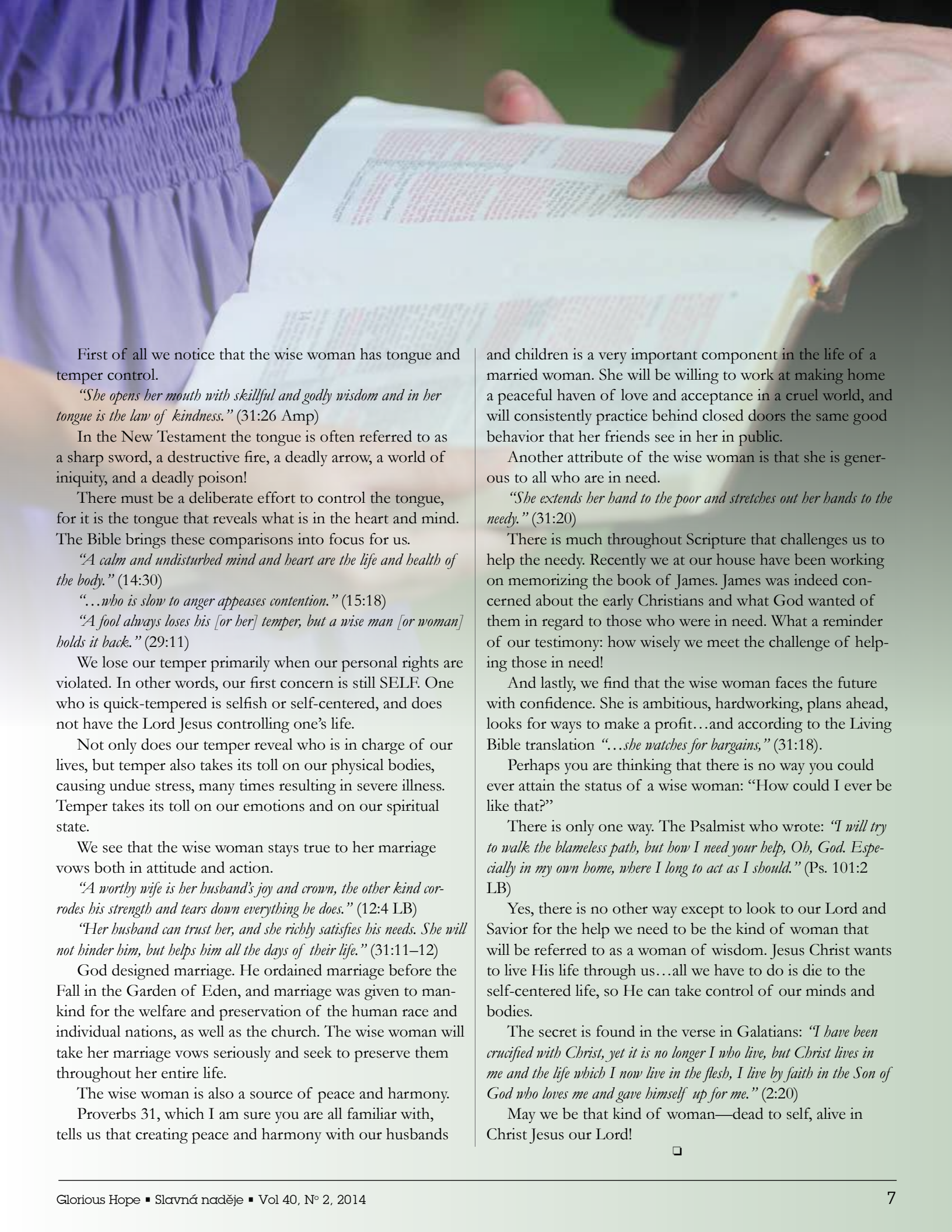
These verses remind me of a time early in our marriage that I decided to purchase an aquarium of tropical fish. I loved the Black Mollie, so handsomely distinctive among the other fish. The female fish was so docile, swimming around gently as the male courted her. He would swim circles around her, gently nudging her occasionally. But after the mating was over, the female turned into the aggressor, attacking the male wherever he was until she finally killed him.

Wow! How convicting that was. We women can be so sweet and kind before the altar experience, but then we can easily turn into a contentious, controlling mate, that almost kills any affection her husband might still have for her. Let us be on guard against creating contention.

None of us wishes to be referred to as foolish. We would much rather be thought of as woman of wisdom. Certainly that description means much more than how much money we might have in the bank.

The book of Proverbs paints for us a picture of the wise woman. From God’s point of view, character is the crowning glory of a woman, just as it is for a man. So it is wise for us to take a look at some of the qualities that this book lays out to follow in order to be the wise women God intends us to be.





First of all we notice that the wise woman has tongue and temper control.

*"She opens her mouth with skillful and godly wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness."* (31:26 Amp)

In the New Testament the tongue is often referred to as a sharp sword, a destructive fire, a deadly arrow, a world of iniquity, and a deadly poison!

There must be a deliberate effort to control the tongue, for it is the tongue that reveals what is in the heart and mind. The Bible brings these comparisons into focus for us.

*"A calm and undisturbed mind and heart are the life and health of the body."* (14:30)

*"...who is slow to anger appeases contention."* (15:18)

*"A fool always loses his [or her] temper, but a wise man [or woman] holds it back."* (29:11)

We lose our temper primarily when our personal rights are violated. In other words, our first concern is still SELF. One who is quick-tempered is selfish or self-centered, and does not have the Lord Jesus controlling one's life.

Not only does our temper reveal who is in charge of our lives, but temper also takes its toll on our physical bodies, causing undue stress, many times resulting in severe illness. Temper takes its toll on our emotions and on our spiritual state.

We see that the wise woman stays true to her marriage vows both in attitude and action.

*"A worthy wife is her husband's joy and crown, the other kind corrodes his strength and tears down everything he does."* (12:4 LB)

*"Her husband can trust her, and she richly satisfies his needs. She will not hinder him, but helps him all the days of their life."* (31:11–12)

God designed marriage. He ordained marriage before the Fall in the Garden of Eden, and marriage was given to mankind for the welfare and preservation of the human race and individual nations, as well as the church. The wise woman will take her marriage vows seriously and seek to preserve them throughout her entire life.

The wise woman is also a source of peace and harmony.

Proverbs 31, which I am sure you are all familiar with, tells us that creating peace and harmony with our husbands

and children is a very important component in the life of a married woman. She will be willing to work at making home a peaceful haven of love and acceptance in a cruel world, and will consistently practice behind closed doors the same good behavior that her friends see in her in public.

Another attribute of the wise woman is that she is generous to all who are in need.

*"She extends her hand to the poor and stretches out her hands to the needy."* (31:20)

There is much throughout Scripture that challenges us to help the needy. Recently we at our house have been working on memorizing the book of James. James was indeed concerned about the early Christians and what God wanted of them in regard to those who were in need. What a reminder of our testimony: how wisely we meet the challenge of helping those in need!

And lastly, we find that the wise woman faces the future with confidence. She is ambitious, hardworking, plans ahead, looks for ways to make a profit...and according to the Living Bible translation *"...she watches for bargains,"* (31:18).

Perhaps you are thinking that there is no way you could ever attain the status of a wise woman: "How could I ever be like that?"

There is only one way. The Psalmist who wrote: *"I will try to walk the blameless path, but how I need your help, Oh, God. Especially in my own home, where I long to act as I should."* (Ps. 101:2 LB)

Yes, there is no other way except to look to our Lord and Savior for the help we need to be the kind of woman that will be referred to as a woman of wisdom. Jesus Christ wants to live His life through us...all we have to do is die to the self-centered life, so He can take control of our minds and bodies.

The secret is found in the verse in Galatians: *"I have been crucified with Christ, yet it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loves me and gave himself up for me."* (2:20)

May we be that kind of woman—dead to self, alive in Christ Jesus our Lord!



# Moudře kráčet neobvyklým světem

Judy Shoffová

Výňatek ze studie knihy Přísloví (6. a 7. část)

## Pošetilá žena a moudrá žena



V poslední době si ženy kladou mnohé otázky jako například:

- Co je smyslem mého života?
- Jaké mám postavení ve společnosti, v církvi nebo doma?
- Jsem muži podřízená; jsem nadřazená?
- Musím s muži soupeřit, abych se prosadila?

Kromě praktických odpovědí na výše uvedené otázky kniha Přísloví v dobře známé 31. kapitole popisuje ženu pošetilou a také ženu moudrou.

Dozvídáme se, že bláhové ženě se nedostává rozvahy.

*“Zlatá ozdoba na sviňském rypáku je krásná žena bez špetky rozumu.”* (Přísloví 11;22 NBK)

Rozvaha je definována jako “taktnost při projevu a schopnost zodpovědného rozhodování; zdravý úsudek při vystupování; skromnost a zdrženlivost.” Neohleduplná žena je sobecká, myslí jenom na sebe. Její sobeckost ovlivňuje všechny vztahy a vráží klíny do vztahů s bližními.

Z Přísloví se dovídáme, že pošetilá žena je původcem konfliktu. Konflikt lze definovat jako “spor; hájení své pravdy; vyvolávání neshod projevující se často zatvrzelou a neúnavnou snahou vyvolat hádku a rozepru; útočnost jako protiklad mírumilovnosti.”

*“Lepší je stěhovat se do kouta na střechu než s hašteřivou ženou sdílet dům.”* (Přísloví 21;9)

*“Lepší je bydlet někde v pustině než s hašteřivou ženou hádat se.”* (Přísloví 21;19)

*“Tupý syn je neštěstím svého otce, hašteřivá žena pak crčení bez konce!”*

*Dům a majetek bývá po rodičích, rozumnou ženu však dává Hospodin.”* (Přísloví 19;13–14)

*“Věčnému crčení v období dešťů se hašteřivá žena podobá. Kdo ji chce zkrátit, chce zkrátit vítr, do pravé ruky chce olej pochytat.”* (Přísloví 27;15–16)

Tyto verše mi připomínají období z počátku našeho manželství, kdy jsem si pořídila akvárium s tropickými rybičkami. Líbila se mi živorodka ostropyská, která se mezi jinými rybičkami krásně vyjímal. Samička byla velmi povolná, když se o ní sameček ucházel. Kroužil kolem ní opatrně a jen občas do ní šťouchl. Když však páření skončilo, samička se proměnila v agresora a útočila na něho tak dlouho, až ho zabila.

Jak usvědčující! My, ženy, jsme často velmi milé, zvláště před svatbou, ale potom se snadno proměníme ve svárlivou, manipulující družku zabíjející poslední city, které k ní manžel ještě chová. Mějme se na pozoru před vyvoláváním sporů.

Žádná z nás si nepřeje, aby se o ní říkalo, že je nerozumná. Raději bychom si přály být nazývány moudrými ženami, což má jistě daleko větší hodnotu než všechny naše úspory v bance.

Knihy Přísloví nám vykresluje moudrou ženu. Z Božího hlediska je charakter to, co ctí ženu právě tak jako i muže. Je proto moudré se podle této knihy řídit a moudrou ženou se stát, jak nám Bůh předurčil.





Všimněme si, že moudrá žena ovládá svůj jazyk i povahu. *„Její ústa mluví s moudrostí, její jazyk učí vlídnosti.”* (Příslaví 31;26)

V Novém zákoně je jazyk často přirovnáván k ostrému meči, ničivému ohni, smrtícímu šípu, ohavnosti a jedu.

Protože jazyk slouží k vyjadřování toho, čím se vnitřně zabýváme a jací jsme, je potřeba svůj jazyk ovládat. Srovnávejme podle Bible:

*„Krotké srdce dodává tělu na životě.”* (Příslaví 14;30)

*„...trpělivý dovede spory uklidnit.”* (Příslaví 15;18)

*„Tupec dá průchod všem svým citům, moudrý se ale drží zpět.”* (Příslaví 29;11)

Obyčejně se přestaneme ovládat, když se nás něco přímo dotkne. Jinými slovy, stále jsme na svou osobu přecitlivělí. Ten, kdo se snadno rozčílí, je sobecký a zaměřený jenom na sebe a jeho život není podřízen Pánu Ježíši.

Nejenže naše povaha odhaluje, kdo je pánem našeho života, ale hněv také ovlivňuje naše tělesné zdraví, způsobuje stres, který v mnohých případech vyústí ve vážné onemocnění. Hněv také ovlivňuje naše emoce a náš duchovní stav.

Moudrá žena zůstane věrná manželskému slibu v postojích i v jednání.

*„Žena statečná je korunou svého manžela, kdežto ostudná mu je jako kostička v kostech.”* (Příslaví 12;4) (

*„Manžel jí důvěřuje ze srdce, žádný užitek tu chybět nebude. Je na něj hodná, a ne zlá po všechny dny svého života.”* (Příslaví 31;11–12)

Manželství bylo určeno Pánem Bohem. Ještě před pádem člověka v zahradě Eden ustanovil Bůh manželství, které bylo dáno lidstvu k prospěchu a k zachování lidské rasy, jednotlivých národů a církve. Manželský slib bere moudrá žena vážně a nikdy v životě ho neporuší.

Moudrá žena je zdrojem pokoje a harmonie. Jistě všichni

znáte oddíl z 31. kapitoly, kde čteme, že vytváření pokoje a souladu mezi manželem a dětmi je velmi důležitou součástí v životě vdané ženy. Její domov se v drsném světě stane mírumilovným zázemím lásky a porozumění a její soukromí se nebude lišit od chování na veřejnosti.

Velkorysost ke všem potřebným je další vlastností moudré ženy.

*„Štědrě otvírá svou dlaň ubohým, pomocnou ruku chudým nabízí.”* (Příslaví 31;20)

Písmo nás na mnoha místech vyzývá věnovat se potřebným. Doma se v poslední době učíme zpaměti Jakubovu knihu. Jakubovi velmi leželo na srdci, aby se první křesťané věnovali potřebným. A to je svědectví: jak moudře si počínáme při službě potřebným!

Moudrá žena čelí budoucnosti s jistotou. Je ambiciózní, pracovitá, plánuje dopředu, hledá způsob, jak nejlépe hospodařit. *“...okusí, jak je dobré její podnikání.”* (Příslaví 31;18)

Možná si myslíte, že nikdy nedokážete získat status moudré ženy. Existuje pouze jediná cesta. Žalmista napsal: *“Obezřetně půjdu bezúhonnou cestou. Kdy už ke mně přijdeš? Budu žít v bezúhonnosti srdce ve svém dome.”* (Žalm 101;2)

Ano, neexistuje jiné cesty, než hledat pomoc u našeho Pána a Spasitele, abychom se staly moudrými ženami. Ježíš Kristus chce žít skrze nás. Stačí zemřít sama sobě, aby On mohl působit na naši mysl i tělo.

Verš ke Galatským toto tajemství odhaluje: *“Nežijí už já, ale žije ve mně Kristus. A život, který zde nyní žiji, žiji ve víře v Syna Božího, který si mne zamiloval a vydal sebe samého za mne.”* (Galat. 2;20)

Kež bychom byly takovými ženami – mrtvé sobě, živé v Kristu Ježíši, Pánu našem!

přeložila Nataša Laurincová





# Charles Spurgeon's Devotion



Charles Haddon Spurgeon  
by Alexander Melville

## God, even our own God, shall bless us

Psalms 67:6 KJV

It is strange how little we make use of the spiritual blessings God gives us, but even stranger how little we make use of God Himself. Although He is “our own God,” we don’t stay in continual contact with Him and we ask Him for very little. How seldom we seek counsel at the hands of the Lord! How often we simply go about our business without seeking His guidance! Even in our troubles we constantly strive to bear our burdens ourselves instead of casting them upon the Lord so He may sustain us! (See 1 Peter 5:7.)

This is not due to some prohibition against it, for the Lord Himself suggests to us, in essence: I am yours, dear soul, come and make use of Me as you will. You may freely approach My spiritual storehouse, and the more often you come, the more welcome you will be. So it is our own fault if we do not partake in the riches of our God.

Therefore, since you have such a Friend and He invites you to come, why not receive from Him daily? Never go without when you have a God to go to, and never fear or faint when God is there to help you. Go to your treasure and take whatever you need, for He has more than you could even want. Learn the divine skill of allowing God to be all things to you. He can supply everything you need, or better yet, He Himself can be all you need.

I urge you then to make use of your God. Make use of Him through prayer, going to Him often, for “he is your God” (Deut. 10:21). O believer, will you fail to use such a great privilege? Flee to Him and tell Him all your wants. Use Him constantly “by faith” (Rom. 1:17) at all times.

If some evil darkness has clouded your life, use your God as the sun, and if some strong enemy has attacked you, find your shield in Jehovah, for “the Lord is your shield” (Deut. 33:29) and your sun. If you have lost your way in the mazes of life, use Him as your guide, for He will direct you.

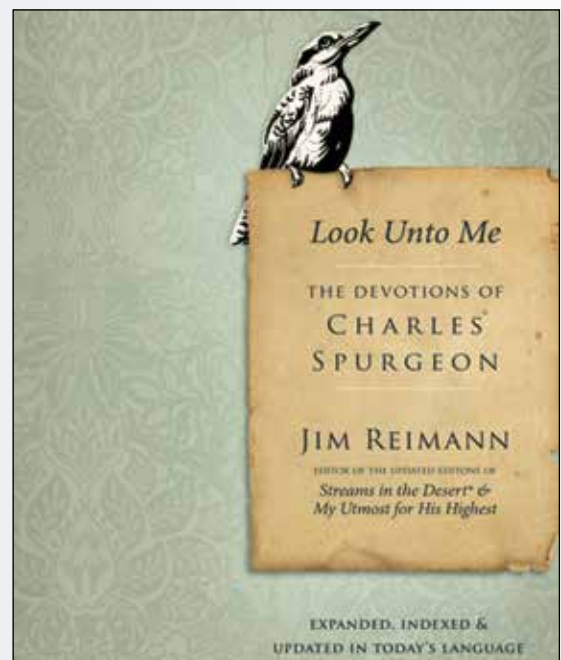
Whoever you may be and wherever you may be, remember: God is all you may ever want, is everywhere you need Him to be, and can do everything you could ever want Him to do. □

*Charles Haddon (C.H.) Spurgeon* (19 June 1834–31 January 1892) was a British Baptist preacher. Spurgeon remains highly influential among Christians of different denominations, among whom he is known as the “Prince of Preachers.” He was a strong figure in the Reformed Baptist tradition, defending the Church in agreement with the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith, and understanding and opposing the liberal and pragmatic theological tendencies in the Church of his day.

Spurgeon was pastor of the congregation of the New Park Street Chapel (later the Metropolitan Tabernacle) in London for 38 years. He was a prolific author of many types of works, including sermons, an autobiography, commentaries, books on prayer, devotionals, magazines, poetry, hymns and more. In his lifetime, Spurgeon preached to around 10,000,000 people.

*Look Unto Me* represents some of Spurgeon’s most powerful devotions.

...Spurgeon preached to around 10,000,000 people. *Look Unto Me* represents some of Spurgeon’s most powerful devotions.



Taken from “*Look Unto Me*”

*The Devotions of Charles Spurgeon* by Jim Reimann

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## The Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance continues to be IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT based on Galatians 5:25

*"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UFBAL

**T**he Baptist Women's Union of Latin America (UFBAL) celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the city of Foz del Iguazú, November 14–17, 2013. The theme was *"In Step with the Spirit,"* based on Galatians 5:25.

There were 800 women in attendance, representing twenty national Baptist women's organizations from 17 countries. Each country's representative wore their national dress and carried their national flag for the opening roll call. It was a beautiful and exciting scene to see the women come forward.

Each day began with a Bible study led by different presenters. The first Bible study was presented by Pastor Edméia Willians from Brazil. The title of her study was *"In Step with the Spirit, We Always Serve."* The second and third Bible studies were led by Alicia Zorzoli from Texas, USA. The title of the second study was *"In Step with the Spirit, I Grow in Holiness,"* and the third title was *"In Step with the Spirit, I Learn to Worship God."*

There was a moment of prayer led each day by one of the three regions. Prayer concerns and needs from the region leading the prayer were mentioned and lifted up in prayer. The Central America region is pictured at the right praying for the concerns and needs of Central America.

There were four workshops, with the overall theme *"In Step with the Spirit,"* as follows: 1) Violence Against Women, led by Dr. Amparo de Medina from Colombia; 2) Leadership, led by Professor Daisy Santos Correia de Oliverira from Brazil; 3) Evangelization of Children, using music and led by Professor Wendy Danubia Tovar Martinez from Honduras; and 4) Rescuing Women from Prostitution, led by missionary Lauren Bethel from Holland.

At the business session, new officers were elected and three new national women's organizations were received into the membership of the Baptist Women's Union of Latin America. The new officers: secretary, Nelly Hoyos Hoyos from Colombia; president, Sara de Barrios from Venezuela; treasurer, Ofelia Rendón de Tapuy from Ecuador; and director of Noticiario, Daisy Santos Correia de Oliverira from Brazil.

There was a grand celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A brief history was given by former presidents, and as each finished their presentation a layer of the anniversary cake was put in place. It was a beautiful occasion as the past was remembered and the future looked forward to. The anniver-

sary message was brought by Raquel Contreras, president of the Women's Department of the BWA. The title of her message was *"In Step with the Spirit, as We Continue to Build on Our History."*



New UFBAL Officers

The UFBAL five-year emphasis was Children, the Hope of Latin America. Missionary Lidia Klava da Silva led a plenary session, *"In Step with the Spirit in Teaching Young Children."* Lidia is the international coordinator for the program PEPE. Pepe is a program of education for preschoolers. Its objective is to show the love and presence of God while preparing the children for elementary school. She shared how the program had changed the lives of children as well as their parents. She challenged the women to start a program in their countries.

Patsy Davis, executive director of the Women's Department of the BWA, reported on the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer. She shared about the 2013 Day of Prayer, and how it had been celebrated around the world. She reminded the women that the 2014 Day of Prayer program had been prepared by the Baptist Women's Union of Latin America. It will be a special time as Baptist women around the world will be praying for Latin America and supporting the Latin America projects featured in the program.

*"In Step with the Spirit, We Are Victorious"* was the title of the closing message brought by Raquel Contreras, president of the Women's Department of the BWA. She then led in the installation of the new officers, with the help of Patsy Davis. After the installation Sara de Barrios, the new UFBAL president, brought her first message and challenge to the women of Latin America. □



# Allegheny College — Home of the 105<sup>th</sup> Czech



Dear Friends of the Convention,  
It's that time of the year again—time for the Annual 105<sup>th</sup> Czechoslovak Baptist Convention.

As in the previous two years, we will meet at the beautiful Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. The theme and the program for our annual convention have been set, and the speakers have been chosen. We are putting the finishing touches on the convention preparations.

This year, our convention is the reunion site for the Toronto, Windsor and Kingsville youth from the 90s. In honor of this reunion we are planning an outdoor family BBQ on Saturday, July 12, 2014, at 5 p.m. It will be an excellent opportunity to renew fellowship with each other and the young people. It is a bold move—it will take us out of our (air-conditioned) comfort zone and perhaps out to the warm summer evening. But it is summer, it is July, and with so many of our convention family present, it is a great time for a family BBQ! Don't forget your favorite picnic chair and perhaps a lawn game you want to play with some of us!

Mark your calendar, ask for the time off work or any other obligations you might have July 10–13, and Lord willing, we'll see you in July.

In His Service,  
The Executive Secretary *Darko Siracki*

P.S. We have asked a few of you to share some thoughts about Allegheny College and the facilities we use there. We used a sample of these comments in this year's college presentation. If you wish to share a few of yours, please do. There is a chance we will print the whole comment or a part of it in one of our future issues.



# Meadville, Pennsylvania

## Slovak Baptist Convention

### Tentative Program of the 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

July 10–13 2014 Meadville PA

Theme: *GOSPEL TRANSFORMATIONS (II Corinthians 3:18)*

#### Thursday, July 10, 2014

7:00 P.M. CONVENTION OPENING SERVICE

**An Outcast Restored** (Luke 19:1–10)

Sermon: *TBA*

8:30 P.M. Opening Night Fellowship (ice-cream)

#### Friday, July 11, 2014

8:30 A.M. **Youth Picnic at the local State Park**

9:00 A.M. Prayer Time and Bible Study

English Bible Study: Rev. Donald Shoff

Czechoslovak Bible Study: Rev. Vlado Canji

7:00 P.M. "EVENING WORSHIP IN CONVENTION TRADITION"

**Once I was blind, but now I see** (John 9:1–7, 13–15, 24–25, 39)

Sermon: *TBA*

8:30 P.M. 40 Years of Glorious Hope

#### Saturday, July 12, 2014

9:00 A.M. **Ladies Breakfast & Missionary Rally**

9:00 A.M. **Men's Breakfast & Fellowship Hour**

10:30 A.M. MISSIONARY COFFEE HOUR

5:00 P.M. FAMILY PICNIC – TWK REUNION

**Answering God's Call – Crossing New Thresholds** (Acts 10:1–20)

Sermon: *Rev. William B. Lane*

Bring your favorite picnic chair or a blanket

#### Sunday, July 13, 2014

9:00 A.M. Memorial Service

9:15 A.M. Prayer Time and Bible Study

10:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

**Scattered Bones Brought to Life** (Ezekiel 37:1–10)

Sermon: *Rev. Stan Mantle*



# Allegheny College — Home of the 105<sup>th</sup> Czech

## Meadville, Pennsylvania

The town of Meadville, founded in 1788, has a population of 13,000. The town is located in beautiful northwestern Pennsylvania, just 45 minutes south of Erie, 90 minutes north of Pittsburgh, two hours east of Cleveland and two hours southwest of Buffalo.

## Area Attractions

(within a 45-minute drive of the campus)

- 8 freshwater lakes and the top two most visited state parks in Pennsylvania,
- Great animal and amusement parks
- World-renowned shopping destinations in nearby Grove City and Erie
- 14 top-ranked golf courses
- scenic Amish countryside

Visit our website, [czskbc.org](http://czskbc.org), for the full list of area attractions



Cleveland..... 100mi ..... 1hr 50min  
 Detroit..... 460km ..... 4hr 45min  
 Toronto..... 360km ..... 3hr 45min  
 Richmond VA.. 420mi ..... 7hr 30min



## Allegheny College

*Allegheny College is a national liberal arts college with approximately 2100 students.*

*The 540-acre campus is located within walking distance of downtown Meadville, PA. and features 36 major buildings, including a 203-acre sports and recreation complex.*

*Allegheny boasts one of the country's most attractive campuses, set in a region that offers a range of activities and outdoor opportunities. Grassy athletic fields, deep woods cross-country trails, quiet picnic areas, beautiful architecture, and quiet, secluded benches add to the campus charm.*

Eric Shereda, McMurray, PA



# Meadville, Pennsylvania

## Slovak Baptist Convention



### College Facts:

Founded in 1815, Allegheny College ranks among the oldest 1% of colleges and universities and is the 32<sup>nd</sup>-oldest college in the United States.

Allegheny College is celebrating its bicentennial in 2015.

William McKinley, the 25<sup>th</sup> president of the United States (1897–1901), graduated from Allegheny in the class of 1864.

Allegheny College uses 100% wind-generated electricity. The campus is on track to achieve climate neutrality by the year 2020.

The glass sculpture located on the college grounds is thought to be the largest solid-volume glass sculpture grouping of its kind in the world.

### VUKOVICH CENTER

*The Vukovich Center is a convenient and very comfortable place for the plenary meetings of the convention. The stage area is wide, and accommodating to almost any kind of presentation. Sound amplification operates with great efficiency so that everything can be heard with clarity regardless of one's seating position in the hall. Vukovich is just an all-around comfortable setting. It is conveniently located adjacent to the main center where our registration, meals, and smaller meetings take place.*

Robert Dvorak  
Bradenton, FL



### Vukovich Centre Facts:

Built in 2009, this state-of-the-art facility features a stunning two-level, 250-seat auditorium

The 40,000-square-foot, \$23 million-facility is named in honor of Allegheny trustee emeritus Robert A. Vukovich, class of 1965



# Allegheny College — Home of the 105<sup>th</sup> Czech

## ACCOMODATION

*We have been extremely satisfied with the North Village 2 accommodations. The rooms are very clean, well appointed, well maintained and spacious. The campus is lovely, and there are wonderful buildings to admire and great walkways for a stroll around the campus. The facilities are family friendly with playgrounds and athletic facilities. It's been a great place for us to meet!*

Deb Mulder  
Cannifton, ON

*The accommodations are modern, clean, air-conditioned, with a kitchen (microwave and fridge included).*

*The rooms are much more comfortable and accessible than in the past.*

*The rooms are student accommodation, but are very well maintained.*

Nico Mulder  
Cannifton, ON



## Accommodation Facts:

North Village 1 & 2 offer housing for 340 delegates in suites of 1, 2, 4 and 5 bedrooms.

Each suite is carpeted and each bedroom has a single bed (additional beds can be ordered).

A lounge and a laundry facility is available on each floor.

North Village 2 is accessible to the mobility-impaired.

North Village 1 offers townhouse-style two-level suites, with two bathrooms (one bathroom on each level and two external sinks) and a 9'x12' living room including sofa, love seat, table, and four chairs.



Visit our website  
[czskbc.org](http://czskbc.org) for  
detailed accom-  
modation info  
and the photos



## HENDERSON CAMPUS CENTER:

The newly renovated 66,000-square-foot Henderson Campus Center at Allegheny will host most morning activities of our convention. The meeting rooms and children's activity spaces are located on the third floor. All the meals (except the Saturday BBQ) will be served in the McKinley Snack Bar.



# Meadville, Pennsylvania

## Slovak Baptist Convention

### The glass sculpture:

The glass sculpture called “Presence of Seven in the Light of Movement,” is thought to be the largest solid-volume glass sculpture grouping of its kind in the world. If you stand in the center of the circle and yell, it echoes.



### BRIDGE:

Tradition said that a first-year woman was not truly an Alleghenian until kissed on the thirteenth plank. Even today it isn't unusual to see the thirteenth plank missing at any time throughout the year.



### Allegheny College:

Founded in 1815, Allegheny College is the 32<sup>nd</sup>-oldest college in the United States.



### Sport Center:

The David V. Wise Sport and Fitness Center opened in 1997. This multi-million-dollar building is the hub of all indoor athletic activities on campus. The building features a 1,200-seat performance arena, multi-purpose sports forum, pool, aerobics and dance studio, running track, and racquetball and weight rooms.

### Robertson Athletic & Recreation Complex:

The state-of-the-art 203-acre Robertson Athletic & Recreation Complex encompasses the home facilities of the baseball, football, women's lacrosse, men's and women's soccer, softball, and tennis teams. The Saturday family BBQ will be held at the R.A.R.C. gazebo, just below the baseball and soccer fields.





**T**he time is upon us yet again! What time is that, you may ask? The time for us to see each other again, to worship our Lord together again, to share our lives with each other again, to be reminded of and prepare for sharing the love of Jesus with others. Yes, it is nearly the time for the annual convention that will occur in Meadville, PA, second weekend in July, just as it has the past two years.

Maybe you're at a point in your life when everything is going great and you feel you're on top of the world right now...Come and join us, share with us your gratefulness for what the Lord is doing in your life!

Maybe you're going through a really hard time and life is just not what you had thought it would be...Come and join us as God, from whom all good things come, may have a word or two of encouragement through Pastor Wil and his wife Shay (Sheila), who will be at the convention all the way from Dallas, TX, to speak to the youth as well as give a message at the TWK Reunion BBQ, Saturday afternoon. Who is Pastor Wil and what's he like? I think Carrie Vlasic puts it very well: "Wil Layne loves to break down the scripture and pull out applicable things that really help you grow in Christ." I promise you, you don't want to miss the words God has put on his heart.

As the TWK Reunion will occur on Saturday, including the Czech vs. Slovak soccer match at 3 pm, the youth picnic will happen Friday, and y'all need to plan to come Thursday so you don't miss out on Pymatuning Lake and all the fun activities found

within the park. Last year's picnic was attended by about 57 people, and boy, between the hike, Filip's awesome message intertwined with fun games, food, frisbee golf, swimming, and hillbilly golf, it was an amazing time, and you do NOT want to miss that good time this year, so come early and join us Friday!!! Pastor Wil is going to bring his message, and we're looking to try out a couple of new things at the picnic so you don't want to miss out on this fun time.

As I impatiently wait to see what God has for us this July, allow me to share some recent personal experiences...

□



**FOOD GAMES DON'T MISS OUT**  
**FELLOWSHIP FRIENDS FRIDAY THE PICNIC WIL**  
...AND MUCH MORE!

We are super excited about what God's doing at the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention! Come and be a part of an awesome event celebrating God, and enjoying some fellowship with fellow believers!

Rev. William B. Lane was born and raised in Dallas, TX. He received Christ at an early age under the pastoral leadership of the late, Dr. Solomon Roberson of David's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, TX. After wrestling with his calling for several years, he surrendered to God and His call and vowed to run for the Lord and preach the uncompromising Gospel of Jesus Christ. Wil holds a Masters of Arts degree in Christian Ministry from Dallas Baptist University. Rev. Wil has a passion for teaching and preaching the Word of God in an enthusiastic and fresh way. William is happily married to Shamondra "Shay" Lane.



*Wil Lane Ministries*  
GOD'S CALLING IS A MISSION POSSIBLE





## Are You In Good Hands?



**A**s some of you (anyone who reads my Facebook nonsense) may be aware, about three weeks ago I moved to the Gulf of Mexico, Houston to be more precise, and started a new chapter in life, definitely a positive experience, which I am grateful to our Lord for providing. But then two weeks

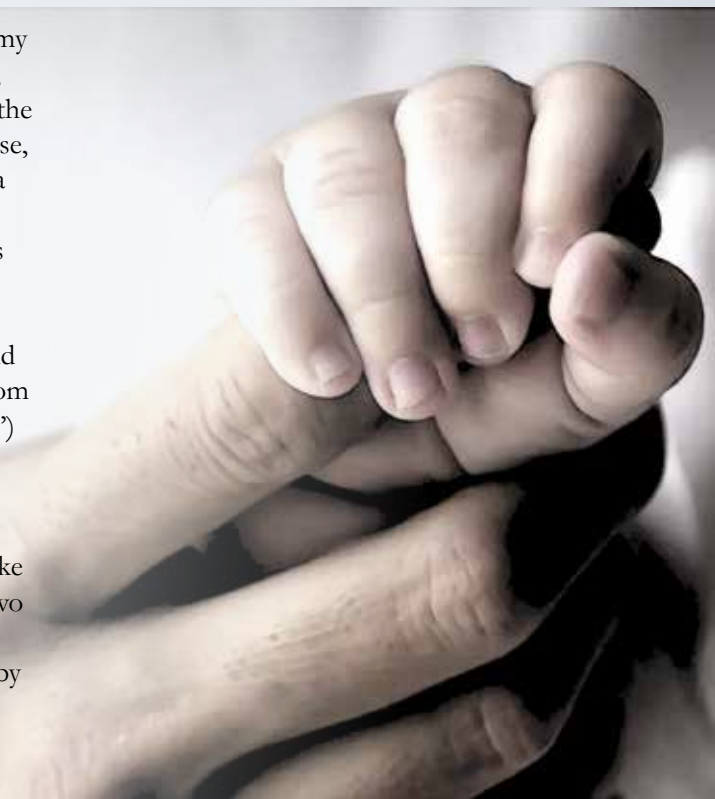
ago, as I was driving through a subdivision, a nine-year-old boy riding his bicycle without a helmet tore into the street right in front of my vehicle. There was no way to escape it: I hit him and he ended up in the hospital. And then just mere days ago, as mom and I were driving back from Kristina's (you know, Miss Pickles') American Airlines graduation, a pick-up truck in front of the rent-a-car I was driving drove over a tire and flung it in the air, causing the tire to hit my right headlight and dent the hood and side panel in two places. In between those times, my phone broke and wheelbearings started going bad. Needless to say, the last two weeks have been trying times, so you can imagine the comfort I have been finding in the following scripture and words uttered by the pastor about four days after the incident with the nine-year old boy: *"Be still and know that I am God"* – Psalm 46:10.

In three weeks, my experiences have ranged from the excitement and opportunities of a new location, new experiences, new people to meet, to those of mild annoyance, to rather emotionally, physically, and psychologically challenging times, ones which have tested the strength of my faith in our Lord's providence and sovereignty, but ooooooh would I be amiss not to recognize those assuring, most encouraging words of the psalmist: "Be still and know that I am God..." In those times when you are on top of the world and EVERYTHING is going in your favor, "Be still and know that I am God": remember that those are gifts from our God and remember to whom belong the praise and glory for those. And then when you are faced with struggles, "Be still and know that I am God": as hard as that may be, don't fear, don't be anxious, but remember that God is in control, and you are in good hands if He is your Savior. If you do not know the love of Jesus, I implore you to give Him a chance. Let Him take control of your life. I promise you won't regret it; the insurance provided by your Creator from whom all power, all love, all good flows is simply out of this world.

### So let me ask again: are you in good hands?

There is much more I could write, but as James says, I hope to see you face to face soon, so that our joy may be complete. May these next couple of months, as we wait for our face-to-face meeting in Meadville, be a blessed time for you. May you grow. May your faith in Him be stronger. May you experience His love daily, and may you share that love with those around you so they can know His love as well.

In Christ, *Petar Vasic*



### Intro to Czech language & Culture with Instructor Anna Cooková

Seminar

#### 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention



**Allegheny College**  
Meadville, PA



Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
3pm to 5pm

**Vítáme Vás!** Preparing for visiting, living, or ministering in the Czech Republic? Did you know that the Czech Language is very phonetic? Did you know that, once you learn to read, you can literally read anything? (Even if you don't know what you are saying!) Join us as we provide you with some basic language skills and understanding of cultural nuances.

#### Těšíme se na Vás!



Instructor Anna Cooková lived in the Czech Republic from 1994-2002. Since 2009 she has been offering Community Courses in Czech Language & Culture in Czech-American Communities. Various organizations refer her to translate old family letters and other hand-written documents from the late 1800's to the mid 1900's from Czech to English. In 2012 she expanded to include lessons over Skype using a curriculum and CD's she is personally developing. In 2013 she was awarded a grant by the Czech Government for teachers that teach the Czech Language in expatriate communities. For further information please contact [annacookova@gmail.com](mailto:annacookova@gmail.com).

**NCCC**  
National Czechoslovak Baptist Convention



# Children's Corner



**H**ello my friends!  
It's been a while since we last spoke, so I'm excited for a chance to share something exciting with you!

A few weeks ago I was reading through a devotion in Matthew, when I read over one of my favorite verses...

*"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them"*—Matthew 18:20.

I love this verse because every time I read it, I am reminded of the wonderful times I have spent with great friends as we got to dig into the Lord's Word, and praise Him together through song. I count myself very blessed because one of those wonderful times is the weekend I get to spend with each and every one of YOU at our annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. With that being said, it's almost that time again! Mark your calendars because YOU'RE INVITED to the 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention in Meadville, Pennsylvania! I am excited for our time to get together and fellowship with one another through Bible lessons, fun (and possibly several messy

crafts), and singing to Jesus. This year we are also planning an awesome family barbeque on Saturday, so make sure to bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on so we can play games and soak up the sun!

I look forward to seeing you, and can't wait to hear what you have been doing the past year. (I have a few surprises of my own to share with you!!)

I'll be thinking about you, and make sure to remind your parents to register, because Miss Pickles misses her friends!

Miss Pickles



## 100 Years of Rozsieváč (The Sower)

**A** hundred years have passed since the founding of the Baptist magazine *Rozsieváč* (*The Sower*). The first issue was released in Hungary, before the forming of Czechoslovakia, in March 1914. That year also marked the beginning of the Slovak Baptist Union in the Hungary region. The editor-in-chief was Juraj Stanko, and the magazine had four pages. *Rozsieváč* is a periodical of the Czech and Slovak Baptist union.

The publishers of the magazine *Rozsieváč* are organizing a centennial conference to be held in June 2014, in Brno. □



## 100 let časopisu Rozsieváč

**U**plynulo již sto let od založení baptistického časopisu *Rozsieváč*. První číslo vyšlo v březnu 1914 v Maďarsku ještě před vznikem Československa. K tomuto roku se také váže vznik Bratrské jednoty slovenských baptistů v Uhersku. Redaktorem byl Juraj Stanko a časopis měl čtyři strany. *Rozsieváč* je periodikem Bratrské jednoty baptistů v České republice a na Slovensku.

Redakce časopisu *Rozsieváč* připravuje slavnostní konferenci s názvem „100 rokov rozsievania“, která se bude konat 14. června 2014 v Brně. □





## Emerging Leaders and Their Tests

John Upton

I have had the privilege of meeting with emerging leaders all over the world. Frequently the visits happen around a meal or in a room filled with bright-eyed, inquisitive, intelligent young people full of curiosity and life. I love listening to them and hearing them talk. I get caught up in their energy, and they can be full of it. I get caught up in their seriousness, and they can be very serious.

The hardest part for me is seeing how much pressure most of them are under. Many of them are still in school and they are always being tested. They have big papers to write, presentations to prepare, mid-term exams, final exams. Sometimes they will make light of it but you can see in their faces the exhaustion in their struggle to do well, and the depletion of their bodies and minds. A great deal of importance is associated with their tests. It takes a toll on them and I give thanks that I am past all that now.

The only problem is, I am not really done with it. No one is ever really done being tested. What the emerging leaders go through, whether in South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, or North America, is what every human life generally goes through every given day. How am I going to act or react? What do I say or what do I refuse to say? Do I give this or do I withhold that? Where do I let my feelings linger? What do I do when somebody else irritates me? How will I react this time? A problem needs resolving; how do I resolve it? An opportunity presents itself: yes or no? Here is a choice presenting itself between doing the easy thing and doing the right thing, a choice between a good thing and the best thing.

There is a barrage of options that come at us so fast. What continually astounds me is how often those choices become decisive. All the tests and choices pile up. They take a shape that in the end becomes the shape of our character, our identity, our ministry. Our choices, when we are tested, don't just reveal who we are. They become who we are.

I guess that is why Jesus, after hearing the words, "You are my Son, my beloved, in you I take delight," was taken to a



barren place where he was tested. The story even says it was the Holy Spirit that led him to that terrible place. Isn't it interesting that God not only refuses to shelter us from tests, but in a sense, may move us toward them? We are not meant for smooth sailing. We are born for challenge and for hard choices to clarify us and to change us and through us to change our world. Emerging leaders seem to understand that more readily than most of us.

I think it is interesting also that the temptations of Jesus are the very ones I face every day. When the devil shows up, he always comes as a very fine fellow. He

always has a face full of concern. He has sympathetic eyes. His suggestions are that we do something good, like feed the hungry. He suggests that through the Kingdom of God we bring everywhere justice, peace, reconciliation, love. He suggests we prove our faithfulness through leaps of faith. Temptations often seem to want to achieve something good.

There are so many voices calling out to us. Of course, we want food for all, we want justice, and we want evidence of God's faithfulness. That inner voice so often says we can have it and it doesn't have to cost us all that much. It tries to convince us that all we have to do is just look to our own survival first, take power through any means possible, and conscript God for our own personal goals.

I take courage in knowing that those words spoken to Jesus at his baptism were spoken over our lives at our baptism. "You are my child, beloved, I take delight in you." That is our identity. Other voices will call it into question, will make us feel as if it cannot be true, will invite us to live as if it is not true. Yet it is God's voice and it is truly who we are. It is our identity. Whatever tests you and I may still have to face, in whatever kind of barren place our lives may take us, we hang on to that phrase. It will get us through. It will grow us up. It will keep us on course.



## North American Baptist Fellowship



The North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF), one of six regional fellowships of the Baptist World Alliance, celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of combined

Baptist work in North America during its Annual Gathering in Philadelphia in the United States, March 6-7.

The NABF grew out of efforts to encourage Baptist mission and fellowship in North America, beginning in 1814 with the formation of the General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination in the United States for Foreign Missions. Because it met every three years, the general convention came to be popularly known as the Triennial Convention.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the number of Baptist groups in North America increased due to divisions and new mission work, such as the formation in 1845 of the Southern Baptist Convention by Baptists in the southern United States on issues over slavery.

Other Baptist groups in the US and Canada grew out of mission by and to immigrants. These include the Baptist General Conference, now known as Converge Worldwide, which had its beginning among Scandinavian immigrants; and the North American Baptist Conference, initially an association of Baptists in the US and Canada of German ethnic heritage.

In December 1955, the Joint Baptist Jubilee Advance Committee (BJA) was formed by seven groups as part of the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Baptist work on a national scale on the continent. In March 1963, the BWA responded to a suggestion by the BJA that the BWA establish “a North American Baptist Fellowship... in order to conserve the gains and values which have resulted from the Baptist Jubilee Advance and to increase opportunities for fellowship and for sharing mutual concerns.”

The BWA approved the formation of the NABF comprising “Baptist bodies of North America who hold membership in the BWA.” The new entity was “to continue the gains of values which resulted from the Baptist Jubilee Advance program, and to increase opportunities for fellowship and sharing mutual concerns; to collect and disseminate information; to cooperate with all departments of the Baptist World Alliance; to strengthen Baptist work; and to arrange meetings for fellowship, study and inspiration.”

Twenty-six Baptist organizations are now affiliated with the NABF, including denominational, mission, advocacy, professional and news organizations.

## North American Baptists Yearn for Congregational Renewal



NABF General Secretary  
George Bullard

Delegates attending the 2014 Annual Gathering of the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF) seemed to be especially concerned about congregational transformation and renewal.

This was the conclusion reached from a straw poll conducted after Baptist leaders, pastors and other representatives from the United States

and Canada considered a dozen theological, ethical, social and other issues over the two-day period.

NABF General Secretary George Bullard said the concern for the renewal of congregational life is placed within the broader context of the Baptist family. “We believe congregational transformation and renewal comes when we recognize that we are participating, as local congregations, as part of a larger family of Baptist Christians who are Kingdom residents, which in turn impacts the way the congregation lives this out in its own community context.”

Bullard, who is also the Baptist World Alliance regional secretary for North America, noted that focusing on mission was deemed to be a first step in congregational transformation, including addressing issues of poverty, hunger and education. This would help congregations to “expand outside their comfort zone,” enabling churches to “engage in more extensive and intensive witness.” In participating in mission, it is best that the local church does so in partnership with other churches and especially with Baptist denominations, while also working with others, such as the Baptist World Alliance, which already has an extensive international network and contacts.

## Encourages Baptists to Be Risk-Takers

Baptist World Alliance President John Upton is encouraging Baptists to be risk-takers for the sake of the Christian Gospel.

Upton was speaking during the final session of the Annual Gathering of the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF), dubbed the “Future Baptists Convocation.”

Upton said too many people, Baptists included, are overly concerned about stability, security and permanence. “We’ve bought into this absolute fear of change,” Upton told participants at the gathering.

The head of the BWA lifted up Abraham as a model for Baptist Christians, churches and organizations to follow. “Abraham was a prototype of faith. He packed up and went, even though he did not know where he was going.”

☞ Continues on next page



# The Váhalas

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus,

We are happy to send our latest update to you from the Czech Republic! We arrived on April 24<sup>th</sup> after 26 hours of travel and no sleep. Needless to say, we were exhausted. We have been staying with another missionary family while we took care of various logistical things in order for us to move into our home. Our crate arrived today (May 12<sup>th</sup>) with our belongings in it, and we will move into our house tomorrow. We are very much looking forward to getting settled. We are all adjusting well. The kids got to enjoy their first trip to see a castle last week and really enjoyed it. We have been enjoying fellowship with the Baptist Church of Kroměříž on Sundays. We will prepare a newsletter soon and update more but for now, we wanted to send a quick note to let you know that we are now in the Czech Republic and so you can know how to pray for us. The main prayer request at this point is to continue praying for us as we settle in to our new home in a new land...(for most of us!) :)

God bless you, *The Vahala Family*



## BWA News... Continues from page 22

Upton said Abraham and his family “were called to go to a new place but would only know it when they got there. They left it all behind.” Similarly, Baptists of the 21<sup>st</sup> century “need to leave the stability and the security behind,” even though we may not know where it may end.

“Faith is open ended,” Upton stated. “Blessing comes from trusting God on the journey. I don’t have to know where I’m going. I just need to know the One on the journey with me.” He challenged NABF delegates to “never be afraid of the future that God promised.”

### Calls for Unity and a Commitment to Evangelism

Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Neville Callam made a call for unity among Christians and a commitment to evangelism while addressing the final session of the Annual Gathering.

The convocation included sessions designed to have delegates explore theological, ecclesiological, ethical, social and other concerns that North American Baptists in the United States and Canada ought to address in the next several years.

The BWA leader said we are called to declare one message from and about the one God who is manifested as the triune God. This oneness is extended to the church. “The one God has committed this one message to the one church,” Callam asserted.

Callam insisted that “In this one church, the divisions among humankind are rendered null and void. They are transcended through the redemptive love that binds believers to one another in the community of love that mirrors the unity discerned in God’s own life.”

He declared that Baptists ought to “rejoice to be a part of God’s one universal church.” Baptists ought to “envision a future in which they help build bridges of understanding with other Christian people and churches” as a response to the call “to manifest the unity God has given to the church.”

Baptists should “strive, in the power of the Holy Spirit, for cooperation and collaboration with all the saints so that together we may manifest the unity God has given to the church so that the world may believe in Christ Jesus.”

In order for the world to believe, this one church is called to share this one message from and about this one God with all of humanity, hence the need for evangelism.

Callam shared a vision of “a future in which Baptists participate joyfully in the one church that worships the one God and in which they burn with passion to share the one message of salvation through Jesus Christ.” It is a future, he said, that should be marked “by evangelistic fervor in which we boldly and clearly proclaim the Good News of the transformation that God makes possible through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

□





**Be still before the Lord and  
wait patiently for him...**

Psalm 37:7

**Zůstávej v klidu před  
Hospodinem, trpělivě  
na něj vyčkávej...**

Žalm 37;7

**Utíš sa pred Hospodinom,  
vyčkaj na neho...**

Žalm 37;7