

Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

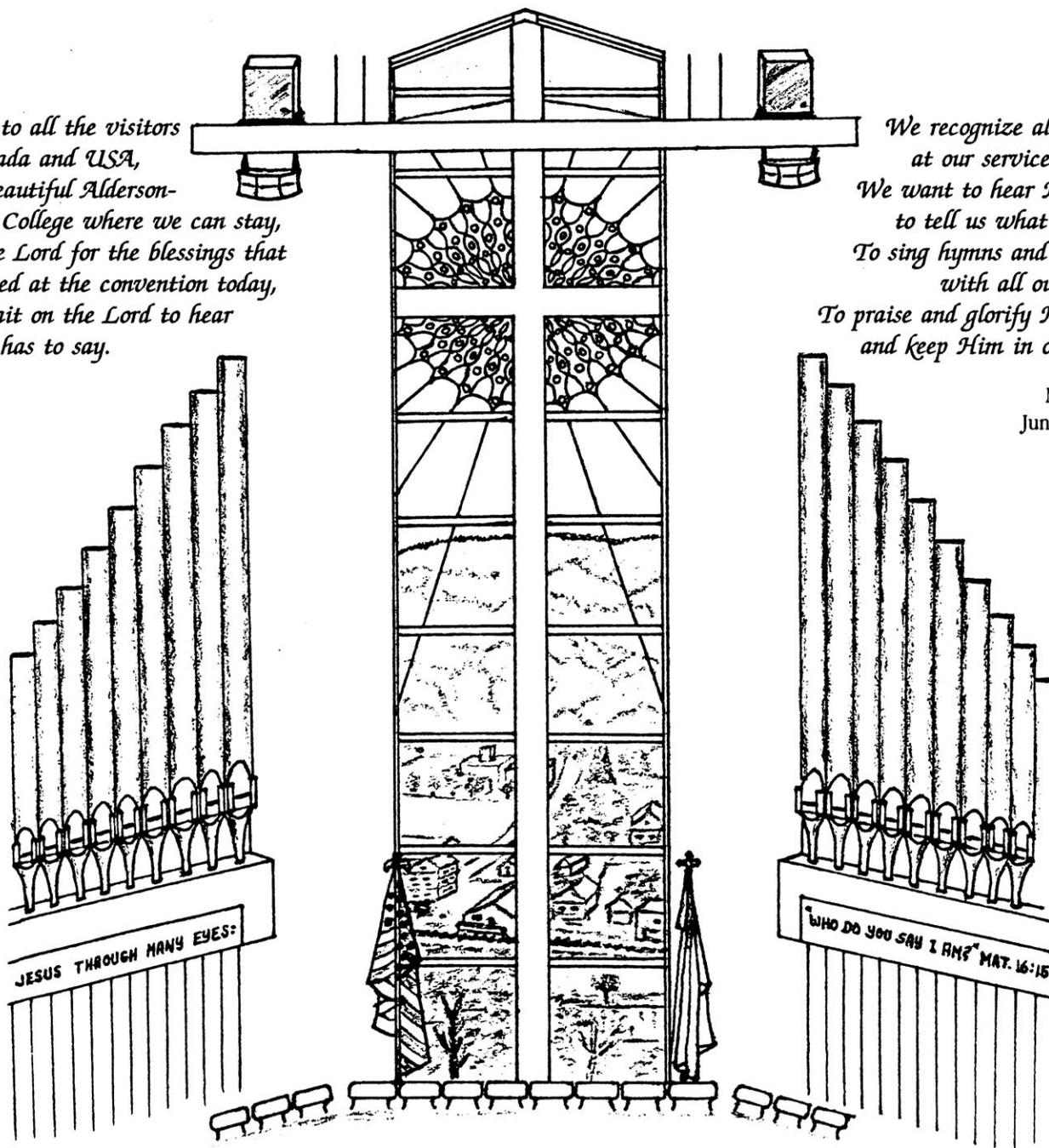
Vol. 42, N° 2, 2016

Ročník 42, číslo 2, 2016

*Welcome to all the visitors
from Canada and USA,
At this beautiful Alderson-
Broaddus College where we can stay,
Praise the Lord for the blessings that
we received at the convention today,
Let us wait on the Lord to hear
what He has to say.*

*We recognize all nations
at our service tonight,
We want to hear His word
to tell us what is right,
To sing hymns and choruses
with all our might,
To praise and glorify His name
and keep Him in our sight.*

Milan Sury,
June 28, 1991



Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada
Philippi, West Virginia

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Front Cover: Milan Sury – reprint
from *Glorious Hope* August 1991



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Donations

All donations should be mailed to our financial secretaries, using enclosed envelope.

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C/O Larry Rucker
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Maidens VA 23102

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

Make check payable to **Czechoslovak Baptist Convention or CZSKBC.**

Feel free to make a special designation on the bottom of the check:

Convention, Glorious Hope, Scholarship Fund, Bibles for Czechoslovakia, etc.

Please do not mail checks to our main address in Detroit, MI.

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



Convention Mission Statement

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

Misijní posláni konvence

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

Glorious Hope/Slavná naděje

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Jesus said, "I am with you."

While preparing this editorial, I noticed and was interested in the recent events that involved members of the Baptist Unions in the Czech and Slovak Republics, as well as members of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada. After Easter, during which the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was celebrated, a conference of sisters of BJB CR and SR in Slovakia in Banská Bystrica took place (6–8 May, 2016). The theme of the conference was *Forgiveness* (Matthew 6:14–15). *Pentecost*, a time when a new style of fellowship, predominantly influenced by the Holy Spirit, followed soon thereafter. This fellowship has the mandate to go out into the whole world and spread the news of salvation. A commission that isn't easy, but the Lord doesn't forget the importance of rest. Rest (Matt. 11:28) happens to be the theme of this year's national conference of the BJB churches in the Czech Republic, which runs in Brno from June 3–5. The theme of our Czechoslovak conference that will take place July 7–10 likewise ties into these: *Therefore go* (Matt. 28:19). It is a very emphatic command from the Lord Jesus, who fulfilled his calling and is passing on the baton.

Yes, today and every day we receive *forgiveness* at the feet of our Lord Jesus, and thanks to the Holy Spirit we can *work and function*. And at the feet of Jesus we gain strength for our next assignment.

That calling is not limited to faraway places and foreign lands. The calling is multifarious. In many cases, we fulfill our calling right where we live. Certainly we fulfill it within our circle of friends and among our families. Most of the time we are pretty sure we can handle our calling. And handle it well. But what if our life turns upside down?

We will be printing a true life story in *Glorious Hope* that will be released in segments. It is a story of people who, in their youth, chose to follow Christ with a sincerity that only the young can muster. And life turned upside down...

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

Jsem s vámi, říká Ježíš

Při přípravě tohoto úvodníku mne zaujala posloupnost událostí týkajících se členů Jednoty baptistů v České republice a na Slovensku a členů Československé konvence baptistů USA a Kanady. Po Velikonocích, připomínce slavného vzkříšení našeho Pána a Spasitele Ježíše Krista, se konala konference sester BJB ČR a SR na Slovensku v Banské Bystrici (6 – 8. 5. 2016). Tématem konference bylo *Odpuštění* (Matouš 6;14 – 15). Následují

Letnice, kdy vzniklo nové společenství, ve kterém dominuje Duch Svatý. Toto společenství je vyzýváno jít do celého světa a šířit zvěst o spasení. Poslání, které není snadné, ale Pán nezapomíná na potřebný odpočinek. A právě *Odpoučtinutí* (Matouš 11,28) bylo tématem letošní celostátní konference sborů Bratrské jednoty baptistů v Čechách, která probíhala v Brně od 3. do 5. června. A na to navazuje téma naší Československé konvence, která se bude konat od 7. – 10. července. Tématem je *Proto jděte* (Matouš 28; 19), velmi důrazné vyzvání od samotného Pána Ježíše, který své poslání splnil a předává štafetu dál.

Ano, u nohou Pána Ježíše přijímáme dnes a denně *odpuštění* a díky Duchu Svatému *fungujeme*. A u nohou Pána Ježíše *čerpáme sílu* na další *poslání*.

To poslání se však nevztahuje jen na vzdálená místa a cizí kraje. Poslání je různorodé. V mnohých případech své poslání naplňujeme v místě, kde žijeme. Určitě jej naplňujeme v kruhu svých blízkých a své nejužší rodiny. Většinou jsme přesvědčeni, že své poslání zvládneme. Dobře zvládneme. Ale co když se život obrátí naruby?

Přinášíme vám skutečný životní příběh, který bude ve *Slavné naději* vycházet na pokračování. Je to příběh lidí, kteří se již v mládí rozhodli následovat Krista s upřímností, jakou jen mládí přináší. A život se otočil naruby...

Natasha Laurincová, šéfredaktorka

From the President



How quickly the days fly by. So it is with our lives. How good then to have faithful stopping places—resting places to recharge, reflect and appreciate what is most significant and meaningful. I hope the 107th annual Convention of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention can be such a place for you.

The dates this year are July 7–10. The place once again is beautiful Allegheny College in Meadville PA.

Our theme for this year's gathering is
"THEREFORE GO!"

(Mat. 28:19)

This is most appropriate and exciting as we will be commissioning a mission team going to minister in **Hurbanovo, Slovakia**, later in the summer. In addition to the financial support we regularly provide to the Czech and Slovak Baptist Unions, what a joy it is this year to be sending a team of people to stand with and work beside brothers and sisters in Christ in Hurbanovo, reaching out to people in their community with the Gospel.

We are blessed this year as well to have

special guests Milan and Iva Kern and Mark and Gretchen Potma and their family coming to be with us. Milan, President of the Czech Baptist Union, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience concerning the people, work and ministry of the Baptist churches in the Czech Republic. He is a gracious senior statesman, serving the churches with humility and wisdom, and encouraging a new generation of pastors as they face the opportunities and challenges of proclaiming Christ in the Czech Republic today. Mark and Gretchen Potma are long-term missionaries to the Czech Republic who have been involved in seeing a succession of new churches conceived, planted, nourished and grown in the city of Prague. The continuing story reads like the book of Acts.

All this and the wonderful fellowship and camaraderie which is the trademark of the Convention's life together is on the menu for the 107th gathering of the clan. I look forward to seeing you there.

Stan Mantle

THEREFORE GO!

Mat. 28:19



From the Executive Secretary



Mark your calendars!

the 2016 or 2017 Conventions with presidential visits from the Czech and Slovak Baptist Unions.

107th Convention: July 7–10, 2016

108th Convention: July 6–9, 2017



Milan Kern,
president
of the Czech Baptist Union



Darko Kraljik,
president
of the Slovak Baptist Union

One more page on this year's calendar just got flipped, and most of us are very excited to see "June" on this one. I'm sure you have a few dates circled on it by now. A family or church picnic, perhaps a vacation, or fishing trip? Make sure you circle all of those as well as June 20th, the first day of summer. But before we move on, make sure you flip one more page on that calendar and circle four important days on the July page: The CZSKBC 107th Convention should be marked, July 7-10.

We are excited to have several special guests joining us this year. These visits were arranged during our recent visit to the Czech and Slovak Republics. In conversation with Milan Kern, president of the Czech Baptist Union, we learned that he and his wife Iva were planning to visit North America in July of this year. An invitation was immediately extended, and their visit was finalized shortly after our return from Czech Republic. Many of you know Milan and Iva Kern, through either their visit at the 103rd Convention in 2012, or their involvement in the **Czech Baptist Union**. We are looking forward to their report of the work in the Union. The Kerns' visit will only build on the relationship between our convention and the C.B.U. It was greatly benefited by our visit to the Czech Republic, last year. Milan will be leading the Czech bible study as well as the Men's Fellowship Hour, and Iva will share the Word during the Ladies' Missionary Rally.

During our visit to Prague, we also had the privilege to visit the Potmas, a Missionary family our convention has known for a long,

long time. Mark and Gretchen have been serving as missionaries in Prague since 1996. It was a blessing to spend precious time with them and see the fruits of their hard labor. In a one-day tour, Mark showed us all of the churches that were planted in the last 20 years: Šeberov Church (1996–2000), South City Church (2001–2005), the Skalka Church (2006–2012), and the Ládvi Church (2013–present). Presently on home assignment in North America, the Potma family was scheduled to be back in Prague by early July. However, by special request their mission organization TEAM approved their stay being extended so they could take part in our Convention. A special thanks to TEAM for agreeing to this request.

Don't miss the opportunity to see and hear first-hand the Potma' report of the church planting work going on in the city of Prague.

As you can see, special guests will definitely bring a distinctive Czech focus to the 107th Convention. Next year (2017) the focus will shift to the Slovak Republic as Darko Kraljik, president of the Slovak Baptist Union, and his wife, Zuzana, will be our special guests.

Mark your calendars, and set the dates in order not to miss either the 2016 or 2017 Conventions with presidential visits from the Czech and Slovak Baptist Unions.

107th Convention: July 7–10, 2016

108th Convention: July 6–9, 2017

In His service

Darko Siracki

Executive Secretary

Czechoslovak Baptist Convention

darkosiracki@czskbc.org

Allegheny College — Meadville, Pennsylvania

107th Czechoslovak Baptist Convention

Tentative Program of the 107th Annual Convention

July 7–10, 2016 Meadville PA

Theme: *THEREFORE GO!* (Matthew 28:19)

Thursday, July 7, 2016

8:00 A.M. Breakfast
10:00 A.M. General Board Meeting
1:00 P.M. Lunch
2:00 P.M. Budget Committee Meeting
2:00–4:00 P.M. Activity Recess (Basketball, Soccer, Golf)
3:00–4:00 P.M. Swimming Pool
5:00 P.M. Dinner

7:00 P.M. CONVENTION OPENING SERVICE

Sermon: *Rev. Donald Shoff*

Worship Leader: *Rev. Stan Mantle*

Song Leader: *Tim Racinsky*

Sermon: Letting Go (Genesis 12:1-9, Mark 10:28–30)

“The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you... all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. So Abram left, as the Lord had told him...’
Genesis 12:1-4

8:45 P.M. **Opening Night Fellowship** (*ice-cream*)

Friday, July 8, 2016

8:00 A.M. Breakfast
8:30 A.M. **Youth Picnic at the local State Park**
9:00 A.M. **BIBLE STUDY**
English Bible Study: *Mark Potma*
Czechoslovak Bible Study: *Milan Kern*
10:00 A.M. BUSINESS SESSION
12:00 P.M. Lunch
2:00–4:00 P.M. Activity Recess (Basketball, Soccer, Golf)
3:00–4:00 P.M. Swimming Pool
4:00 P.M. Missions Committee Meeting
5:00 P.M. Dinner

7:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sermon: *Rev. Mark Potma*

Worship & Song Leader: *TBA*

Sermon: In The Form of A Servant
(Philippians 2:5–7a, Romans 13:12–14)

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who ... made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant...” Philippians 2:5-7a “...the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.” Luke 22:26

Saturday, July 9, 2016

8:00 A.M. Breakfast
9:00 A.M. **Ladies Missionary Rally:** *Iva Kern & Gretchen Potma*
9:00 A.M. **Men’s Fellowship Hour:** *Milan Kern*
10:30 A.M. CONVENTION AND MISSIONARY REPORTS
12:00 P.M. Lunch
1:30 P.M. Ladies Advisory Board Meeting
2:00 P.M. **Hymn Sing with the Organ** — Ford Chapel —
by *Dottie Kvasnica*
2:00–4:00 P.M. Activity Recess (Basketball, Soccer, Golf)
3:00–4:00 P.M. Swimming Pool

5:00 P.M. CONVENTION PICNIC

Sermon: *Tim Racinsky*

Sermon: Planting and Watering
(Psalm 126:6, I Corinthians 3:5–8)

“He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.” Psalm 126:6 “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.” I Corinthians 3:6

Sunday, July 10, 2016

8:00 A.M. Breakfast
9:00 A.M. **BIBLE STUDY**
English Bible Study: *Mark Potma*
Czechoslovak Bible Study: *Milan Kern*

10:15 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sermon: *Rev. Stan Mantle*

Worship: *Tim Racinsky & Convention Youth*

Memorial Service & Communion

Hubranovo Mission Team Commissioning

Sermon: Holding Out the Word of Life (Philippians 2:14:16)

“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life...” Philippians 2:14-16

12:00 P.M. Lunch

CZECHOSLOVAK BAPTIST CONVENTION

SUMMER 2016 MISSION TEAM

We are excited to be sending a mission team to Europe this summer.

We had hoped to have two teams going but the trip to Sumperk didn't work out for this year. We hope that maybe next year it can..

This year's team is going in late July to **Hurbanovo Slovakia** to work with **Pastor Darko Kraljik** and the congregation of Hurbanovo Baptist Church in running an English teaching camp for about 50 children between 6 and 15 years old. The schedule will include a combined ESL VBS each morning, games and sports in the afternoon and a program each evening at a Christian youth club.

We ask you to please support the mission team with your prayers (see accompanying detailed prayer requests). In addition we ask for your financial support. Each team member has been asked to raise **\$2500 CAD** or **\$2000 USD**. Your financial gift will help with the cost of this mission endeavour. Cheques should be payable to "The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention" and sent to

UNITED STATES

Czechoslovak Bapt.Conv.
C/O Larry Rucker
2222 Parkers Hill Dr.
Maidens VA 23102

CANADA

Czechoslovak Bapt. Conv.
C/O Henry Pojman
1305 Inglehart Dr.
Burlington, ON L7M 4X6

Don't forget to put "Summer 2016 Mission Team" on the memo line. Alternatively, to support an individual team member please send your donation to them (once again payable to The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention). Upon receipt they will forward your gift to the Convention.

2016 SUMMER OUTREACH TEAM MEMBERS

Emily Buta,
Peter & Marlene Klimchak,
Dottie Kvasnica,
Trisha, Luke & Elijah Kvasnica,
Monica Lamos,
Stan & Heather Mantle,
Neda Pilic,
Andrea & Alaina Turner.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR SUMMER 2016 MISSION

- Pray for the team members in North America and Hurbanovo SK as they prepare for this shared mission.
- Pray for the Hurbanovo Baptist Church as it gets ready to host our team.
- Pray for the children, youth and families from the community we will be ministering to. Pray that the Lord will direct those He wills to come to the English camp and youth meetings and that lives will be impacted for eternity.
- Pray that we will have willing and humble spirits, remembering we come as servants to help our hosts reach out in their community, not to run the show.
- Pray that we who would teach will be teachable and open to God's working in our own hearts.
- Pray for the planning and preparing of the curriculum and resources for the outreach.
- Pray for the fund-raising, that all needed funds will be supplied, and even more.
- Pray for a spirit of unity and love to bind us together and make us effective. Pray that the Lord will use each of us, combining our particular gifts into a beautiful expression of his love. Pray for the development of a bond of love and fellowship between ourselves and our brothers and sisters in Christ at the Hurbanovo Baptist Church.
- Pray that we may share the **GOOD NEWS** in a clear, sweet and attractive way, and that the **WORD OF LIFE** will bear precious fruit in people coming to saving faith and changed lives.
- Pray that the ground will be prepared and relationships built to support and encourage future sending and receiving of mission teams between our Convention and the churches of the Czech and Slovak Baptist Unions.

When Your Life Turns Upside Down

Based on a true life story

I first started to think about writing down the story of my life and that of my family at the suggestion of a patient who was in the same hospital room as me. After hearing my story, she told me, ‘You should write down everything you’ve been through. It would help a lot of people.’

When I started to hear the same thing from various people over a short period of time, I began to consider it. But I kept pushing it into the back of my mind. I don’t know how to write! Yes, I know how to speak to people about what I’ve been through, but

writing it down? As I thought more about it, I remembered a lady called Marika, who had already worked on some similar stories and made them into wonderful books. My husband and I would get in touch with her and if she was willing to help us, we decided we would give it a try, even though breaking into the market on your own is not easy. She was happy to help us, so my husband and I started to tell her our story, and Marika worked the story into its literary form. Due to this, some of the stories may not be written exactly as they happened, and also as

some of the events happened over 30 years ago, our memories were a little fuzzy. Our intention is not to point to ourselves, as we are far from being heroes or perfect, but to point to Him, the one who gives us peace and hope in the midst of our problems.

We would also like to thank the many people from various churches in the Czech Republic and abroad who have upheld us in their prayers, encouraged us and shown an interest in us for over 30 years.

*Lydia & Pavel Smilkovi
and Marie Frydrychová*

Part One – Clutching at straws

1 – Lydie tells her story

I wandered aimlessly through the streets of Brno, until I reached Údolní street. Questions and confusion were whirling through my head.

I had recently passed two state exams in Russian and German, but that wasn’t exactly what I wanted for my life. A year before that I had finished secondary school with straight A’s and I planned to go on to university to study languages and eventually become a teacher. But how would I be able to get into university at the time of normalization? I was someone who talked openly about my faith, even when I was a teenager. “There is no way you will get into university to train to become a teacher. You would influence future generations and distort their minds with your outdated worldview.” That was the resolute rejection of my application to the Faculty of Arts.

In fact, at Lerchova Secondary Grammar School, they hadn’t accepted me either, even though some of my

classmates, who had worse marks than me but were from the right political background, did get in.

After finishing secondary school, I went to a language school for one year and two state exams was the maximum I was allowed to do there. But I still wanted to take the state exam in English. The director of the school finally agreed to it, but she said that I had to be employed so that I could enrol in evening classes at the school. I couldn’t study there as a full-time student any more. She told me to get any kind of job, even as a cleaner, just so that I could give her the confirmation that I was working. The communists tried to make it as hard as possible for young undesirable elements to get an education.

I’m not sure why, but as I was walking down Údolní street I looked into a ground-floor window. It wasn’t a particularly clean window but there was a small, hand-written note stuck up in it saying “HIRING FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS.”

I glanced up at the peeling façade of an old building and read a sign which told me I was standing in front of the District Cultural and Educational Centre.

I didn’t take time to think it over. I stood up straight to display my slim, tall figure and resolutely opened the glass door. Inside, I noticed a slightly musty smell in the hallway of the building, which had been built at the beginning of the twentieth century and not painted since. It didn’t put me off though. I was very familiar with the smell of old, dilapidated buildings. At the end of the corridor I could hear the tapping of a typewriter. I set off to find it.

I stepped boldly into the office, where I came across a lady sitting at a desk and typing on an old Consul typewriter.

“Good morning. I’ve got A-levels and state exams in Russian and German. Would it be enough to be able to teach here?” I blurted out before she even had time to ask

what I wanted. The surprised typist turned around on her swivel chair and answered, “Yes, those qualifications would be sufficient.”

“But my name’s Lydie Titěrová and my dad is a Baptist pastor in Brno. My brother lives abroad illegally and I’m



Lydia před svatbou

not in the Socialist Youth Union or any other organisation,” I announced, somewhat defiantly. But now it was out in the open. All the reasons why I was totally undesirable.

The typist shrugged her shoulders and answered, “Fill in an application form.”

I did it there and then. To my great astonishment they offered me a job! The typist wasn’t the secretary, she was the head of the teaching section at

the District Cultural and Educational Centre and she came to inspect one of my first lessons there. She must have liked my teaching style, as when she was giving me feedback on the lesson, she said, “Considering your age and lack of experience, it was very good. I’m giving you a permanent contract.”

So just one year after finishing my A-levels, the “anti-state element who could endanger communism” became a foreign language teacher, and I was also able to finish studying for my state exam in English, as it was useful for my work and my employer. At first, I just taught in the District Cultural and Educational Centre’s classrooms, but later on they sent me out to various companies and research centres to teach in the students’ places of work. I was able to meet a lot of interesting people.

I never got the university degree I had longed for, but several years before I would have finished university, I was already doing what I had wanted to do.

At the age of twenty, I had almost everything a girl could want. I was quite clever, pretty and slim, and I had a loving mother and father. I had two older brothers and one older sister. And I belonged to a large Baptist congregation.

If I were to explain who Baptists are, I would say something like this: they are Christians who love Jesus Christ above all, who firmly believe the Bible and who like being part of a large community. They are not just in one city or even one country, but are characterized by mutual brotherly love and unity throughout the world. Not counting the Anabaptist Reformation period and the subsequent recatholisation of Mikulov, the first Baptists in Moravia appeared sometime in the mid-19th century, thanks to the work of American missionaries, which is what gave the entire movement its international character. When Czechoslovakia found itself behind the Iron Curtain, Christians in the West made huge efforts to help us and encourage

us in any way they could.

They came from Germany, England, Austria and even the USA, either secretly as tourists or openly as representatives of their churches. We often had people visiting our church from abroad. Of course, the already unsettled Communist party was none too happy about it from a religious perspective, as their aim was to completely destroy religion, the “opium of the people”.

At the time I was teaching at the District Cultural and Educational Centre, I was meeting up with young people from across the whole country. After 1968 and the subsequent occupation of our country by Warsaw Pact troops, there was an amazing revival of faith among young Christians. We had the feeling that life under the Soviet Union would be no laughing matter. We had heard reports from the USSR, and we knew about the terrible persecution in the East, the seizure of Bibles and the imprisonment of Christians. But it actually strengthened our desire to belong to the One who the communist regime was so against. We had a lot of secret meetings.

We prayed fervently, studied the scriptures and sang Christian songs, crammed into small weekend cottages belonging to different families. But we also enjoyed meeting up to sing in Jas, the Czechoslovak Baptist choir, led at the time by Miloš Šolc, the son of my father’s close friend, preacher and passionate tennis player Milos Šolc senior. We all wanted to live for Christ. We called each other “brother” and “sister” and helped each other like a large extended family. In the individualistic way of life we have these days it might be difficult to understand, but knowing that we had brothers and sisters in the faith all over the world gave us the strength to survive all the repression of communism.

I wanted to live like that too. But I couldn’t help noticing that two young men were interested in me. Because I couldn’t go to university, I started

thinking about getting married and starting a family. I was born into a large family and I wanted to have one of my own. But which of the two men was the right one? We were taught to pray about our life partner and I had been praying about it regularly. But these two were so different... One of them was a mechanical engineer. He was pretty decisive and he tried to convince me that the Lord had shown him that we should be together. I liked him. The other one was a medical student. He was more serious, a bit of an introvert, but I could see that his faith was strong and deep. Maybe even deeper than mine. I was drawn towards him.

My grandfather Brůžek, my mum's dad, advised me to marry the engineer. "You'll be better off with him - he's got a good job. You've got more security than if you marry just a student." But then I had a dream. In the dream I was in love with the other one. I took it as a sign that he must be the right one for me.

So in August 1977 I married Pavel Smilek, whose father, Kristoslav Smilek, was the Brno Baptist Church's lay preacher. Pavel was just going into his last year of medical studies. It was a lovely wedding. We got married in the Baptist Church on Smetanova Street with my dad leading the service, and Christian friends from all around the country were there to celebrate with us. A couple of people from my work were there too, even though having a church wedding was yet another minus point politically.

I was a beautiful bride in white, and everyone said we were a good-looking couple who looked great together. Tall, slim and young, with a great future ahead of us.

After our wedding we went to Slovakia for our honeymoon, where we stayed in the mountains in a cottage where a Christian friend kept bees. As we had waited until getting married to have a physical relationship, as did most Christians, I got pregnant immediately. I couldn't have been happier. It

seemed to me that I had everything I could possibly want. Was I too self-confident? I don't know. Was I proud? Some people might say I was. I know that I probably wasn't very humble at the time. But all that was about to change.

A period of time in Czechoslovakia when Communism became very strict and reformist laws were revoked

2 – Pavel's story

I still don't know how it started. Lots of doctors have asked us what triggered it. I've asked myself the same question.

The start of our marriage went really smoothly. We didn't have anywhere to live, but that was normal for most young people at that time. But in the building belonging to the church, where Lydie and her parents lived, there were a couple of other flats. In one of them lived a lady of my father's age who we called Auntie Šimánková, and on the third floor lived a couple, both of whom were retired doctors. Within a short period of time, just before the summer holidays, both the man and his wife died, leaving the flat empty. The Baptist Church elders (a team of church members who are voted for and work closely with the pastor) offered to pay for the necessary materials if I would renovate the flat. Then we could live there for as long as we wanted. Renovating flats ourselves was really common in those days.

Everyone knew how to work with a cement mixer and a trowel. Especially students, who usually spent their summers earning some money on building sites. With the help of some friends and professional advice from some members of the church who were very experienced in practical work, we started work on the flat. Auntie Šimánková lent us her studio flat while she moved into a tiny room next to the church office, which she turned into a bedroom. She was the church caretaker.

I really have to say more about Auntie Šimánková. She wasn't related to any of us, but the whole church called her Auntie. She originally came from Holešov, where she had accepted the Lord Jesus under the ministry of Pastor Titěra senior. She liked our church so much that she moved to Brno and started working in the Post Office in the centre of town. She was intelligent, well-read, and could speak German as well as Czech. She loved taking photos and her job as a postal worker meant that she knew everything that was happening in Brno. If someone couldn't get hold of something (which was very common in Communist times) she always managed to get it. When she and Pastor Titěra, who she always called brother, worked together, there was a wonderful, relaxed atmosphere. She never got rid of her specific regional accent and with Pastor Titěra's feel for language, he was able to play on the regional linguistic differences in a way which appealed to her sense of humour.

I remember how one day the whole church was going somewhere and we were getting into the bus. People couldn't get on as some people were choosing seats in the front of the bus and taking their time sitting down. Auntie Šimánková climbed up the steps, waved her hand and shouted in her regional dialect, "Get to the back side of the bus". Pastor Titěra heard her from outside, got up into the bus and shouted out in his loud preaching voice, "Didn't you hear Sister Šimánková? Get onto your backsides so we can get going." When Auntie Šimánková and Pastor Titěra got together, we often ended up in fits of laughter.

Before I managed to finish everything in the one-bedroom attic flat, Lydie already had all the comforts she needed in Auntie Šimánková's studio flat. And when our healthy little girl was born in May 1978, everything was absolutely fine. Apart from maybe one small thing – Lydie wasn't able to

breastfeed, for some unknown reason. But we weren't too bothered about it as there was excellent quality formula milk in Czechoslovakia and children who grew up on it developed well.

In fact, in one way it was actually an advantage, as Auntie Šimánková loved Lydie and the baby, so she was very happy to be able to look after her whenever we needed a babysitter. We didn't have to cut down on our church activities at all. In September 1978 we went on a short holiday to the Belianske Tatras and really enjoyed the long, demanding treks in the mountains. (Well, I enjoyed it anyway. I still don't know if Lydie really enjoyed that thirty-kilometre ascent from the Polish ridge up the Eastern High track or if it was too hard for her.)

Six weeks later we went on a two-week choir workshop to Bratislava with our Czechoslovak choir, Jas, and that's where everything started. Lydie spent the whole night running to the bathroom to urinate – but we thought she might just have caught a chill. She came home completely exhausted and totally dehydrated. She kept drinking all the time and running to the bathroom. At home treating her for a bladder infection didn't help at all, so she was then hospitalised, where they found out that she was urinating thirteen litres of fluid per day and after subsequent tests she was given her first diagnosis: diabetes insipidus due to pituitary hormone dysfunction.

Translated into comprehensible language: she had a malfunctioning pituitary gland for unknown reasons, with all the consequences that there would be in the future. An antidiuretic hormone for the pituitary immediately began to be administered topically, first as nasal drops, and later as a lyophilisate taken orally, but other symptoms were not long in coming. There were skin problems, fistulae (holes in the skin) in the armpits, a yellowish liquid was secreted and later there were boils which wouldn't heal.

In 1979, after a histological examination, Langerhans cell histiocytosis

(LCH) was diagnosed.

When Dagmar was one year old, Lydia was lying in the cancer ward in Brno being treated with anti-inflammatory radiation therapy. Then the treatment continued with cytostatic chemotherapy, which had serious adverse effects.

I finished my university studies. In June 1979, I graduated and was able to take my wife to my graduation on a half-day release from the Department of Oncological and Experimental Pathology at the Žlutý Kopec Hospital in Brno.

Perhaps I had better acquaint readers with the nature of Lydie's disease. Histiocytic diseases are very rare and diverse in their clinical course. The term Langerhans cell histiocytosis covers a wide spectrum of severity of the clinical disease. It can be a disease of blood and bone marrow, brain, ears, eyes, lungs and respiratory tract, lymph nodes and oral cavities, digestive tract and skin. Today, the individual diseases are quite well documented, although there is still discussion between the two views about their cause. But thirty years ago it was almost an unknown disease, which caused considerable uncertainty. It was not clear whether to assign it to cancerous or to infectious diseases. At university, we were taught almost nothing about it.

As a newly qualified doctor my knowledge of this illness was minimal, although I did have a certain advantage - I knew a lot of people: professors who had taught me as well as classmates who were working in various medical facilities and who had further contacts through their work.

I think it is quite natural for a person or family who is going through some kind of shock like this to look for help among people they know. In communist times it was absolutely essential. To be able to turn to friends showed a measure of trust. It was known as "casting your net widely".

The first consultation I had was with the head physician at the Gynaecological

Department of Oncological and Experimental Pathology at the Žlutý Kopec Hospital. He spoke very openly to me, "We know almost nothing about this illness. In this department we have seen two or three cases with this diagnosis over the last fifty years. It is a bit more common amongst small children around 2-4 years old, but amongst adults it is very rare. The prognosis is not good, I'm afraid. We don't have a lot of treatment options for it."

My next consultation was with Brno's renowned associate professor of gynaecology and oncology, Dr. Slota, who said: "I have treated several women with histiocytosis so I do have some experience with it. It is a very aggressive illness, so be prepared. Your wife might have two months or two years left. But I wouldn't like to give you any more hope than that. We'll do everything we can, but a doctor can only do so much."

"I know. Only God can heal," I replied. The doctor shrugged his shoulders and patted me on the back.

"Good luck, young man."

Not long after this I received my call-up papers to do my military service, which was compulsory. Ordinary conscripts had to serve in the barracks for two years, but graduates served one year externally while they were studying, and then had to spend one year in the barracks. I wrote to the Minister of National Defence, Martin Džúr, to ask if I could be placed close to my place of residence due to the fact that I was married, had a young child, and my wife was going through difficult cancer treatment. I wasn't asking to be exempt from my service, but just to be able to visit my family during my time off.

Comrade Minister dealt with my request through the Military Administration by ordering me to be sent to South Bohemia, to Tabor, from where I was soon ordered to go to Litoměřice. Any hope of visiting my family regularly was gone.

Když se život obrátí na ruby

Skutečný životní příběh

První impuls k napsání životního příběhu, který jsme s manželem prožili, mi dala moje spolupracovnice. Po vyslechnutí mého vyprávění podotkla: „Ale vy byste to všechno, co jste prožila, měla napsat. To by pomohlo mnoha lidem.“

Když se podobná výzva opakovala v krátké době od různých lidí, začala jsem o tom přemýšlet. Stále jsem to ale zasouvala do podvědomí. Vždyť já psát neumím. Mluvit o tom, co jsem prožila, to ano. Ale psát? Když jsem o tom uvažovala, připadla mi na mysl

Marika, která již některé příběhy literárně ztvárnila. Zkusíme se s ní s manželem spojit, a pokud bude ochotna pomoci, půjdeme do toho, i když jít s vlastní kůží na trh není snadné.

Marika na naši výzvu odpověděla kladně. Takže my jsme s manželem (a s maminkou) povídali, a ona náš příběh volně literárně zpracovávala. Proto asi všechno nebude zaznamenáno úplně přesně; navíc některé události se odehrály před více než 30 lety a naše paměť je omezená. Cílem našeho vzpomínání není vyzdvihnout naši

osobu, máme daleko k dokonalosti či hrdinství; cílem je naopak ukázat na Toho, který i uprostřed životních problémů dává pokoj a naději. Chceme také tímto poděkovat nejen mnoha lidem v našem sboru, ale i v různých církvích v celé České republice a i v jiných zemích, kteří nás po celou tu dlouhou dobu podporují svými modlitbami, povzbuzením a zájmem.

*Lydia & Pavel Smilkovi
a Marie Frydrychová*

Část první – Tonoucí se stébla chytá

1 – Vypráví Lydia

Bezcílně jsem bloumala brněnskými ulicemi, až jsem došla na Údolní. V hlavě mi vířily otázky a také trochu zmatek. Čerstvě jsem absolvovala dvě státní zkoušky, z ruštiny a z němčiny, jenže to neodpovídalo přesně tomu, čeho jsem chtěla dosáhnout. Před rokem jsem maturovala na gymnáziu se samými jedničkami a plánovala jsem vysokoškolské studium jazyků a životní dráhu učitelky. Ale jak bych se já mohla dostat na vysokou školu v době normalizace?

(Normalizace je pojmenování pro represivní opatření po násilném potlačení Pražského jara v roce 1968 armádami Varšavské smlouvy, jako byly čistky v komunistické straně, propouštění ze zaměstnání, obnovení cenzury, zrušení mnoha zájmových a politických sdružení a organizací a další.)

Já, která se i v pubertě hrdě hlásila ke své víře?

„V žádném případě nedostanete doporučení na vysokou školu, která by

vás připravila na povolání pedagožky. Ještě byste budoucí generaci ovlivňovala a deformovala svým zastaralým světonázorem.“ Tak rezolutně znělo odmítnutí mé snahy podat si žádost na filozofickou fakultu.

Ostatně ani na Gymnázium Lerchova v Brně mě po základní škole nepřijali, ačkoliv spolužačky s horším prospěchem, ale s dobrým kádrovým posudkem se tam dostaly snadno. Musela jsem denně dojíždět 30 kilometrů na Gymnázium Jana Blahoslava do Ivančic. Ale takových nás tam bylo víc.

Po maturitě jsem tedy absolvovala roční jazykovou školu. Dvě státnice — to bylo maximum, které jsem z ní mohla vytěžit. Toužila jsem však ještě po státnici z angličtiny.

„Ano,“ řekla mi ředitelka školy, „jenže už to nemůže být na denním studiu, jen v rámci studia při zaměstnání. Dělejte cokoli, třeba uklízečku. Ale bez potvrzení, že pracujete, vás přijmout nemohu.“

Tak mělo socialistické zřízení ošetřeno, aby mladým nežádoucím živlům ztížilo cestu ke vzdělání.

Ani nevím, proč jsem se tehdy na Údolní podívala do toho přízemního okna. Nebylo příliš čisté, ale visela v něm čtvrtka kreslicího papíru, a na ní ručně napsáno:

PŘIJMEME LEKTORY CIZÍCH JAZYKŮ

Zapátrala jsem po oprýskané fasádě starého domu a zjistila jsem, že stojím před OKVS — Obvodním kulturně vzdělávacím střediskem.

Nerozmýšlela jsem se. Narovnála jsem se, abych dala vyniknout své pěkné, štíhlé, vysoké postavě, a rázně jsem otevřela prosklené domovní dveře. Ovanula mě lehce zatuchlá vůně chodby domu postaveného na počátku první republiky a od té doby nevymalovaného. Nelekla jsem se. Vůni starých, neudržovaných domů jsem dobře znala. Kdesi na konci chodby klapal psací stroj. Vydala jsem se za tím zvukem.

V kanceláři, do které jsem rázně vstoupila, seděla žena, která za malým stolkem ťukala do klávesnice starého Consulu.

„Dobrý den, prosím vás, mám

maturitu na gymnáziu a státnice z ruštiny a z němčiny. Stačilo by to na to, abych u vás mohla dělat lektorku?“ vyhrkla jsem ze sebe odhodlaně ještě dřív, než se mě někdo zeptal, co si přeji.

Prěkvapená písarka se otočila na kulatě židli a odpovéděla: „Ano, to je pro nás plně odpovídající kvalifikace.“

„Ale já se jmenuji Lydia Titěrová a jsem dcerou baptistického kazatele v Brně. Můj bratr žije nelegálně v zahraničí a já nejsem nikde organizovaná, ani v SSM,“ prohlásila jsem důrazně a možná i trošku vzpurně. A bylo to venku. Všechny hlavní důvody, proč jsem zcela nežádoucí.

Písarka pokrčila rameny a odtušila: „Podejte si žádost.“

Udělala jsem to okamžitě. Kupodivu mi nabídli spolupráci. Ta písarka nebyla písarka, ale vedoucí pedagogického oddělení OKVS, a sotva jsem nastoupila, přišla do hodiny na hospitaci. Asi se jí můj vyučovací styl zalíbil, protože mi při hodnotícím pohovoru řekla:

„Bylo to dobré—na to jak jste mladá, a že jste ještě nikde neučila, vlastně velmi dobré. Dám vám smlouvu na dobu neurčitou.“

A tak jsem se za rok po maturitě (já, „protistátní živel, který by mohl ohrozit socialismus“) stala učitelkou cizích jazyků, a navíc jsem si směla dodělat ještě státnice z angličtiny, protože pro mou práci a pro mého zaměstnavatele to bylo přínosné. Zprvu jsem vyučovala v učebnách OKVS, ale později mě vysílali i do různých podniků a výzkumných ústavů, abych učila přímo na pracovišti. Seznámila jsem se se spoustou velmi zajímavých lidí. Na kýžený vysokoškolský titul jsem sice nedosáhla, ale o několik let dřív než při studiu na vysoké škole jsem dělala to, co jsem chtěla.

Ve svých dvaceti letech jsem měla téměř všechno, po čem dívky touží. Byla jsem docela chytrá, hezká, štíhlá, nejmladší dcera milujícího otce a matky. Měla jsem tři starší sourozence,



Svatební foto

dva bratry a sestru. A patřila jsem do velkého společenství Bratrské jednoty baptistů.

Mám-li velmi zjednodušeně charakterizovat, kdo jsou baptisté, řekla bych asi toto: Jsou to křesťané, kteří nadevšecko milují Pána Ježíše, pevně věří Bibli a preferují široké společenství. Zdaleka ne jen v jednom městě, dokonce ani v jednom státě. Baptisté se vyznačují vzájemnou bratrskou láskou a sounáležitostí po celém světě. Pominu-li anabaptisty z období reformace a následné rekatolizace na Mikulovsku, první baptisté se na Moravě objevili někdy v polovině 19. století na základě práce německé misie, a právě to dalo celému hnutí mezinárodní charakter. Když se ocitlo Československo

za železnou oponou, bratři na západě vyvíjeli obrovské úsilí, aby nám jakýmkoliv způsobem pomáhali a povzbuzovali nás. Přijížděli z Německa, z Anglie, z Rakouska i z USA, ať už tajně jako turisté, nebo veřejně jako představitelé sbratřených církví. Zahraniční návštěvy byly v našich sborech časté. Což samozřejmě velice zneklidňovalo v náboženských otázkách už tak dost neklidnou Komunistickou stranu Československa, která si dala za cíl s náboženstvím, s tím „opiem lidstva“, zcela skoncovat.

V době, kdy jsem učila na OKVS, mě obklopovala spousta mladých lidí z celé země. Po osmašedesátém roce a obsazení naší republiky vojsky Varšavské smlouvy mezi mladými křesťany zavanulo probuzení víry. Tušili jsme, že se Sovětským svazem na věčné časy to nebude žádná legrace. Měli jsme zprávy i ze zemí Sovětského svazu a věděli jsme o krutém pronásledování na Východě, o zabavování Bibli i o věznění bratří. Ale o to víc v nás hořela touha patřit Tomu, proti kterému komunistický režim tolik brojil. Sjížděli jsme se na mnohých tajných setkáních. Zapáleně jsme se modlili, studovali Písmo a zpívali křesťanské písně, nacpaní v malých, soukromých chatách. Ale také jsme se hrdě družili v celostátním pěveckém souboru Jas, který v té době řídil Miloš Šolc, syn tatínkova blízkého přítele, horlivého kazatele a vášnivého tenisty Miloše Šolce staršího. Všichni jsme vyznávali, že chceme žít pro Krista. Oslovovali jsme se „bratře“ a „sestro“ a vzájemně jsme si pomáhali jako široká rodina. Možná to v dnešním individualistickém zaměření života bude těžko pochopitelné, ale vědomí, že máme bratry a sestry ve víře po celém světě, nám tehdy dávalo sílu přežít všechny represe socialismu.

I já jsem si přála tak žít. Ale i přitom jsem si všimla, že se kolem mě točí dva mladí muži. Protože studium na vysoké škole padlo, začala jsem uvažovat o svatbě a o založení rodiny. Narodila jsem se do velké rodiny a velkou

rodinu jsem také chtěla. Jenže který z těch dvou je pravý? Vyučovali nás, abychom se za svého životního partnera modlili, a já to poctivě dělala. Ale ti dva byli tak různí... První byl strojní inženýr. Byl rozhodný a snažil se mě přesvědčit, že mu Pán Bůh vůči mně dává zelenou. Líbil se mi.

Ten druhý byl medik. Byl vážnější, možná trochu plachý a uzavřený, ale vnímala jsem, že jeho víra je pevná a hluboká. Snad i hlubší než moje. Přitahoval mě.

Dědeček, mamčin tatínek kazatel Brůžek, mi radil: „Holčičko, vezmi si inženýra. To už je zajištěná existence, má své postavení. To je jistější, než myslet si jen na studentka.“

Ale pak jsem měla sen. Ve snu se objevil ten druhý a já ho v tom snu velmi milovala. Pochopila jsem... To je on!

V srpnu 1977 jsem se provdala za Pavla Smilka, syna laického kazatele brněnského sboru BJB. Pavlovi do získání titulu MUDr. chyběl poslední rok. Svátba byla nádherná. Oddával nás můj tatínek v modlitebně Bratrské jednoty baptistů na Smetanově ulici v Brně a sjeli se bratři a sestry i přátelé z celé republiky. Přišlo také pár lidí od nás z práce, ačkoliv tehdy byl církevní sňatek dalším mínusem v kádrovém posudku. Já byla půvabná, bílá nevěsta, a všichni říkali, že jsme krásný pár, který se k sobě moc hodí. Vysocí, štíhlí, mladí, s velkou nadějí do budoucna.

Po svatbě jsme odjeli na svatební cestu na Slovensko a strávili jsme ji v chatě na samotě ve Strážovské hornatině a na horských túrách. Protože jsme do manželství oba vstupovali čistí a nevinní, jak bylo mezi křesťany běžné, vzápětí jsem otěhotněla.

A byla jsem ještě šťastnější. Zdálo se mi, že mám skutečně „všechno“.

Byla jsem příliš sebejistá? Nevím. Byla jsem pyšná? Někdo by možná řekl, že trochu ano. Rozhodně vím, že jsem v té době nebyla příliš pokorná — to asi ne. A právě to se mělo v mém životě radikálně změnit.

2 – Vypráví Pavel

Dodnes nevím úplně přesně, kde byla příčina. Mnohokrát se lékaři ptali, co bylo tím spouštěcím mechanismem. I já si tuto otázku často kladl.

Manželství jsme začínali v největší pohodě. Samozřejmě jsme neměli kde bydlet, jako většina mladých v té době. Ale v kazatelském domě, kde žila Lydie se svými rodiči, bydlela také tatínkova vrstevnice, tetička Šimánková, a ve třetím patře manželský pár dvou starých důchodců. Ještě před prázdninami pán i paní v krátkém časovém rozmezí zemřeli a byt zůstal volný. Staršovstvo BJB (tým volených členů sboru, kteří úzce spolupracují s kazatelem) mi nabídlo, že uhradí materiál, když byt svépomocí zrenovuji. Pak v něm můžeme bydlet, dokud nám bude stačit.

Svépomocná výstavba bytů byla tehdy naprosto běžná. Všichni uměli popadnout kolečko malty a ohánět se zednickou lžící. Natožpak studenti, kteří většinu prázdnin trávili na brigádách a po stavbách.

S odbornou radou některých členů sboru, kteří uměli, na co sáhli, jsme se pustili do rekonstrukce, zatímco tetička Šimánková nám propůjčila svou garsonku a sama se na přechodnou dobu přestěhovala do jakéhosi kumbálu vedle kanceláře sboru, který si upravila na ložnici. Dělal církevní domovníci.

O tetičce Šimánkové nemohu pomlčet. Nebyla příbuzná nikoho z nás, ale všichni, celý sbor, jsme jí říkali „tetičko“. Pocházela z Holešova, kde uvěřila v Pána Ježíše na základě služby Lydiina otce Titěry. Náš sbor jí byl tak milý, že se přestěhovala do Brna a nastoupila na poštovní úřad ve středu města jako poštovní doručovatelka. Byla inteligentní, sečtělá, německy uměla stejně dobře jako česky, fotografovala a práce pošťačky jí umožňovala vědět všechno, co se v Brně děje. Pokud někdo nemohl něco sehnat (což bylo za socialismu naprosto běžné),

tetička Šimánková to opatřila vždycky. S kazatelem Titěrou dovedli vytvořit nesmírně příjemnou, uvolněnou atmosféru. Tetička, která mu neříkala jinak než bratře, se ani v Brně nezba-



Lydia s Dagmarkou v době, kdy onemocněla

vila směsi svého hanácko-valašského nářečí. Otec Titěra měl obrovský cit pro jazyk a uměl skvěle využít jazykovou odlišnost a podpořit její zemitý humor.

Pamatuji se, jak jsme s celým sborem někam odjížděli a nastupovali do autobusu. Lidé se tlačili. Vybírali si místa vpředu a zdržovali. Tetička Šimánková vylezla na schody, mávala rukama a volala: „Id'te na zádek, na zádek.“ Otec Titěra ještě na chodníku její volání slyšel, rázně se vyhoupl do autobusu za ní a svým zvučným, kazatelským hlasem zahlaholil: „Neslyšeli jste sestru Šimánkovou? Padněte na zadek, ať už jedeme.“ Když tetička Šimánková s otcem Titěrou dali hlavy dohromady, což bývalo často, opravdu jsme padali smíchy na zadek.

Než se mi podařilo vytvořit v podkroví kazatelského domu příjemný jednopokojový byt i s příslušenstvím, měla Lydie od začátku těhotenství v garsonce tetičky Šimánkové pohodlí,

keré potřebovala. A když se v květnu 1978 narodila zdravá holčička, po mé mamince pojmenovaná Dagmar, bylo všechno, jak má být. Snad jen malíč-kost. Lydie nemohla z neznámého důvodu kojít. Ale ani to jsme nebrali jako tragédii, protože Československo vyrábělo dětskou umělou výživu na vysoké úrovni a děti po ní přibývaly a byly hodné.

Svým způsobem to bylo i výhodné, protože tetička Šimánková Lydii milovala a miminko snad ještě víc, takže nám holčičku kdykoliv ráda pohlíkala. V našich církevních aktivitách jsme se vůbec nemuseli omezovat. V září 1978 jsme si udělali krátkou dovolenou v Belanských Tatrách a dlouhé, náročné túry jsme zdolávali hravě. (Tedy já jsem je zdolával hravě. Jestli dvacetikilometrové putování po Belanských Tatrách nebylo pro Lydii příliš těžké, vlastně dodnes nevím.)

Za šest týdnů potom jsme jeli na dvoudenní soustředění celostátního pěveckého souboru Jas do Bratislavy — a tam všechno začalo.

V noci běhala Lydie neustále na malou stranu. Že by nastydla? Domů přijela vyčerpaná a totálně dehydrovaná. Stále pila a odbíhala na záchod. Domácí léčení zánětu močového měchýře nezabralo, při hospitalizaci se zjistilo, že vymočí 13 litrů tekutiny za den, a po následných vyšetřeních byla stanovena první diagnóza. Úplavice močová na základě hormonální hypofyzární dysfunkce.

Přeloženo do srozumitelné češtiny: nefunkční hypofýza z neznámých důvodů a se všemi důsledky, které to v budoucnu přinese. Antidiuretický hormon hypofýzy začal být samozřejmě okamžitě podáván zevně, nejprve jako kapky do nosu, později jako lyofilizát přijímaný ústy, ale další příznaky na sebe nenechaly dlouho čekat. Objevily se kožní potíže, píštěle (otvory v kůži) v podpaží, vyměšující nažloutlou tekutinu, a později i nehojící se vřed.

V roce 1979 po histologickém

vyšetření byla stanovena diagnóza — histiocytóza z Langerhansových buněk.

Když měla Dagmarka rok, Lydia ležela na onkologii v Brně pod palbou protizánětlivého ozařování. Pak léčba pokračovala chemoterapií cytostatiky se závažnými nežádoucími účinky.

Já dokončoval vysokoškolská studia. V červnu 1979 jsem promoval a manželku jsem si na promoci odvážel z Výzkumného a experimentálního onkologického ústavu na Žlutém kopci v Brně na půl dne na propustku.

Snad bych měl čtenáře lépe seznámit s povahou Lydiiny nemoci. Histiocytární choroby jsou velmi vzácné a klinickým průběhem různorodé jednotky. Termín histiocytóza z Langerhansových buněk zahrnuje široké spektrum závažnosti klinických onemocnění. Může jít o onemocnění krve a kostní dřeně, mozku, uší, očí, plic a dýchacích cest, lymfatických uzlin, ústní dutiny, trávicího traktu i kůže. Dnes už jsou jednotlivá onemocnění poměrně slušně popsána, i když stále probíhá o jejich příčině diskuze mezi dvěma názory. Ale před třiceti lety to bylo onemocnění téměř neznámé, které vyvolávalo značné rozpaky. Nebylo jisté, zda ho přiřadit k nemocem nádorovým nebo infekčním. Na vysoké škole jsme se o něm neučili téměř nic.

Jako čerstvě dostudovaný lékař jsem měl o této chorobě znalosti minimální, ale přece jen jsem byl v určité výhodě. Měl jsem řadu známých. Jednak mezi profesory, kteří mě učili, a také mezi spolužáky, kteří se dostali na různá lékařská pracoviště a tam získali opět další známé mezi lékařskými kapacitami.

Myslím, že je zcela přirozené, že jednotlivý člověk či rodina, která zažívá podobný šok, hledá pomoc u známých. Za socialismu to bylo přímo nutné. Obrátit se na známé našich známých bylo jakýmsi měřítkem důvěry. Jeden pan inženýr to nazýval termínem ”rozhodit síť“.

První takovou konzultaci jsem absolvoval u primáře gynekologického

oddělení VÚKEO na Žlutém kopci. Mluvil se mnou naprosto otevřeně.

„O té nemoci nevíme skoro nic. V posledních čtyřiceti letech byly ve VÚKEO u dospělých lidí zaznamenány jen asi dva nebo tři případy této diagnózy. U malých dětí ve věku od dvou do pěti let je to nemoc častější, ale u dospělých se objevuje málo. Prognóza není příznivá, mnoho možností k léčbě nemáme.“

Při další konzultaci mi známý brněnský gynekolog-onkolog doc. Šlot sdělil přibližně toto: „Několik žen s histiocytózou jsem léčil a určité zkušenosti jistě mám. Je to nemoc velice agresivní. Berte to tak. Může tu být dva měsíce a může tu být i dva roky. Větší naději bych si vám netroufal dát, pane kolego! Uděláme všechno, co je v našich silách. Ale lékař jenom léčí.“

„Já vím. A Bůh uzdravuje,“ odušil jsem. Pan docent pokrčil rameny a pak mě přátelsky poplácal po zádech.

„Tak hodně síly, mladý muži!“

Zanedlouho po této informaci jsem obdržel povolávací rozkaz k výkonu základní vojenské služby. Základní vojenská služba byla povinná. Zatímco běžní branci sloužili v kasárnách dva roky, vysokoškoláci si jeden rok odkroutili externě v průběhu studia, ale po ukončení školy nastupovali také na rok do kasáren. Ministru národní obrany Martinu Dzúrovi jsem poslal žádost o umístění poblíž místa bydliště a zdůvodnil jsem ji tím, že jsem ženatý, mám roční dcerku a manželka prochází náročnou onkologickou léčbou. Nežádal jsem žádné výjimky ze služby. Jen jsem chtěl mít možnost v běžně povolených vycházkách svou rodinu navštěvovat.

Soudruh ministr mé žádosti prostřednictvím Vojenské správy vyhověl po svém. Obratem jsem dostal povolávací rozkaz do jižních Čech do Tábora, odkud mě záhy odveleli do Litoměřic. Naděje na častější styk s rodinou byla ta tam.

Juurd Dpe (Jerry) Potma

August 26, 1941 - May 11, 2016

...away from the body and at home with the Lord.
2 Corinthians 5:8



On May 11, Mark's father, Jerry Potma, peacefully passed away to be with his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We are so thankful to God for his life of faith and example to all of us. It was a blessing for us to be nearby this past year, and we have wonderful memories of his numerous visits to Prague. Please PRAY for God's comfort for our entire family in our time of loss.

Jerry Potma was born on August 26th, 1941, in Heerenveen, the Netherlands, during the Nazi occupation of the Second World War. He was the sixth of eight children born to Syberen and Hendrine Potma. Jerry's parents were godly examples to their children of faith, hope, and love. When Jerry was 12 years old, the Potma family immigrated to Canada, arriving in October 1953. They settled in the Niagara Peninsula, where Jerry attended Saltfleet District High School. After graduation he continued his education at Mohawk College while pursuing a career as a draftsman.

On November 9, 1963, Jerry married his teenage sweetheart, Joanne Meinen, who was also born in the Netherlands. Two of their sons, Arnold and Mark, were born in Hamilton, and after their move to Windsor, two more sons, Jason and Derek, were born. Jerry began his new career as a high school teacher with the Essex County School Board in 1969. While teaching technical drawing, he earned his B.A., in 1977, from the University of Windsor, specializing in Fine Arts.

The Lord touched Jerry's life and prepared him for service. In the early 1970s, Jerry developed a love for sharing the gospel through chalk artistry. He took a course in Michigan which resulted in a ministry of doing "chalk talks" for 35 years at schools, churches, retirement homes, and summer camps. Jerry also served as a summer camp director and children's speaker, elder, and Sunday School superinten-

dent for many years. In December 1981, Jerry and Joanne and their four sons left for Papua New Guinea for two years with Wycliffe Bible Translators to teach missionary children at Ukarumpa High School. After retirement in 1997, Jerry and Joanne returned to Ukarumpa for two more years of ministry.

In 2003, Jerry and Joanne moved to Dorchester, where Jerry volunteered with New Life Prison Ministries in Arva and Pioneers Canada in Dorchester. The highlight of his retirement was spending time with his grandchildren, especially camping, nature walks, and Lego. Jerry and Joanne enjoyed travelling together to see the world and hanging out with their siblings.

Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases began taking their toll on Jerry, and in February 2014 he moved into Henley Place Long Term Care Residence. Joanne also moved to London so she could be near Jerry and devote her time to him. On May 11, 2016, Jerry departed from his earthly body and went to his heavenly home to be with his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory!

Emil Dors

August 8, 1926 - March 18, 2016



Emil Dors, age 89, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Friday, March 18, 2016. Beloved husband of 40 years of the late Vera (nee Madjar). Loving father of Brian (Tamara). Cherished grandfather of Madison and Michael. Dear brother of John (Marilyn) Dors, Gustav (Elizabeth) Dors, and the late Adolph (wife Olga). Uncle to many.

Funeral service was March 24, 2016, in the Tomon & Sons Funeral home, Middleburg Heights, Ohio. Interment Brooklyn Heights Cemetery.

Emil and his wife Vera attended my adult Sunday School class at Scranton Road Bible Church for a number of years. They were very faithful in their attendance and participation in the class. I can truly say that I am a better teacher of the Word of God because of Emil. He had a good knowledge

We remember...

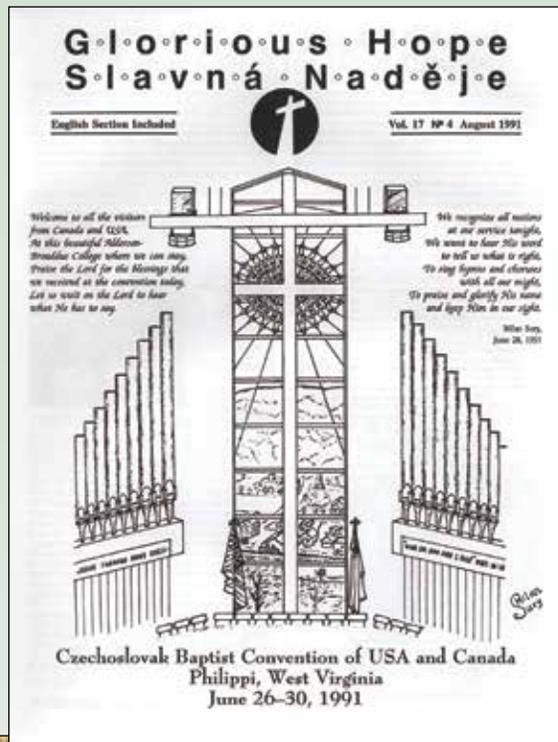
Milan Sury (1946-1995) high school teacher, deacon and Sunday school teacher of the Czechoslovak Baptist Church, Toronto, was a very talented person. He had artistic interests. We enjoyed his playing on the clarinet and singing on many occasions and we admired his drawing (see cover page). No matter what, he was always in good spirits, smiling and encouraging. He was a man of strong values based on his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We treasure his dedication to serve others. With his loving wife, Vera, at his side, Milan welcomed many emigrants from Czechoslovakia to their home and made them feel like home. We remember...

"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13: 7-8)

Natasha Laurinc



Milan Sury with family (1983)



Pamatujeme...

Milan Surý (1946-1995), učitel na střední škole, starší sboru a učitel nedělní školy v Československém sboru baptistů v Torontě, byl velmi talentovaný člověk. Byl umělecky zaměřen. Při mnoha příležitostech jsme rádi naslouchali jeho hře na klarinet a zpěvu a obdivovali jeho kresby (viz přední stranu). Ať se dělo cokoli, vždy měl dobrou náladu, úsměv a povzbuzení. Byl to muž pevných zásad postavených na Pánu a Spasiteli, Ježíši Kristu. Vážíme si jeho oddanosti sloužit druhým. Se

svou milující manželkou Věrou po boku měli otevřené dveře pro mnohé příchozí z Československa, kteří se tam cítili jako doma. Pamatujeme...

"Pamatujte na své vůdce, kteří vám předložili Boží slovo; všimněte si výsledku jejich života a berte si příklad z jejich víry. Ježíš Kristus je tentýž včera, dnes i na věky." (Židům 13; 7-8)

Nataša Laurincová

Emil Dors... Continues from page 16

of the Bible. It was evident he was a student of the scriptures. Emil would come up with some very difficult questions during the class. I knew that I had to study extra hard in preparing the lesson in anticipation of the questions he would be sure to ask.

I was blessed by the wonderful tributes given at his "homegoing" service by his son Brian, daughter-in-law

Tammy, and the many relatives that travelled great distances to be there. I learned a lot about his early life, the sufferings and sacrifices he went through, and how God delivered him out of many dangerous situations. God was given all the glory, and the name of Jesus was lifted up.

In Christ's love,
Jack Shearer

Charles Spurgeon's Devotion



Charles Haddon Spurgeon
by Alexander Melville

They took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

A Christian should be a striking likeness of Jesus Christ. No doubt you have read books of the life of Christ that have been beautifully and eloquently written, but the best life of Christ is His living biography, written in the words and actions of His people. If we were actually what we profess to be, and what we should be, we would be true pictures of Christ. We would bear such a striking likeness to Him that the world would not have to scrutinize us for long periods of time and then say, “Well, it looks something like Him.”

No, immediately upon seeing us, they would exclaim, “They have been with Jesus!” They have been taught by Him and are like Him. They are the embodiment of the holy Man of Nazareth, working out His life in their own lives and everyday actions.”

As a Christian you should be courageous and bold like Christ, never blushing or being ashamed of your faith, for your profession of faith in Him will never disgrace you. So take care you never disgrace it. You should imitate Christ by exhibiting a loving spirit and by exercising kind thinking, speaking, and doing, so that people will say of you that you have “been with Jesus.”

Imitate Christ in His holiness as well. Think of the zeal He had for His Master and then imitate your Master by always doing good, never wasting time, for time is too precious to waste. Did Christ deny Himself? Then do the same. Was He fervent in His devotion to His Father? Then be fervent in your prayers. Was He submissive to His Father’s will? Then submit yourself to Him. Was He patient? Then learn to endure.

But to reflect Christ’s greatest trait of all, endeavor to forgive your enemies just as He did. Let these glorious words of your Master forever ring in your ears: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). Forgive as you hope to be forgiven (see Matt. 6:14) and “heap burning coals” (Prov. 25:22) on your enemy’s head by extending kindness to him. Remember—to repay good for evil is godlike. (See Rom. 12:17.) So be godlike.

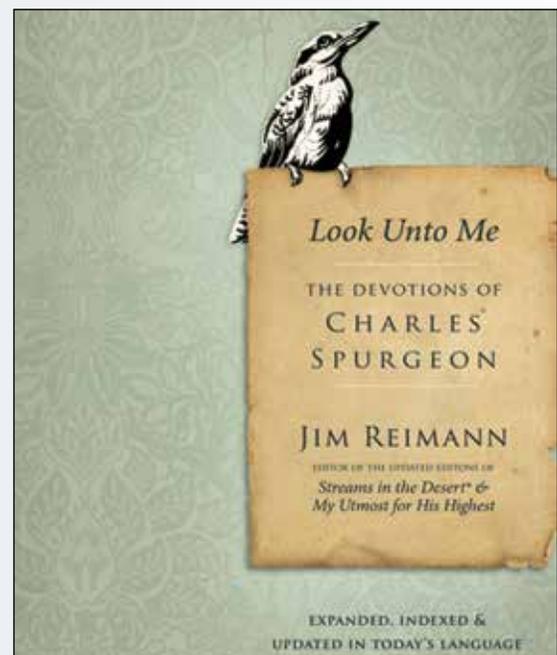
In every way, live your life so everyone may say of you that you have “been with Jesus.”

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.

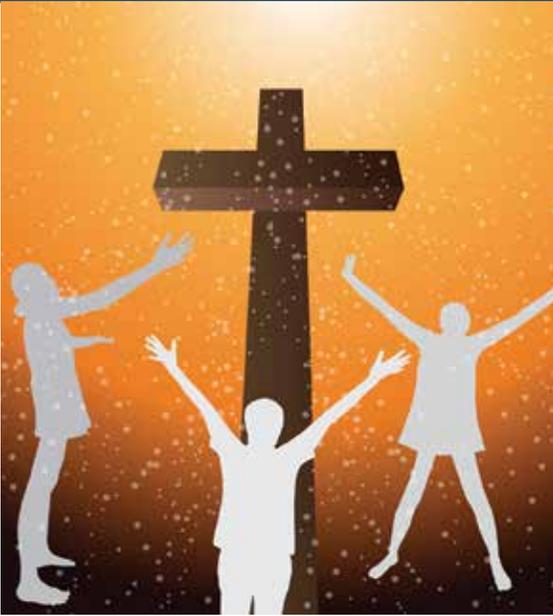
Spurgeon was pastor of the congregation of the New Park Street Chapel (later the Metropolitan Tabernacle) in London for 38 years. He was a prolific author of many types of works, including sermons, an autobiography, commentaries, books on prayer, devotionals, magazines, poetry, hymns and more. In his 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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Convention time is almost upon us! We look forward to seeing friends old and new and to spending a special time together. This year we would like to prepare one song to sing during one of the services. If you enjoy singing and are interested, please take a look at the music at home and we'll bring it together during a practice time at the convention (TBA).



Let's make this a cross-generational endeavour of girls and women lifting their voices to praise the Lord! Moms and daughters, grandmas and granddaughters — all are welcome. The song will be sung in unison and then three parts in the chorus. We always need more sopranos!

Deb Mulder

Note: The song will be sent to every lady that registers for the convention.

107th CZECHOSLOVAK BAPTIST CONVENTION July 7-10, 2016

THEREFORE GO! (Matthew 28:19)

Letting Go (Genesis 12:1-9, Mark 10:28-30)

Planting and Watering (Psalm 126:6, I Corinthians 3:5-8)

In The Form of A Servant (Philippians 2:5-7a, Romans 13:12-14)

Holding Out the Word of Life (Philippians 2:14:16)



Milan & Iva Kern
103rd Convention July 2012

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Milan and Iva Kern

Milan Kern is the president of the Czech Baptist Union

Mark & Gretchen Potma

The Potmas have served as church-planting missionaries in Prague since 1996



Mark & Gretchen Potma
with their children:
Luke, Elise, Ben & Noemi

Seasons

Petar Vlasic



It is said that our life consists of seasons, and I agree. Two Aprils ago, the good Lord called me to move to just outside Houston TX, so I packed up my things and did just that. In that season of transition, there was also an incident with a boy on a bicycle who ran out in front of my vehicle. Last year at this time, a year in my new home, was a season of preparation as I had by then met the woman I knew (although I hadn't yet proposed) was the gift the Lord had sent me to be by my side, and me by hers, for the rest of our lives. And this April? This April I write to you as a married man. A truly phenomenal season! God is good!

One of those seasons I have been enjoying (most of the time) since my graduate studies at Marshall University has been a career in management, a 14-year season of learning and growing. One of the integral things I learned in that time is the concept of servant leadership, in which the leader humbles him/herself by serving those being led. By doing so, the leader not only shows genuine care for those being led, but also provides an example of attitude for his/her team to accept and demonstrate to others. The examples of this can range from making breakfast for the staff to performing the staff's duties, coming in on weekends to work alongside staff, or any other number of activities, which show to the team their leader is willing to go the extra mile for the team's success. Such actions tend to breed loyalty to the leader and the team, resulting in the team feeling as one and performing above expectations.

Well, a few weeks ago I had the privilege of seeing this acted out by our CEO who, packing up a cart full of ice cream, chocolate syrup, root beer, and such, walked around the entire office of approximately 80 of us, serving ice cream, root beer floats, or anything else we wanted from that cart. A minor act of kindness? Perhaps, but still one that showed his dedication to and appreciation for all of us, one that will remain ingrained in all our hearts and minds for a while.

As I sat in my office pondering my

boss's humble act, it reminded me of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the perfect example of servant leadership (Philippians 2:6–8). From being born in a manger to being hung on a cross alongside criminals, everything he did, everything he said while on earth showed an immeasurable amount of love for us. And in doing so, Jesus personally showed us the life we ought to live: one in which our love for one another knows no bounds. It is in no way an easy life as it means sometimes choosing to bite our tongue when we have so much to say, sacrificing our personal time to help a friend in need, reaching out to someone whom society considers unreachable, forgiving someone who has hurt us but also asking for forgiveness when we've hurt someone else, or praying with someone on a night when all we want to do is relax. It is not easy, but how encouraging it is to know that since Jesus lived that life, he knows what we are going through, and if we just turn all aspects of our life over to Him, He will gladly guide us on our journey of becoming servant leaders, spreading His unending love to everyone we know.

Speaking of seasons, summer is close, and that means it's almost conference time! As in the last few years, we will be spending our time together in the beautiful rolling hills of Meadville PA, from July 7–10. Enjoying the warm summer weather, catching up on the past year's events, worshipping together, and heading out to the Pymatuning Lake are just some of activities on the docket for us! So come and join us and be ready for some fun!



Christmas in July?!?

Greetings from Aberdeen, Maryland! It's been such an exciting year since we were last together. I can only imagine how much all of you have changed as you have grown over the past year! I've been in awe as I've watched my little baby Sofia change over the past seven months, and I can't wait for you to meet her at this year's convention. It's almost that time again, can you believe it? The 107th Czechoslovak Baptist Convention is just around the corner, and this is your official invitation! We are doing something a little crazy this year, but a whole lot of fun

so you won't want to miss out! In case you're still wondering, we're having a big birthday party for Jesus! Just because it's not December doesn't mean we can't rejoice in the birth of our Savior in July (His birth is something to be celebrated EVERY DAY!). It will be a weekend full of 'Christmas' fun and joy as we learn about Mary, Joseph, and a very special little baby. Join us as we bring out the carols, bells, and maybe even a little snow to our Christmas summer celebration! See you there!

Mrs. Pickles



It's a birthday PARTY, and YOU'RE invited!

For: JESUS!

Date: July 7th-10th, 2016

Place: Allegheny College in Meadville, PA

Time: Thursday Night- Sunday Morning (We'll be celebrating a lot the whole weekend, so come when you can!)

RSVP: Your moms and dads can fill out a registration form at czskbc.org

*Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.*

Psalm 116:15

We have been sorrowfully rejoicing with friends and relatives as we have attended seven funerals in the past three months. We rejoice that each one who passed into God's presence lived a life of faith to the very end, and we are thankful for the impact each of them had on our lives. Each of them prayed for us and for other missionaries, so we are sorrowful at their passing. Two of them led prayer groups that prayed for missionaries, so please **PRAY** with us that God would raise up more people who will continue to spur others on in prayer that Jesus' name would be made known throughout the world.

Home Assignment Ministry



Gretchen's discussion group

Gretchen had the opportunity to facilitate a discussion group at the Alpha course being offered by one of our supporting churches. The Lord brought together a great group of women, one of whom was eager to be baptized. Since

Sandra works on Sundays, the pastor was willing to make her baptism part of the last evening of the course (March 2nd). It was a great evening as Sandra and others shared the stories of their spiritual journeys.

Besides increasing awareness about the spiritual needs of the Czech Republic as she speaks to women and children in our supporting churches, Gretchen has also been able to make the most of other opportunities to sharpen her ministry skills. Leading an evening women's Bible study and mentoring a young woman from our church in Windsor have been a blessing. She was also able to take an on-line course in language coaching which will allow her to more effectively help four new missionaries who will be arriving in Prague, Lord willing, in the fall.

Recently we had the privilege of participating in a weekend missions conference of a church whose heritage includes Czech and Slovak believers. Mark spoke once on Saturday evening and twice on Sunday morning, in Czech at the first



Mongolian conference in Prague

service, and then in English at the second service! Mark continues to keep in touch with our Czech church leaders by email and Skype calls. We are encouraged to hear about new members and new seekers who are being welcomed in each of our church locations in Prague.

Mongolian Conference in Europe

From March 4–6, the Mongolian Church in Prague hosted the annual conference of Mongolian Christians from across Europe. For each of the past five years, the Mongolian believers throughout Europe have gathered together in a different European city for worship, biblical teaching, fellowship and encouragement. This year's conference was held at a hotel in Prague, with more than 120 Mongolian believers in attendance. Hosting such a conference was a major accomplishment for the small fellowship of Mongolian believers that meets at the Skalka Church. We heard that the organization and program were well prepared and of high quality, and that the conference was a great success!

According to "Disciple All Nations", Mongolia has the 8th highest growth rate of Christianity (6% per year) and the 6th highest conversion rate to Christianity (4% per year) in the world! Christianity in Mongolia is far outpacing the rate of population growth (2% per year). While there were only four known Christians in all of Mongolia in 1989, today there are approximately 65,000 evangelical believers in Mongolia!

We see evidence that this rate of growth of Christianity is similar among Mongolians in Europe to what it is back in their home country. New ethnic Mongolian churches have sprouted up in cities and towns in Europe, including in the Czech Republic (Prague, Písek, Havlíčkův Brod, Česká Lípa, and Blansko). Mongolian believers are eager to reach their compatriots for Christ and to see new Mongolian-speaking



Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

My situation here in Abidjan is amazing! I live in a nice neighborhood and am staying at the home of some missionary friends. I have my office in the house, and this is my view. Pretty good working conditions.

Since I have been in Abidjan, WAO has sent out a young man, Ernest, to France, and is preparing another young man from Nigeria to go to Malawi and serve as a lab technician. We are working on two more couples to serve in church planting, one couple from Niger to go to Togo, and the other from Nigeria to serve in South Africa.

We also had an orientation for the chief surgeon and his wife, of Galmi Hospital in Niger.

In addition to preparing appointees for service, I also prepared and was involved in the West Africa Board meeting. This was held in Lomé, Togo, as there was a retreat of all the SIM Europe and West Africa leaders there.

I have much to praise God for:

- Good health
- Safety during a recent terrorist attack on Côte d'Ivoire
- Good WAO board meetings
- Appointees already serving and several waiting to go
- For the work done on the Let's Go book into French

Prayer Requests:

- To orientate each National Working Group in the West Africa region
 - Financial, spiritual and emotional support for appointees waiting to go
 - Daily strength and energy during the hot season in Abidjan
 - The Let's Go French edition to be published soon
- Once again thanking God for your partnership,

Ruby Mikulencak

The Potmas... Continues from page 22

churches planted. Through the generosity of a Christian publisher and a missions-supporting foundation, we were able to arrange for a shipment of 1,000 copies of the 16-page comic-format gospel booklet for children entitled "The Story of Jesus", to be delivered in time for the conference. As the conference attendees return to their host countries, they plan to use this evangelistic tool to reach not only children but entire families for Jesus Christ.

Noemi's Missions Trip to Nicaragua in March



Noemi and her grade 12 class from Maranatha Christian Academy will be serving on a short-term missions trip to Nicaragua from March 8–17. They will be working with experienced missionaries and helping them reach out to local children there through songs, stories, crafts and testimonies, all with the help of translation into Spanish. They'll have opportunities to visit

families in their homes and visit some of the local attractions, and be involved in physical work such as painting and building. We are grateful for the opportunity that Noemi and her classmates have to experience cross-cultural missions first-hand and in this way share Christ's love

among the nations.

When Mark asked Noemi to rate her missions trip to Nicaragua on a scale of 1 to 10, she immediately responded, "Ten!" PRAY that God would continue to use this trip in the lives of the Nicaraguans, the missionaries serving them and in these 12th grade students as they look to God for His will for their futures.

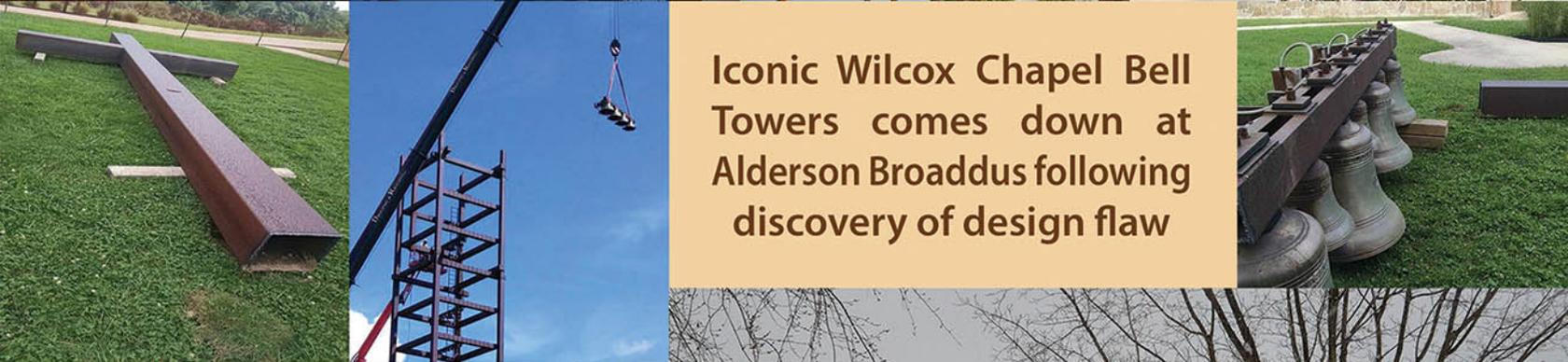
Prayer Points:

PRAYSE God with us and PRAY for many various opportunities for us to minister effectively and strategically during this year of Home Ministry Assignment.

PRAYSE God for the growth of the Mongolian Church in Mongolia, in Europe, and in Prague. PRAY for much fruit from the distribution of the "Story of Jesus" books.

PRAY that the body of Christ around the world would "possess the nations" through cross-cultural missions and "inhabit the desolate cities" by establishing and multiplying new churches everywhere.

Possessing the nations for Christ,
Mark & Gretchen Potma



Iconic Wilcox Chapel Bell Towers comes down at Alderson Broaddus following discovery of design flaw

