

Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

Vol. 44, N° 2, June 2018

Ročník 44, číslo 2, červen 2018

A woman with dark hair is shown in profile, reading a book. The book is illuminated from within, creating a bright, ethereal glow that radiates outwards, casting a soft light on her face and the surrounding dark space. The background is black, making the light from the book stand out prominently.

For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding Proverbs 2:6

Jen Hospodin přece dává moudrost,
poznání a rozumnost pramení z jeho úst Přísloví 2:6

Hospodin totiž dáva múdrosť
a z jeho úst vychádza poznanie a rozumnosť Príslovia 2:6

Contents

Editorial – Natasha Laurinc.....	3
From the President – Stan Mantle	4
From the Executive Secretary – Darko Siracki.....	5
Tentative Program of the 109 th Annual Convention.....	6
Pastor Stan Mantle Retirement – Marlene and Peter Klimchak....	7
God’s Calls—Jan & Ana Franka Mission Story	8
When Your Life Turns Upside Down – Part Nine.....	10
Když se život obrátí naruby – Část devátá	12
You Could Be Interested in.....	16
Mohlo by vás zajímat.....	17
In Memory – Sister Eva Titěrová/ Za sestrou Evou Titěrovou	18
Youth Page – Petar Vlasic.....	20
The Potmas.....	22

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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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The Lord Bestows Wisdom

When remembering one's decision to become a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ, one is also reminded of the reason for that decision. Memories may vary, but one element is the same for everyone: a fundamental lifestyle change always

occurs. From that moment on, there are as many subsequent steps and paths as there are individuals. Someone rushes ahead with barely contained enthusiasm, another plods forward cautiously while yet another stagnates altogether. God's word brings attention to the fact that followers of Jesus Christ are known by their fruit. (Matthew 7:16)

Each fruit needs favourable conditions for germination, growth and ripening. Only fruit that is ripe has gained its specific, sought after taste. This is a great analogy for the Christian life. After the decision to follow Christ has been made, growth must occur. There is only one way to develop spiritually and to grow. That is to focus and concentrate on God, persevering

in a right relationship with Jesus Christ. His words and teaching lead to the "tasty, ripe" fruit that emanates from a human being: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control. There is no law against these things. (Galatians 5:22)

The quality of fruit in a person's life has a direct correlation to a connection with God, who speaks, teaches and leads everyone that allows themselves to be led. Our heavenly father knows all, and he who perseveres in focusing on Him will grow and bear fruit. One can read about people such as these in our *Glorious Hope* magazine.

This issue contains the conclusion of one facet of the life of people who allowed themselves to be led by God even when life was turned upside down. A captivating testimony.

The people who influence us the most are not those who detain us with their continual talk, but those who live their lives like the stars in the sky and "the lilies of the field"— simply and unaffectedly. Those are the lives that mold and shape us.

Oswald Chambers

Editor-in-Chief *Natasha Laurinc*

Translated by *Elizabeth Jane Fields* □

Hospodin přece dává moudrost

Při vzpomínkách na vlastní rozhodnutí se k následování příkladu Pána Ježíše Krista si každý znovu uvědomí, proč se tak rozhodl. Vzpomínky jsou různé, ale jedno zůstává stejné: vždy dochází k zásadní změně ve způsobu dosavadního života. Následující kroky od onoho okamžiku se opět různí tak, jako se od sebe odlišují jednotliví jedinci. Někdo se rozběhne s těžko kontrolovatelným nadšením, jiný postupuje rozvážně, další zase stagnuje. Boží Slovo upozorňuje na to, že následovníky Ježíše Krista lze poznat podle jejich ovoce. (Matouš 7; 16)

Každé ovoce potřebuje vhodné podmínky pro svůj vznik, růst a zrání. Pouze zralé ovoce získá svou specifickou chuť, pro kterou se potom stane vyhledávaným. Je to krásné přirovnání k životu křesťana. Po rozhodnutí k následování Krista musí dojít k růstu. Existuje pouze jediný způsob, jak se duchovně rozvíjet a růst. A to je zaměření a soustředění se na Boha, vytrvalost ve správném vztahu k Ježíši Kristu. Jeho slova a celé učení vyústí v chutné a šťavnaté ovoce prostopující lidskou bytost: láska, radost, pokoj, trpělivost, laskavost, dobrota, věrnost, mírnost a zdrženlivost. Tomu se žádný zákon nevyrovná. (Galatským 5:22)

Jaké kdo přinese ovoce ve svém životě je v přímé úměře s napojením se na Boha, který oslovuje, vyučuje a vede každého, kdo se vést nechá. Náš nebeský Otec zná všechny souvislosti



a ten, kdo setrvává v zaměření se na Něho, poroste a přinese ovoce. O takových lidech se dočítáte i na stránkách našeho časopisu, *Slavné naděje*.

V tomto čísle končí přetisk zápisu jednoho odseku života lidí, kteří se Bohem nechávají vést, i když se život obrátil naruby. Strhující svědectví.

"Lidé, kteří nás ovlivňují nejvíce, nejsou ti, kteří hodně mluví, ale ti, kteří žijí prostě a nenápadně jako hvězdy na obloze nebo polní kvítí. Takové životy, které nás formují." Oswald Chambers

Natasha Laurincová, šéfredaktorka □

From the President

After a long winter the wonderful miracle of Spring has come. What just a few weeks ago was barren and desolate is waking up.

*Shoots amazingly pushing up through hard soil,
Bare trees being clothed in green finery again,
Buds ready to burst in magnificent display,
Glorious life: Awakening, Irresistible, Reclaiming
Every nook and cranny of the world.*

The amazing miracle of life, however, wouldn't be possible without water. Water and life are intricately intertwined. Thus, Jesus' offer of "living water" is full of significance. As plant and animal life are dependent upon water, so the human soul thirsts for the spiritual water Jesus provides.

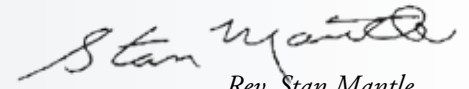
This is your invitation to the 108th Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention being held July 5–8 at Allegheny College, in Meadville, PA. This year's theme is "SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER". Come, to rest and relax beside the stream of fellowship. Come and drink deeply of a different kind of water, which restores the soul and satisfies the longing heart. Come to be reinvigorated for the adventure of Mission, sharing the

Water that sustains Life that never ends.

As always, continuing this good work calls for the commitment of time and treasure. Coming together means setting aside the time, making space in our calendar for something precious and important. Giving means sharing the resources entrusted to us for the ongoing work and mission of the Convention. Would you consider a gift to the Convention as our annual gathering is quickly approaching. Many of us have been busy planting in our gardens this spring. A financial gift just now is a way of planting in the Convention garden in hope and faith for what the Lord will make grow.

Heather and I are especially looking forward to being with you at Meadville in just a couple of weeks. Unexpectedly, last year we were suddenly unable to come. Sincere thanks to everyone who prayed for us. They say absence makes the heart grow fonder, and it is true. We are thirsty for the warm community and camaraderie in Christ we share. We hope you are too.

Affectionately,


Rev. Stan Mantle



Youth at the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention
Meadville, July 2013

From the Executive Secretary



We are looking forward to our 109th convention, to be held at Allegheny College, in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Be sure to mark and save the dates of July 5–8, 2018. Please note that the convention starts just one day after the July 4th holiday. Please adjust your travel plans accordingly.

The theme set for this convention is **SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER** (John 7:37–38, Rev. 7:17)

This is an election year in the life of our convention. General Board members will be chosen to a 4–year mandate. This is a unique opportunity for you to suggest a new Board member that will possibly bring fresh ideas and energy, and serve our Lord and all delegates of the convention in this capacity. Your

nominations and suggestions are welcomed by mail or email:

Czechoslovak Baptist Convention
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A tentative program is printed on the next page, and the latest version of the program, as well as the registration form, is available on our web site www.czskbc.org

Lord willing, hope to see you all in just a few weeks.

In His service,

Darko Siracki
Executive Secretary
Czechoslovak Baptist Convention
darkosiracki@czskbc.org

□

THEME AND TOPICS FOR 109th CZECHOSLOVAK BAPTIST CONVENTION July 5-8, 2018

Springs of Living Water (John 7:37–38, Rev. 7:17)

Thurs. July 5 **Quiet Water – He Restores My Soul** (Psalm 23:2–3a)

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

Fri. July 6 **Living Water – He Satisfies My Thirst** (John 4:13–14)

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

Sat. July 7 **Old Wells and New – He Guides and Prospers His servants** (Genesis 26:17–33)

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

Sun. July 8 **Baptismal Water – Buried and Reborn** (Romans 6:3–4)

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



Allegheny College — Meadville, Pennsylvania

109th Czechoslovak Baptist Convention

Tentative Program of the 109th Annual Convention

July 5–8, 2018 Meadville PA

Theme: **SPRINGS OF LIVING WATER** (John 7:37–38, Rev. 7:17)

Thursday, July 5, 2018

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

5:00 P.M. Dinner

7:00 P.M. CONVENTION OPENING SERVICE

Sermon: *Steven Mattocks – First Baptist Church, Meadville PA*
Worship & Song Leader: *Tim Racinsky*

Sermon: Quiet Water – He Restores My Soul (Psalm 23:2–3a)
“...he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.” Psalm 23:2–3a

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

Friday, July 6, 2018

8:00 A.M. Breakfast

9:00 A.M. **Ladies Missionary Rally:**
Men’s Fellowship Hour:

10:00 A.M. CONVENTION BUSINESS SESSION

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, Pickleball)

3:00–4:00 P.M. Swimming Pool

5:00 P.M. CONVENTION PICNIC

Sermon: *Tim Racinsky*
Worship: *Convention Youth*

Sermon: Living Water – He Satisfies My Thirst (John 4:13–14)
“...whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:14

Saturday, July 7, 2018

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: *Ruby Mikulencak*

Czechoslovak Bible Study: *Jan Franka*

10:00 A.M. MISSIONARY REPORTS

12:00 P.M. Lunch

2:00–4:00 P.M. Activity Recess (Basketball, Pickleball)

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: *Nico Mulder*
Worship: *Convention Youth*

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

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

Sunday, July 8, 2018

8:00 A.M. Breakfast

9:00 A.M. **BIBLE STUDY & MEMORIAL SERVICE**

@ Ford Chapel

English Bible Study: *Ruby Mikulencak*

10:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sermon: *Rev. Stan Mantle*
Worship: *Convention Youth*
Communion

Sermon: Baptismal Water – Buried and Reborn (Romans 6:3–4)
“We were... buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life.” Romans 6:4

12:00 P.M. Lunch

Pastor Stan Mantle Retirement

On July 31, 2017, after 30 years in the ministry and at Grace Baptist Church, Pastor Stan Mantle retired.

Pastor Stan was married with two children when God called him into the ministry. This could not have been an easy decision, as he already had a career going strong as a system analyst at Scotia Bank; after all, this is what he went to school for and planned on doing with his life.

Deciding to become a minister meant he would have to give up his position at the bank to go away to start school again. His wife, Heather, would also have to give up her job as the head of a nursery school. He had to consider that a pastor's life is not an easy one: you work all kinds of hours with no overtime pay, you never know when you will be called upon to minister to the hurting, sick or dying, you have many bosses (the whole church), your family has to be part of your ministry, and many more tasks that would not be expected in a regular job.

Deciding to become a pastor must have taken many hours of prayer for Stan and Heather. In the end they made the decision to follow God's leading and to go to Acadia to school. Heather was going to work so it would be financially manageable. With that, they told both sets of parents that they were going to pursue the ministry. The week after telling their parents, Heather found out she was pregnant with her third child, which meant she would be unable to go to work as originally planned. Now, that must have given them second thoughts about the future, but they felt it was God's calling and they went.

Grace Baptist asked Stan to preach for a call on Easter weekend of 1987 right out of school, and though he was apprehensive at first, again he followed the call of God, and in July 1987 Stan became the senior pastor of Grace Baptist. Both he and Heather went right to work in the church and became active members of the church family. There they remained for thirty years, still answering God's call and ministering to the Grace family.

Marlene and Peter Klimchak



God's Calls

Jan & Ana Franka Mission Story

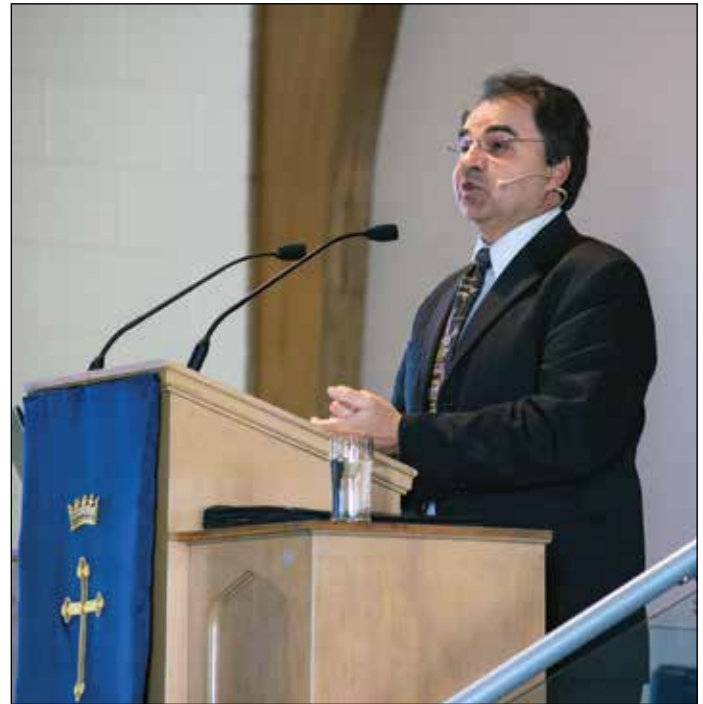
During last two years on our devotionals, God has been speaking to us, that after 14 years of ministry at Grace Baptist Church, the time has come to “move our tent” and serve Him in a different way in different country.

For years we have been in contact with Mission agency ABWE (Across the Border for World Evangelism) and in 2009 we went on Short Mission trip to Serbia with them. When we shared our call to them last year, they were excited with our call and vision for the ministry in Slovakia and Serbia. We were accepted as ABWE Missionaries in July 2017.

Ten years ago, we initiated to open account at Czechoslovak Baptist Convention with the name “Slovak Mission in Serbia” for the purpose to financially help Slovak churches in Serbia in their Missional initiatives, not even guessing that ten years later Lord will send us there, not only helping them financially, but practically in person. We would like to share with you how we understand The Call Biblically and practically.

In the New Testament, we recognize three types of God's calls.

1. The Church is called out of this world - and named “*ecclesia*” – which means “called out of the world”. Then, the



Rev. Jan Franka

you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age”. This call is for everyone, the whole church, and for each generation - not just for the early church. Peter is repeating this call with different wording in 1 Pet. 3:15 “*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*”

2. The second call is the call into a ministry (Ef. 4:11): “*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.*” I (Jan) was sixteen when I was called out of this world and came to Christ. When I was seventeen, I receive the God's call to ministry. Apostol Paul received both of God's calls on the way to Damascus. It was an extra ordinary call. The Lord spoke to him in the audible voice.

3. The third call is the call for a specific ministry-field. Paul received this kind of call in Acts 16:6–10. “*Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and*



Jan, Ben and Ana Franka

church received the Great Commission from the Lord in Mat. 28:19–20 “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded*



Ana Franka preaching

Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." This obstruction was not from Satan. Simply,



Ben recording

the Holy Spirit changed their direction according to His divine purpose — to reach the whole world with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Holy Spirit is here as “Divine GPS”.

God has called us to Serbia and Slovakia to help in evangelism; in teaching the Word of God; in Church-planting; and in multiplying through the following ministries:

1. Ministry through Bibles and Christian literature in Serbia.

In the whole of Serbia, there is not a single evangelical bookstore. As the Reformation never took place in the Orthodox Church, the Bible stayed buried under a very strong tradition (paganism baptized in the Christian form), and Bible has never been preached to the people. The Gospel of Jesus Christ never revealed. The way of God’s salvation by grace suppressed and twisted into a men’s salvation by works.

2. Media Ministry in Slovakia and Serbia. Radio Ministry in Slovakia. The Editorial Office of Christian Online Radio Logos has asked us to help them with the re-starting of 24/7 broadcast with preparing radio-messages.

www.radiologos.sk
www.facebook.com/OnlineRadioLogos

Translating and publishing Christian books and DVDs in Serbian and Slovak language. This ministry started at Grace Baptist Church of Windsor, translating the Day of Discovery’s Documentaries. All materials are available on www.Discovery-Video.com Czechoslovak Baptist Convention supported this ministry for last several years.

3. Church ministry in Serbia will be in helping the local churches to grow and evangelize.

PRAY for us and these enterprises.

Pastor *Jan and Ana Franka*



□

When Your Life Turns Upside Down

Based on a true life story

Part Nine: Conclusion – To God Be the Glory

1 – Lydie's Story

If someone asked me to sum up what kept me above water all those years, what gave me strength in the hardest times and gave me courage to keep on living, I would definitely say that it was my faith in the living God, in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The key moment that changed my thinking and healed my soul happened all those years back when I was in hospital and I read the 17th chapter of Jeremiah:

⁵ Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶ That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,

in a salt land where no one lives.

⁷ "But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.

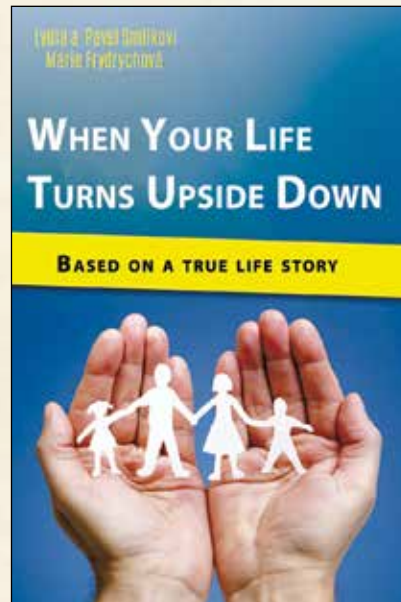
⁸ They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

(Jeremiah 17: 5–8)

I grew up in the loving environment of the extended family of God's children, and in a community like that it is easy to rely more on people than on God. So I had to learn to be disciplined.

On the day when I decided that I would no longer rely on people but I would try to trust God as much as I



could, my soul was really healed. When I was a child, my greatest fear had been that I would suffer from an incurable disease. And disease had come.

But the Lord Jesus taught me and is still teaching me not to worry about what is going on around me. To trust Him completely until the very end. Some people say,

"If God existed, how could he allow all those bad things to happen?" I have quite the opposite experience.

In its own way, everything that happened in a different way to what I had been planning myself was good.

It was good when at the age of fifteen I had to commute to school every day because I learned how to overcome difficulties. It was good that I wasn't allowed to study at university, because if I had become ill when I was a student, I wouldn't have been married, I wouldn't have had a daughter, I wouldn't have had anything. It was good that I was teaching adults instead

of children at school, because I got to know a lady who helped me to get my very unusual disease diagnosed in time. It was great that I didn't get married to the mechanical engineer but that my husband was a doctor. It was fantastic that I knew so many languages because wherever I found myself, I was able to speak about the miracles I had experienced.

I remember one of our holidays in Switzerland. Dagmar was already married and Pavel, his fiancé Lada and a friend of hers had come with us. The men wanted to climb up to a glacier.

We took the cable car up to a height of about 2000 metres to Engstligenalp in the Bern area, where the locals had created a plateau for wheelchair users under the 3000-metre peaks. It was an area with benches, used not only by wheelchair users but also other tourists who didn't feel like any more walking.

"Lydie, please don't do anything too difficult. Just walk around slowly and take a seat on the benches. Wait for us here," Pavel advised me, and the men walked off.

Lada and her friend didn't intend to go up to the glacier either, but they decided to go for a long walk, while I just walked slowly around the benches. I had the whole day ahead of me, as they had set off in the morning and we had agreed to meet for the final cable car, which was at 4.30PM. I admired the beautiful countryside, took in deep breaths of the wonderfully clean air and prayed that if the Lord wanted me to speak to someone He would send them my way. And He did.

Firstly, some Belgians sat down beside me, then some Dutch people

and finally some Germans. They just came over of their own accord. As we were speaking I always said that my husband and our son were just climbing up to the glacier, and how it was really a miracle that our son could do anything like that. And I told my story. Sometimes in German, sometimes in English. The Belgian lady said to me as they were leaving,

“You have a really powerful story. I used to go to meetings with some Christians, but there was something I didn’t like about going there and I got a bit disappointed so I stopped going there. You know, I think I should do something about it. I’m going to start going there again.”

As it was getting late, I walked slowly back to the cable car. There was a married couple sitting on the last bench. I wasn’t sure if I should speak to them, but then I thought,

“No, I don’t want to bother anyone. But Lord, if you want me to speak to them, bring them closer to me somehow.”

Suddenly my phone rang. It was a mobile operator, offering me something, and I answered that I was in Switzerland so I couldn’t speak to him right now and he should call back another time.

At that moment the man and lady got up from the bench and came over to me and the man said,

“I can hear someone speaking Czech!” I think it was the first time in my life that I have ever been grateful for an unexpected call from an operator!

I started to speak to the Czech couple. They both worked in the health service, somewhere in Jičín. I think that he was a doctor and she was a nurse. It wasn’t hard to start talking about our story. It turned into about an hour-long conversation, and both of them were really interested in what I had to say.

From talking about my illness we quickly got on to speaking about

Pavel’s miraculous birth, but also about the Lord Jesus. Our conversation continued until the men and Lada and her friend arrived back. The couple could see then that I wasn’t making it up.

I think people should look back on their lives from time to time so they can realise how even the hard times led to something good.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8: 28)

The question remains, what about the children?

I tried to be as open as possible with them. We didn’t hide anything from the children. We prayed together in every situation and before every medical intervention. Every day the four of us sat down in a circle and brought every single problem, whether big or small, before God. That’s how even as a small child I had learned to rely on God and on the Lord Jesus. That was what I wanted more than anything. To teach my children to rely on God even if I was no longer with them. Someone asked me,

“Are your children Christians too? Didn’t they become bitter towards God?” My greatest reward in all of this is to be able to say,

“My children are both believers and they follow the Lord Jesus as best they can.”

My second greatest joy is that my husband and I have been able to serve a lot of sick people. The leaflet with my testimony has already been reprinted twice, as our son has grown up. Apart from that we have also recorded a lecture about the meaning of suffering and we encourage ill people wherever God sends us – usually in hospitals. Pavel can speak differently to his patients and to colleagues than I can, but we complement one another. Our work may not be known to the media, as Pavel doesn’t like any form of publicity, but we gladly go wherever the Lord Jesus

sends us to speak about Him, in the various languages we are able to speak. How could I not speak about Him, when thirty-six years ago a well-known expert told me that with my diagnosis I might live for anything between two months and two years, while my Saviour has been adding to those years and will continue for as long as He wants.

How could I be quiet about that? How could I not praise Him?

The Lord Jesus once said that he is a doctor who came for the sick. And that is really true, and I praise and thank Him every day for it. The reason I am telling my story now is so I can praise Him through it.

2- Pavel’s story

If someone finds out that they have cancer or another incurable disease, it’s like getting a death sentence written above your head. Of course, that’s not totally true these days, as thanks to medical science the end of life can be postponed, but no-one has total control over the length of their life. Even with the best medical care, none of us can say how long we are going to live.

But we all have the power to change the quality of our lives. We have control over it through our thoughts and our behaviour.

If we live with someone with a serious illness, we need to ensure the best quality of life possible for ourselves and for that person, especially if the illness lasts for several years. Sometimes the people around the sick person are worse off than the person him- or herself. Personally, I tried to make sure that we went on a nice holiday at least once a year so we could be together and enjoy each other’s company. In our hectic lives full of work and church responsibilities that doesn’t happen easily. But I made sure we did it in our family.

However, no psychological advice can completely remove the oppressive tension caused by such a total change in your life. Even the help of my loved

Když se život obrátí naruby

Skutečný životní příběh

Část devátá

1 – Vypráví Lydie

Mám-li jednoznačně vyjádřit, co mě po celá ta léta drželo nad vodou, co mi dodávalo sílu a i v těch nejtěžších chvílích mi propůjčovalo odvahu žít, musím jasně říci: Byla to víra v živého Boha, v Pána Ježíše Krista.

Opravdu největší přerod v mé mysli a v mé duši nastal tehdy před lety, když jsem si v nemocnici přečetla slova ze 17. kapitoly proroka Jeremjáše:

Proklet buď muž, který doufá v člověka, opírá se o pouhé tělo a srdcem se odvrací od Hospodina.

Bude jako jalovec v pustině, který neokusí přicházející dobro. Bude přebývat ve vyprahlém kraji, v poušti, v zemi solných plání, kde nelze bydlet.

Požehbán buď muž, který doufá v Hospodina, který důvěřuje Hospodinu.

Bude jako strom zasazený u vody; své kořeny zapustí u vodního toku, nezakusí přicházející žár. Jeho listí je zelené, v roce sucha se ničeho neobává, nepřestává nést plody.

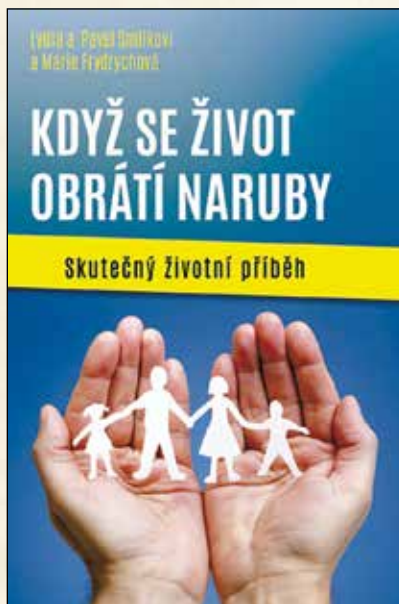
(Jeremjáš 17,5–8)

Ten den, kdy jsem se rozhodla, že nebudu spoléhat na lidi, lékařské kapacity, ale budu skutečně důvěřovat Bohu, ten den opravdu byl uzdraven můj postoj k nemoci. Ne že musím být za každou cenu zdravá, ale jeho rozhodnutí bude pro mne nejlepší.

Jako děvče jsem se ze všeho nejvíc bála těžké, nevlýčitelné choroby. A pak taková nemoc přišla.

Ale Pán Ježíš mě učil a stále učí neděsit se okolností. Učí mne věřit jemu samotnému až do úplného konce.

Někteří lidé říkají: „Kdyby byl Bůh,



jak by mohl dopustit všechno to zlo?“

Moje zkušenost je opačná.

Svým způsobem všechno, co bylo trochu jinak, než jsem měla v plánu, mi bylo k dobrému.

Bylo dobré, že už jako patnáctiletá jsem musela dojíždět denně do školy, a tak jsem se učila překonávat nesnáze.

Bylo dobré, že jsem nesměla studovat vysokou školu, protože kdyby mě nemoc zastihla jako studentku, nebyla bych vdaná, neměla bych dceru — nebylo by nic.

Bylo dobré, že jsem učila na OKUS dospělý, místo dětí ve škole, protože jsem se blíže seznámila se ženou, která napomohla k včasnému rozoznání neobvyklé diagnózy.

Bylo skvělé, že jsem se nevdala za strojního inženýra, ale mým manželem se stal — lékař.

Bylo bezvadné, že jsem znala několik jazyků, takže ať jsem se ocitla, kde

jsem se ocitla, mohla jsem o zázracích, které jsem prožila, mluvit.

Pamatuji se, jak jsme jeli na další dovolenou do Švýcarska. To už byla Dagmarka vdaná, Pavlík měl známost a jeho snoubenka Ladka a její kamarádka byly s námi.

Chlapi chtěli vylézt na ledovec. Vyjeli jsme lanovkou na Engstligenalp v oblasti Bernu do výšky asi dvou tisíc metrů, kde Švýcaři vystavěli na náhorní plošině pod třítisícovkami cesty tak, aby sloužily vozíčkářům. Byl to areál s lavičkami, kde se nezdržovali jen lidé na vozíčku, ale i turisté, kterým se nechtělo zdolávat další výšky.

„Lydie, prosím tě, nedělej nic těžkého, pomaličku od lavičky k lavičce posedávej a počkej tu na nás,“ zněla Pavlova rada, a pak se chlapi od nás odpojili.

Ani Ladka se svou kamarádkou nemínily lézt na ledovec, ale rozhodly se pro delší výlet, kdežto já jsem opravdu přecházela od lavičky k lavičce. Měla jsem na to v podstatě celý den, protože jsme se rozešli dopoledne a byli jsme domluveni, že se všichni sejdem u poslední lanovky, která odjížděla o půl páté.

Kochala jsem se nádhernou přírodou, zhluboka jsem vdechovala dokonale čistý vzduch a modlila jsem se, mám-li s někým mluvit, ať mi Pán Ježíš nějaké lidi pošle. A on posílal.

Nejdřív si ke mně přisedli Belgičané, potom Holanďané a pak Němci. Sami od sebe. V našich rozhovorech jsem vždycky použila toho, že manžel se synem právě lezou na ledovec, a že je to vlastně zázrak, že ten chlapec

může dělat takové věci. A rozvyprávěla jsem se. Tu německy, tu anglicky. Ta Belgičanka mi dokonce při loučení řekla: „Váš příběh je opravdu silný. Také jsem chodila mezi křesťany, ale něco se mi tam nelíbilo, trochu jsem se zklamala a tak jsem přestala. Ale vidím, že bych to měla napravit. Víte, že zase znovu začnu?“

Když už se schylovalo k podvečeru, vracela jsem se pomalu k lanovce. Na předposlední lavičce seděl manžel-ský pár. Váhala jsem, jestli je nemám oslovit sama, ale pak jsem si řekla: „Ne, to ne, obtěžovat nikoho nebudu. Ale jestli, Pane Ježíši chceš, tak mi je nějak přiblíž.“

Náhle mi zazvonil mobil. Volal mi mobilní operátor, že má pro mne skvělou nabídku, a já odpovídala, že jsem ve Švýcarsku a teď s ním nemohu komunikovat, ať zavolá později.

V tu chvíli se zvedl pán z druhé lavičky i se svou paní, přišli ke mně a pán zvolal: „Tady slyším nějakou češtinu.“ Bylo to myslím poprvé v životě, kdy jsem byla za nečekané zavolání mobilního operátora opravdu vděčná.

S českým párem jsem se dala do řeči. Příchozí byli oba zdravotníci, někde od Jičína. Mám dojem, že on byl lékař a ona zdravotní sestra. Nebylo těžké jim vyprávět náš příběh. Vyvinul se z toho asi hodinový rozhovor, který je oba zřejmě velice zaujal.

Přes nemoc jsem se velmi rychle dostala k tomu, abych jim pověděla nejen o Pavlíkově zázračném narození, ale i o Pánu Ježíši. Bavili jsme se až do doby, než se chlapi i Ladka se svou kamarádkou vrátili, a moji společníci mohli vidět, že si nevymýšlím.

Člověk se má čas od času podívat zpátky na svůj život, aby zjistil, jak i těžké věci mu napomohly k dobrému. Protože těm, kdo milují Boha, všechny věci napomáhají k dobrému.

Samozřejmě že tu zůstává otázka: A co děti?

Snažila jsem se vůči nim o maximální otevřenost. Před dětmi jsme nic netajili. Za každou situaci, za každý

lékařský zákrok jsme se společně modlili. Ano, všichni čtyři jsme sedali v kroužku a každou maličkost i velký problém, můj i jejich, jsme denně předkládali Bohu. A tak jsem je od malička učila spoléhat se hlavně na Pána Boha, na Pána Ježíše. Protože to jsem si opravdu ze všeho nejvíc přála. Naučit je spoléhat se na Boha, i když já tu nebudu.

Někdo se mě zeptal: „A co vaše děti, jsou také věřící? Nezatvrdily se vůči Pánu Bohu?“

Je mou největší odměnou za to všechno, že mohu radostně říci: Moje děti jsou věřící a následují Pána Ježíše, jak nejlépe umí.

A mou druhou velkou radostí je, že jsme se s manželem mohli věnovat mnohým nemocným. Letáček s mým svěděctvím jsme již dvakrát aktualizovali, tak jak stárnou naše děti a vnoučata. Kromě toho jsme natočili i kazetu s přednáškou o smyslu utrpení a nemocné lidi povzbuzujeme všude tam, kam nás Pán Bůh pošle. Zpravidla přímo v terénu. Jinak může mluvit s pacienty i s kolegy Pavel, jinak já, ale doplňujeme se. Naše práce možná není mediálně známá, Pavel si totiž na žádnou publicitu nepotrpí, ale kamkoli nás Pán Ježíš pošle, tam jdeme a s radostí o něm mluvíme. Ať už česky, německy nebo anglicky. A proč ne, když před třiceti šesti lety řekl významný odborník, že s mou diagnózou budu žít možná dva měsíce, ale nejvýš dva roky, zatímco můj drahý Spasitel tu dobu prodlužuje rok od roku, o kolik chce On sám.

Jak bych o něm mohla mlčet? Jak bych ho mohla nechválit?

Pán Ježíš jednou prohlásil, že on je lékař, který přišel kvůli nemocným. A to je pravda a já ho za to oslavuji den co den. Jen proto, abych ho oslavila, vám svůj příběh vyprávím.

2 – Vypráví Pavel

Jestliže se člověk dozví, že má rakovinu nebo jinou nevléčitelnou nemoc, je to, jako by nad ním byl vypsán ortel

smrti. To samozřejmě není úplně pravda, protože lékařská věda dnes už umí konec života oddálit, ale žádný člověk nemá délku života zcela ve své moci. Ani při sebelepší lékařské péči nikdo z nás nemůže sám sobě zaručit, jak dlouho bude žít.

Všichni však můžeme ovlivnit kvalitu svého života. Tu naopak určujeme svým myšlením a svým jednáním.

Pokud žijeme s vážně nemocným člověkem, potřebujeme sobě i jemu zajistit co nejkvalitnější život. Obzvlášť trvá-li nemoc léta. Někdy ti kolem jsou na tom hůř než sám nemocný.

Osobně jsem se snažil, abychom alespoň jednou za rok vyjžděli na pěknou dovolenou, byli spolu a jeden druhého si užili. To není v předimenzovaném životě plném práce a angažovanosti v církevním společenství samo sebou. Ale dbal jsem na to, aby v naší rodině to tak bylo.

Nicméně žádná psychologická rada úplně neodstraní tíživé napětí způsobené naprostou změnou života. Dokonce ani pomoc milujících blízkých a přátel, jakkoliv je cenná, nestačí na utišení oné hluboce vnitřní otázky: „Co bude dál?“ A tady všichni cítíme nebo tušíme, že potřebujeme někoho, kdo je silnější než my.

Já sám hledám veškerou svou sílu v osobě Pána Ježíše Krista. Za délku trvání své lékařské praxe jsem si všiml, že podstatně lépe než nevěrci nebo formální křesťané snáší nevléčitelnou nemoc člověk, který má osobní vztah s Bohem.

Proč je osobní vztah s ním tak důležitý?

V Bibli je napsáno: „*Byly to však naše nemoci, jež nesl, naše bolesti na sebe vzal, ale domnívali jsme se, že je raněn, ubit od Boba a pokořen. Jenže on byl proklán pro naši nevěrnost, zmučen pro naši nepravost. Trestání snášel pro náš pokoj, jeho jizvami jsme uzdraveni. Všichni jsme bloudili jako ovce, každý z nás se dal svou cestou, jej však Hospodin postihl pro nepravost nás všech.*“

(Izajáš 53,4–6)

To je důvod, proč nám Bůh Syn



Smilek family

ones and close friends, while valuable, was not enough to answer that deep inner question of “what next?” At this point, we all feel that we need someone who is greater than we are. I seek all my strength in the person of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 6: 10) During my time as a doctor, I have noticed that people who have a personal relationship with God are able to bear incurable illnesses much better than just formal Christians or unbelievers. Why is it so important to have a personal relationship?

In the Bible it says:

4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53: 4–6)

That is why God the Son, Jesus

Christ, can understand us better than other people can. He experienced pre-death agony, when he knew he would be arrested and sentenced to death. On the cross he suffered both physical pain and the mental pain of loneliness. Dying on the cross was a gradual torture by suffocation. This kind of suffocation is the worst death there is. But the Lord Jesus went through this terrible death to take our suffering, pain, fear and sin upon Himself so we could have peace with God the Father, who is absolutely just. In resurrection he defeated death itself.

Once we understand who the Lord Jesus is, what He has done for us and that he is alive, then we will find a much greater peace than even the best people can give us. Forgiveness, safety in solitude, and solace in sorrow.

The Lord Jesus once stood on the street and called out: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11: 28 – 30)

What is rest? Some people confuse rest with escape. Escape through alcohol, entertainment, unfaithfulness, but also through travelling, and other things.

The most common cause of our restlessness, nervousness and tension is sin. Sin, unconfessed guilt, is the burden that robs us of our peace, and it often drags on, even for years.

The rest which the Lord Jesus is talking about comes from the forgiveness of our sins. Coming to Jesus Christ means trusting Him. Faith in the

Lord Jesus begins by taking the words of Scripture seriously and starting to change our thinking and our actions based on these words. The moment we start to believe the word of God, then the days when we experience fear and pain can be transformed into days when we get closer to God and we experience reconciliation.

I would say that times of clutching after something, of uncertainty, fear and fumbling around in the dark (which are all brought on by a serious illness) are extremely valuable in our lives. They help us to seek God and to bring our questions to Him. These are special moments, which we normally do not make time for in the hustle and bustle of the day, but they are extremely important. Perhaps the most important of all.

I believe that the real quality of life does not come from external things, but primarily from a relationship with God through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, through his death on the cross and resurrection, and the offer of eternal life.

The Lord Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

This invitation is open to everyone, even you.

Postscript

It is Sunday morning, the 1st of June, 2014. The sun is shining into the sanctuary of the Brno Baptist Church through the stained glass window of the cross set in the front wall. The service begins with the Lord's Supper. On the table there are silver cups with red wine, reminders of the blood of Jesus, which he shed for us on the cross, and on the trays there are pieces of bread, symbolising the body of Jesus, which he gave for us through his death on the cross.

Do this in remembrance of me! (Luke 22: 19- 20)

The stained glass cross shines into the room and the atmosphere is full of gratitude. Pastor Coufal stands up and into the quiet atmosphere of concentration he says the words which were Lydie's prayer all through the time of her illness:

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.* (Psalm 46:1)

Lydie and Pavel are sitting at the front. They are surrounded by children and grandchildren. Dagmar and her husband have come down from Prague and their four children are all trying to sit as close as they can to their grandparents. Twelve-year-old Natanael, nine-year-old Samuel, six-year-old Debora and three-year-old Rút. All of them are going to Lydie's for lunch. She has cooked for twelve people.

The Lord's Supper is coming to an end and the pastor asks the Smileks to come up to the front so he can pray a blessing on their child. But he doesn't mean Lydie and Pavel. At the back of the church is a tall, robust twenty-nine-year old man and next to him is a tall, beautiful young lady. Pavel and Lada go to the front, holding their five-month-

old son Mikuláš.

Baptists do not baptise small children, because they believe that baptism is a confirmation of personal repentance and a personal decision to follow the Lord Jesus, which a small child cannot do. But following the example of Jesus, who blessed young children and prayed for them, they also pray for young children in their services and ask for God's blessing on their lives.

"The name Mikuláš is the same as the Greek Nicolaos. Nico is translated as victory and laos as people."

The pastor says he hopes and prays that this little boy will always be victorious in the fight against evil. Then he prays for the child and blesses him with Aaron's blessing.

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face towards you and give you peace."

(Numbers 6:24-27)

He prays for the parents, while the plump little baby looks keenly round the room full of people. Other people in the sanctuary join in with the prayers, especially those who have prayed with Lydie for the whole thirty-six years. Does Lydie remember the terrible moment when the American doctor told her,

"If you were my wife, I wouldn't hesitate for a moment?"

Maybe she doesn't think about it, because what is the word of one person compared to the promises which we have in God!

Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who draws strength from mere flesh...

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.

The congregation stands up and everyone sings an old hymn, the chorus reaching right up to the heavens:

Then sings my soul, my saviour, unto Thee,

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

The cross shines brightly.

Then sings my soul, my saviour, unto Thee,

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

□



Daughter Dagmar with family today

You Could Be Interested in...

10th Annual National Bible Reading under the auspices of the Czech Evangelical Alliance and the Ecumenical Council of Churches

The Czech Evangelical Alliance and the Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Czech Republic took over the patronage of this year's jubilee edition of the National Bible Reading. We are grateful for the expressed support and encouraging words of the Secretary of the Czech Evangelical Alliance, Mr. Jiří Unger: "We rejoice in the opportunity of sharing the treasures of Scripture in this form, and we hope that the largest number of churches and communities throughout the Czech Republic will join the campaign."

The first nationwide reading of the Bible, a translation of the 21st century, took place on the occasion of the publication of its new translation into contemporary Czech (NBK–New Bible Kralická, 2009). The nationwide reading of the Bible was symbolically initiated by evening reading on April 9, 2009, in the Prague Bethlehem Chapel with the participation of VIPs, actors and the media. Czech Television and Czech Radio 6 became the media partners of the National Reading.

This translation came about after a fifteen-year effort by the entire team of translators. The purpose was to point out the historical and cultural value of this old book, which is up-to-date even today.

The non-stop reading of the Bible at Easter 2009 involved more than 80 cities. In 11 places the Bible was read in three days, elsewhere the New Testament, or the popular passages were read. For many it was the first time they had met this book. Similarly, the New Act was read in 2004 at the Bridge (na Můstku) in Prague.

News in BJB

120 years of life and service of the Brno Church On 13 March, 1898, five brothers and sisters met in Brno to establish the first Baptist Church in Moravia. They decided to live by the New Testament teachings and, in particular, for their church, they adopted the following principles:

- 1) Accept only spiritually reborn people to the Church.
- 2) Do baptism only according to the apostolic way.
- 3) Do discipline according to the apostolic way.
- 4) Make every effort to participate in the mission.
- 5) Do not acknowledge the rank of the Church greater than the rank of the brethren.
- 6) Develop a cordial love, especially brotherly love for fellow believers and love for all people.

On Sunday, March 11, 2018, a commemorative celebration was held in Brno, not only of that day of the foundation of the congregation but above all to celebrate the Lord God for

120 years of his grace and his works. This church was and is endowed with many blessed servants of God, devoted preachers of the Gospel and Christians focusing on mission.

CONFERENCE PREPARATION

One hundred years together

The 100-year conference should take place in October 2019 as part of a hundred-year anniversary of the Baptist Unity in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Journal of the Czech Baptist Union

A new issue of the Baptist magazine was launched in the Czech Republic. The mission of this Journal is to provide a summary of information about events in the Baptist Union and individual churches in the Czech Republic. The Journal should serve in particular to encourage readers to pray and share experiences.

The Journal will be published 4 times a year in electronic and printed form. The first issue of the Journal was published in January 2018 and the second issue in April 2018.



See below the letter from the general secretary of The Czech Baptist Union to the Convention:

Dear brothers and sisters in the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention.

We would like to inform you that this year, a new Czech Baptist Union Journal has been published, both in printed and electronic form.

We believe it's a good opportunity to know what's new and interesting with us and we will be glad to pass this information further.

Individual numbers can be downloaded here:

<https://www.bjb.cz/zpravodaj>

We also offer the possibility of sending directly to the email of interested people—they can register here:

<https://goo.gl/EWFGxL>

In Christ,

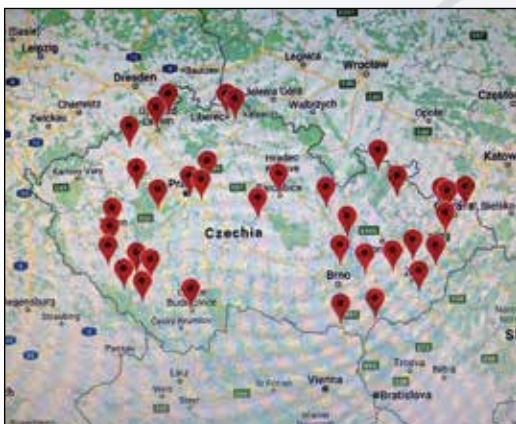
Jan Jackanič, Secretary General



Mohlo by vás zajímat...

10. ročník Celonárodního čtení Bible pod záštitou České evangelikální aliance a Ekumenické rady církví

Česká evangelikální aliance a Ekumenická rada církví v České republice přebrala záštitu nad letošním jubilejním ročníkem Celonárodního čtení Bible. Jsme vděční za vyjádřenou podporu a povzbudivá slova tajemníka ČEA



pana Jiřího Ungera: „Radujeme se z možnosti sdílet touto formou poklady Písma a doufáme, že se ke kampani připojí co nejvíce sborů a společenství po celé České republice.“

Poprvé Celonárodní čtení Bible, překladu 21. století, proběhlo při příležitosti vydání jejího nového překladu do současné češtiny (NBK – Nová Bible Kralická, 2009). Celonárodní čtení Bible bylo symbolicky zahájeno večerním čtením 9. dubna 2009 v pražské Betlémské kapli za účasti VIP, herců a médií. Mediálním partnerem Celonárodního čtení se stala i Česká televize a Český rozhlas 6.

Tento překlad vznikl po patnáctiletém úsilí celého týmu překladatelů. Účelem bylo poukázat na historickou a kulturní hodnotu této staré knihy, která je aktuální i dnes.

Do non-stop čtení celé Bible na Velikonoce 2009 se zapojilo více než 80 měst. Na 11 místech se za tři dny přečetla Bible celá, jinde se četl Nový zákon či oblíbené pasáže. Pro mnohé to bylo poprvé, co se setkali s touto knihou. Podobným způsobem se již v roce 2004 přečetl na Můstku v Praze Nový zákon.

Zprávy v BJB

120 let života a služby brněnského sboru

Dne 13. března 1898 se sešlo v Brně pět bra-



trů a sester, aby založili první baptistický sbor na Moravě. Rozhodli se, že budou žít podle učení Nového zákona, a jmenovitě pro svůj sbor přijali tyto zásady:

- 1) Přijímat do církve jen duchovně znovuzrozené.
- 2) Konat křest jen dle způsobu apoštolského.
- 3) Konat kázeň dle způsobu apoštolského.
- 4) Ze všech sil se účastnit misie.
- 5) Neuznávat hodnosti v církvi větší než hodnosti bratrské.
- 6) Rozvíjet srdečnou lásku, a to zvláště lásku bratrskou k domácím víry a lásku ke všem lidem.

V neděli 11. března t. r. jsme si v Brně připomínali nejen den založení sboru, ale především jsme oslavovali Pána Boha za 120 let jeho milosti a jeho díla mezi námi. Náš sbor byl a je obdarovaný mnoha požehnanými Božími služebníky, oddanými kazateli evangelia a misijně zapálenými křesťany.

Přípravy konference STO LET SPOLU

V rámci připomenutí si sto let služby Bratrské jednoty baptistů v České republice i na Slovensku by se měla uskutečnit v říjnu 2019 konference 100 let spolu.

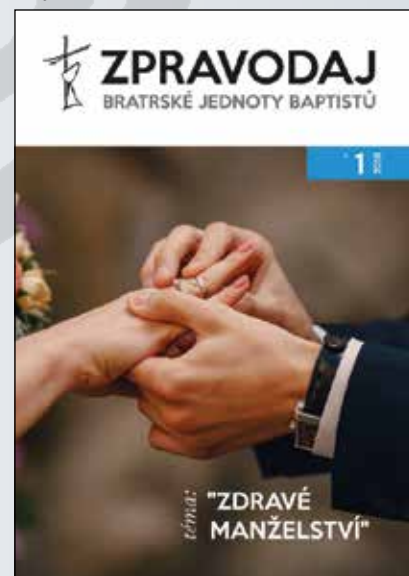
Zpravodaj Bratrské jednoty baptistů

Podnět několika letech opět vychází časopis Bratrské jednoty baptistů v České republice. Posláním tohoto Zpravodaje je přinášet souhrn informací o dění v BJB a v jednotlivých sborech. Zpravodaj má sloužit především k povzbuzení, modlitbám a sdílení zkušeností.

Zpravodaj bude vycházet 4x ročně v elektronické a tištěné podobě. První číslo Zpravodaje vyšlo v lednu 2018 a druhé číslo v dubnu 2018.

Informační dopis konvenci byl zaslán tajemníkem BJB. Znění dopisu naleznete v anglické verzi zpráv. Pro zájemce uvádíme odkaz na webovou stránku ke ztažení časopisu: <https://www.bjb.cz/zpravodaj>

a také k registraci přímého zasílání na e-mailovou adresu: <https://goo.gl/EWFGxL>.



Sister Eva Titěrová



With profound gratitude to our God for a full and blessed life, we announce to all our relatives, friends, acquaintances, brothers and sisters that our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Mrs. Eva Titěrová, has been promoted to the glory of heaven by the Lord of Life and Death. She was the widow of Gospel preacher and ThDr Chairman of the Baptist Unity of Baptists, Pavel Titěra, who was longtime head of the Baptist Brotherhood, Unity Baptist Associate and co-founder of the BJB Dorkas Bible School in Olomouc.

After a lifetime of faithful and dedicated service to the Lord of the Church, she left quietly on Sunday, March 25, 2018, at the age of 95. We said farewell to our beloved on Thursday, March 29, 2018, at the Evangelical Cemetery in Libiš, where she was buried in the family plot.

In her last link, she quoted the words of František Urbanek: “I thank everyone for everything and I ask for forgiveness ...”

Thank you to all those who say goodbye in person or to the silent memory.

Tomáš and Věra, Jan and Věra, Eva and Pavel, Lydia and Pavel children with partners, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

A celebration of life service took place at Brno Baptist Church on Friday, April 6th, 2018. Much

thanksgiving to the Lord God was heard in the congregation for this merciful, sacrificial and wise servant of God. She is an example to us, wholly dedicated to God, and therefore she could bear testimony of the extraordinary act of God in her life.

“She was elevated to heavenly glory”

This is how it is written on the funeral announcement of Mother’s leaving for eternity, Eva Titěrová, at the age of 95. This promotion took place on Palm Sunday. I have many times seen in my life that faithful servants of God often leave “home,” for heaven’s home, just on Sunday—my dad, my father-in-law, and I could name others. They went home on a day of rest, on the day of the Lord after a lifetime of faithful service. Our mom left on Palm Sunday, when all Christians are reminded of Jesus’ entrance to Jerusalem at the beginning of Easter Week. And the call “Hosannah” - meaning “save, deliver”, for as those closest to her, we understand that as Mom’s faithfulness to the end, and also as her deliverance from the earthly body.

The quotation of the second biblical verse from the conclusion of John’s gospel, which is apparently very unusual for the obituary, was Mom’s wish. The words: “When it dawned, Jesus stood on the shore ...” is a description of the meeting of the disciples who return from the sea after unsuccessful fishing with the risen Jesus, who stands on the shore. My mother implied this expectation: when she returns from the sea of earthly life, from all the earthly struggles, after all the passing waves and storms, Jesus will be on the shore standing with open arms and with the words: Come home, I’ve prepared everything for you ... I believe my mother experienced it exactly like that.

May we who are to stay for a while all go through the same experience one day...

Jan Titěra

□



Za sestrou Evou Titěrovou



Já jsem vzkříšen a život. Kdo věří ve mne, i kdyby umřel, bude žít.

Jan 11,25

Když začalo svítat, stál Ježíš na břehu. Jan 21,4

S hlubokou vděčností Bohu za naplněný a požehnaný život oznamujeme všem příbuzným, přátelům, známým, bratrům a sestrám v Kristu, že Pánem života a smrti byla povýšena do nebeské slávy naše maminka, babička a prababička paní Eva Titěrová, vdova po kazateli evangelia a předsedovi Bratrské jednoty baptistů ThDr. Pavlu Titěrovi; dlouholetá vedoucí sesterské práce Bratrské jednoty baptistů a spoluzakladatelka Biblické školy BJB Dorkas v Olomouci.

Po celoživotní věrné a obětavé službě Pánu církve odešla tiše v neděli dne 25. března 2018 ve věku 95 let. S naší milovanou jsme se rozloučili ve čtvrtek 29. března 2018 na evangelickém hřbitově v Libiši, kde byla uložena do rodinného hrobu.

I ona ve svém posledním odkazu ztotožnila se slovy Františka Urbánka: „Všem za všechno děkuji a všechny prosím za odpuštění ...“

Děkujeme všem, kteří se rozloučili osobně či tichou vzpomínkou. *Tomáš a Věra, Jan a Věra, Eva a Pavel, Lydia a Pavel*, děti s partnery, vnoučata a pravnoučata

V pátek 6. dubna 2018 jsme se v brněnské modlitebně rozloučili se sestrou Evou Titěrovou. Ve shromáždění zaznělo mnoho vděčnosti Pánu Bohu za tuto milou, obětavou a moudrou Boží služebnici. Je nám příkladem, byla cele oddaná Bohu, a proto mohla vydávat svědectví o mimořádném Božím jednání ve svém životě.

Byla povýšena do nebeské slávy

Tak jsme to četli na smutečním oznámení o odchodu maminky Evy Titěrové ve věku 95 let na věčnost. To povýšení se odehrálo na Květnou neděli. Vícekrát jsem si v životě všiml toho, že věrní služebníci Boží často odcházejí „domů“, do nebeského domova, právě v neděli. Byl to tatínek, tchán, mohl bych jmenovat další. Odešli v den odpočinku, v den Páně po celoživotní věrné službě. Maminka v neděli, kdy si všichni křesťané připomínali Ježíšův vjezd do Jeruzaléma na počátku velikonočního týdne. A to volání Hossana—znamající „zachovej, vysvobod“; jsme my nejbližší přijali jako zachování maminciny víry až do konce a také jako vysvobození z pozemského těla.

Odcitování druhého biblického verše ze závěru Janova evangelia, který je zřejmě velmi neobvyklým na smutečním oznámení, bylo maminciným přáním. To slovo: „Když začalo svítat, stál Ježíš na břehu...“ je popisem události setkání učedníků, kteří se vraceli z moře po neúspěšném rybolovu, se zmrtvýchvstalým Ježíšem, který stojí na břehu. Maminka naznačila tohle očekávání: když se bude vracet z moře pozemského života, ze všech pozemských bojů, po všech těch přestálých vlnobitích a bouřích, bude tam na břehu Ježíš s otevřenou náručí a se slovy: Pojď již domů, všechno jsem pro tebe připravil... Věřím, že tohle maminka prožila beze zbytku.

Kež to prožijeme jednou i my všichni, kteří tu ještě na chvíli zůstáváme...

□

Jan Titěra



Missed Opportunities

Petar Vlastic



Col. 4:2-3 *“Continue praying, keeping alert, and always thanking God.”*

A young man went to a farmer to ask for permission to marry his beautiful daughter. The farmer looked him over and said, “Son, go stand out in that field and I’m going to release three bulls, one at a time. If you can catch the

tail of any one of the three bulls, you can marry my daughter.”

The young man agreed and went out into the pasture to wait for the first bull. The barn door opened and out ran the biggest, meanest-looking bull he had ever seen. He decided that one of the next bulls had to be a better choice than this one, so he ran over to the side and let the bull pass through the pasture and out the gate.

The barn door opened again. Unbelievable. He had never seen anything so big and fierce in his life. It stood pawing the ground, grunting, and slinging slobber as it eyed him. Whatever the third bull was like, it had to be a better choice than this one, so he ran to the fence and let this bull pass through the pasture and out the gate.

Down to his last try, the young man knew he had to get the tail of the bull about to be released, so he got himself ready. The door opened and a smile came across his face as he saw the weakest, scrawniest little bull he had ever seen. “Woohoo, this is the one!” he thought, so as the bull came running by, he positioned himself just right, and jumped at just the exact moment to grab for the tail...except this little bull didn’t have one!

Somewhat like this young man who kept waiting for the right opportunity, I know a good guy who has been beyond frustrated at the lack of the right opportunity to volunteer at the local chapter of a professional organization. He has emailed, texted, or told me in person of his aggravation. “Petar, I am VERY annoyed,” he would say, “I have sent so many emails to the director of volunteering but she refuses to acknowledge my wishes to help at the conference and other events around Houston,” all of which I typically reply to with a simple “Come to our venue meeting, third Wednesday of

every month. I have tons of things you can do. You will get hours, you will network, and you will get a chance to get your name out to the executive management.” And then I wouldn’t see him at the next meeting. Or the one after...or the one after that. We have gone around in circles like this no less than six times over the past 16 or so months: he tells me of his frustration, he is offered a chance to help, he doesn’t show up, tells me of his frustration, he is offered an opportunity, and well, you get the point. In the time he had spent being frustrated at the director and the organization, he could have met a number of people who would have spoken up for him, introduced him to the director, and gotten his name on the volunteering list. Yes, it would have been a longer, more patient road, but one that surely would have led him to the level of responsibilities he has been wanting.

Thinking of my buddy, I would be amiss not to recognize the number of opportunities I have missed in my life because of my perception of the “right” one. I have a feeling we all have done it, haven’t we? We missed out on a job because it just was not going to pay us what we thought was enough or it was just going to be too hard. We missed out on a great life experience because it was just not going to meet our expectations. Or maybe we never did get to serve God because nothing we wanted to do came on the horizon.

Why do we do this? Why do we pray for opportunities, miss out on them when they do come, and then get frustrated that nothing came? In looking back at my own life’s experiences and the observations of others, here are three potential reasons for this circle of missed opportunities.

Fear. Sometimes the opportunities set before us appear daunting, and we fear we will fail. Maybe we feel underqualified, maybe we are uncomfortable, and in the end, we are crippled into inaction.

My most vivid memories and observations of this fear regard public speaking. Giving one’s testimony in front of tens or hundreds of people, seemingly alone on the stage, can be quite frightening. Funnily enough, each time I was faced with this opportunity and I let God take over, it went phenomenally well.

If fear is your reason for hesitation, just remember that God didn’t give you a spirit of fear, but one of power (2 Timothy 1:7). Be encouraged in knowing that God won’t present

you with an opportunity and then leave you to fend for yourself. Instead, He is with you throughout the entire ordeal. Let Him guide you through it and remember that it is that same power that saved you from eternal punishment that gives you the strength to face anything on this earth (1 Peter 1:5).

Pride. On the other side of that crippling spectrum is pride, a sin that while still carrying the same price as others is the ugliest of them all. Noted nearly 100 times in the Bible, and never in a positive context, pride is the original sin of Satan. Pride makes us judgmental, destroys relationships, and keeps us focused on ourselves, preventing us from enjoying or helping others.

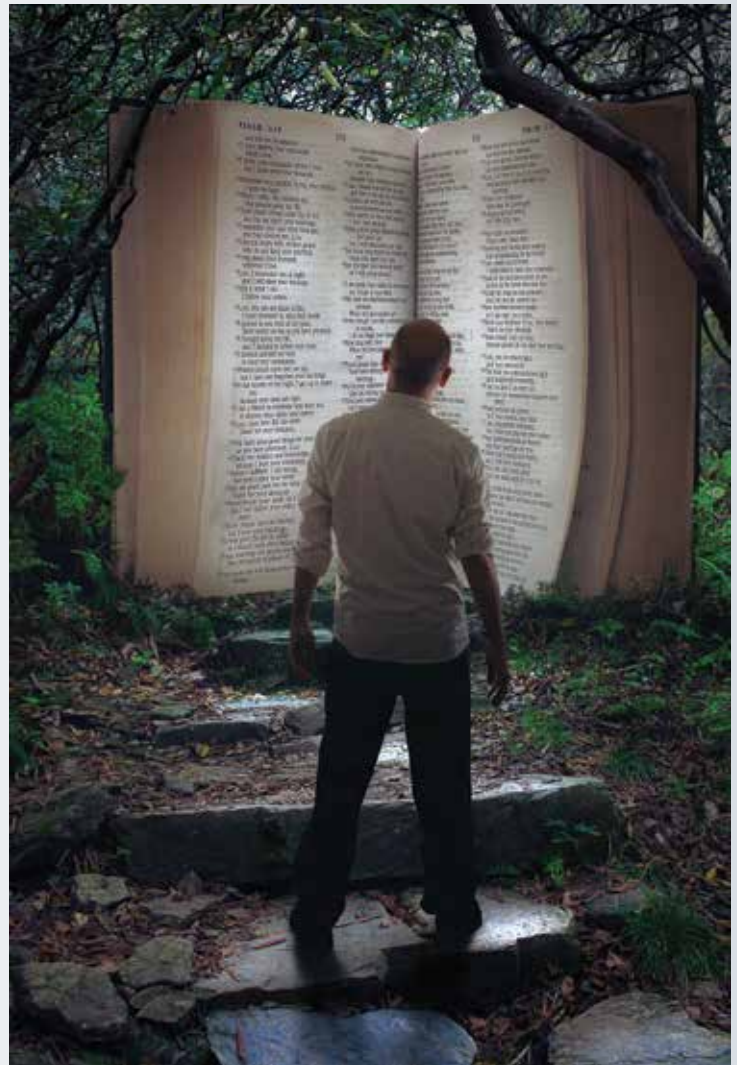
You know what I mean: we want to be a missionary, but the only thing we are asked to do is to welcome guests in our church; we want to win the world for Jesus, but the only thing that kept coming up is a friend who needs a ride to work because they can't afford a car; we want to lead a class or lead worship service, but the only available opportunity is a chance to collect cans for the food drive or direct parking traffic (yawn!). And so instead of collecting food, directing traffic, welcoming guests, or giving our friend a ride, we sit idly and wait for the "right" opportunity. Meanwhile, the hungry are still hungry, our friend still needs a ride, and people seeking to meet Jesus in a church feel unwelcomed.

If pride is preventing us from taking on an opportunity presented to us, we need to repent of our pride (James 4:6) and remember we are to have the same mind that Christ had when He, being God, humbled Himself, became a man and a servant, then died on the cross for us to have eternal life (Philippians 2:5–8). Using Christ's example of humility, we ought to humble ourselves, look past our own self, and serve where the need is, not where we want to be. You never know what kinds of blessings are hiding behind the lowly opportunities.

Laziness. There was a time in my life while living in Louisiana when I had a lot of longing to be involved in a church. What I also had was a lot of laziness which, veiled with more legitimate-sounding excuses, prevented me from regularly attending church, participating in Bible Study, or going to Sunday School. Once God finally got through to me and I got involved, I realized just how much I had missed out by being lazy.

In yet another example, I must confess that I have given the Glorious Hope editorial staff headaches by so often submitting articles at the last moment. I could slice and dice the reasoning a million different ways, but it really comes down to one: laziness. I think about the topics, I write down notes, but often get too leisurely to put it all together.

Still, I have a feeling I'm not the only one who either missed out on an opportunity, didn't take full advantage of one, or caused more work for others because I had the desire to do it, but it was just ... too hard, took too long, it was too early, or too late in the day.



As we ponder this last reason, let me encourage us with Paul's words that whatever we do, we need to do it with all our heart, understanding we are doing it for our Lord. What we do here on this earth: be it at our job, in our class, at home, in our community, in church, is one of the greatest testimonies we have of our faith! So don't be lazy, let's get off our couches and do the best we can to show this world the difference Jesus makes in our life.

As we seek and pray for opportunities, be encouraged knowing God is with you throughout your challenges; be careful not to let pride stop you from serving and in return experiencing tremendous blessings; and whatever you do, give it your best shot!

Since we are on the topic of opportunities, it's hard to believe it's been over nine months already since the last convention, which means we have less than three until the next one! Take advantage of this opportunity to fellowship, worship, and learn! Join us July 5–8 in Meadville, PA and see just what blessings God has in store for you!

□



PRAYER UPDATE

...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. 1 Peter 3:15

Bohnice

J. who was baptized and joined our new church-planting team for Bohnice. Just this past weekend, J. was one of our key members at the M4 church-planter training weekend. PRAISE the Lord for J's spiritual growth and his willingness to be disciplined by Mark. Please PRAY for J. and the Bohnice church-planting team as we look ahead to what God has in store for us over the next several months.

For the second year, the children in the Bohnice neighborhood will have the opportunity to build a Lego city from May 30 to June 1. Please PRAY that the Lord would use this event to draw in families who are looking for a Christian community as we continue to prepare to establish a new church in Bohnice.

The Christianity Explored courses in Bohnice and Prosek have just finished, and on the last evening, three participants

prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior! Please PRAY for their spiritual growth, especially now that they are also attending the Wednesday evening Bible study at the Ládvi church.

South City and Skalka

We are thankful for new elders for South City Church and the Skalka church. Please PRAY for Š. and M. as they join the existing elders in leading, teaching, preaching, shepherding, and praying for their fellowships. Please also PRAY for wisdom as the elders decide whether to take on a new pastoral intern for the next two years, and if so, how to finance this ministry opportunity.

Praise the Lord for an excellent and experienced work team from Ontario that is currently in Prague working on some challenging projects at South City Church. PRAY for safety as they work on patching the roof, putting up signs, and upgrading the drainage system. The work team was able to mount one of the two outdoor signs on the South City Church building, which has been named "Kostelna", just in time for the annual Night of Churches event, which took place across the country on May 25th.

PRAY for increased visibility for both South City Church and the Ládvi church so that people in the surrounding neighborhood would be aware that these churches are there to serve them.

Family English Camp

Preparations for this summer's Family English Camp are well underway. More than 100 people are already signed up, and we are grateful to the Lord for a solid team of Czech and American workers for this year's camp. PRAY with us as we continue to plan and prepare, and that God would prepare the hearts of the participants to be open to the gospel message.

Preparing for action,

Mark & Gretchen Potma

□



—Ježíš Kristus může lépe rozumět než člověk. On sám prožil předsmrtná muka, kdy už věděl, že bude zatčen a odsouzen k trestu smrti. Na kříži zažil jak utrpení fyzické bolesti, tak bolest psychické osamělosti. Umírání na kříži bylo mučení postupným udušením. Takové pomalé udušení je vůbec nejhorší smrt. Ale právě tak těžkou smrt prožil Pán Ježíš proto, aby naše trápení, bolest, strach a hřích vzal na sebe, a tak nás usmířil s absolutně spravedlivým Bohem Otcem. Ve vzkříšení pak porazil samotnou smrt.

Jakmile pochopíme, kdo je Pán Ježíš, co pro nás udělal a že žije, pak u něho najdeme daleko více uklidnění, než nám mohou dát i ti nejlepší lidé. Odpuštění vin, bezpečí v osamocnosti, útěchu v zármutku.

Pán Ježíš jednou řekl: „*Pojďte ke mně všichni, kdo jste obtíženi břemeny, a já vám dám odpočinout.*” (Matouš 11,28–30)

Co je to odpočinek? Někdo si odpočinek plete s únikem. S únikem do alkoholu, do zábavy, do nevěry, ale i do cestování a podobně.

Nejčastější příčinou našeho neklidu, nervozity a napětí je hřích. Hřích, nevyznaná vina, to je ta tíha, která nám bere klid a kterou mnohdy vlečeme i po celá léta.

Odpočinutí, o kterém mluví Pán Ježíš, pramení právě z jeho odpuštění našich hříchů. Přijít k Pánu Ježíši Kristu znamená mu důvěřovat. Víra v Pána Ježíše začíná tím, že vezmeme vážně jeho slova v Bibli a začneme jimi korigovat své myšlení i své jednání. V okamžiku, kdy uvěříme Božím slovu, se naše dny, kdy prožíváme úzkost a bolest, mohou proměnit ve dny, kdy se můžeme přiblížit k Bohu a prožít smíření.

Dá se tedy říci, že chvíle hlubokého sevření, nejistoty, strachu a tápání (které každá vážná nemoc přináší) mají v našem životě vysokou cenu. Napomáhají nám totiž k tomu, abychom se ptali po Bohu a hledali ho. Jsou to zvláštní chvíle, na které si běžně v denním shonu neuděláme čas, ale

přesto jsou nesmírně důležité. Snad dokonce ze všeho nejdůležitější.

Domnívám se, že skutečnou kvalitu života neurčují jen vnější věci, ale především právě vztah s Bohem skrze osobu Pána Ježíše Krista, skrze jeho smrt na kříži a vzkříšení, díky kterým nám nabízí věčný život.

Pán Ježíš říká: „*Pojďte ke mně všichni, kdo jste obtíženi břemeny, a já vám dám odpočinout.*”

Toto pozvání platí opravdu úpině pro všechny... I pro tebe, milý čtenáři.

Dovětek

Je nedělní ráno 1. června 2014.

Do modlitebny BJB v Brně na Smetanově ulici vstupuje slunce skrze vitrážový mozaikový kříž, vsazený do bílé čelní stěny. Bohoslužba začíná večerí Páně. Na stole stojí stříbrné poháry s rudým vínem, připomínajícím krev Pána Ježíše, kterou za nás prolil na kříži, a na stříbrných tácech je nakrájený chléb symbolizující tělo Pána Ježíše, který se za nás nechal usmrtit tou nejpotupnější smrtí, ukřižováním.

To konejte na mou památku!

Vitrážový kříž v čele sálu září a atmosféra je nabitá vděčností. Do tichého soustředění pronese kazatel Coufal slovo, které Lydie jako modlitba provázelo po celou dobu její nemoci:

„*Bůh je naše útočiště a naše síla, pomoc v soužení vždy osvědčená.*” (Žalm 46,2)

Lydie a Pavel sedí vpředu. Jsou obklopeni dětmi a vnoučaty. Dagmarka s manželkou přijela z Prahy a jejich čtyři děti se tlačí co nejbliž k babičce a dědečka. Dvanáctiletý Natanael, devítiletý Samuel, šestiletá Debora a tříletá Rút. Dnes budou všichni u Lydie na oběd. Uvařila pro dvanáct lidí.

Večere Páně pomalu spěje ke konci a kazatel vyzývá manželský pár Smilkových, aby přišli dopředu pro požehnání pro své dítě.

Ale nejsou to Lydie s Pavlem. Vzadu v sále se zvedá vysoký, statný devětadvacetiletý muž a vedle něho krásná, štíhlá mladá žena. Pavel a Ladka jdou kupředu a v náručí nesou

pětiměsíčního synka Mikuláše.

Baptisté nekřtí malé děti, protože věří, že křest je potvrzením osobního pokání a osobního rozhodnutí se k následování Pána Ježíše. Což malé dítě udělat nemůže. Ale po vzoru Pána Ježíše, který malým dětem žehnal a modlil se za ně, se za malé děti ve shromáždění všichni také modlí a vyprošují jim požehnání.

„Jméno Mikuláš je řecky Nicolaos. Nico se překládá jako vítězství a laos je lid,” říká bratr kazatel a přeje rodičům, aby jejich syn vždy vítězil nad vším špatným. A pak se modlí za dítě a žehná mu Áronovským požehnáním. *At' Hospodin ti žehná a chrání tě, at' Hospodin rozjasní nad tebou svou tvář a je ti milostiv, at' Hospodin obrátí k tobě svou tvář a obdarí tě pokojem.*

(4. Mojžíšova 6,22–27)

Modlí se i za rodiče, zatímco pěkný buclatý pětiměsíční chlapec se beze strachu a se zájmem rozhlíží po lidech ve zcela zaplněné modlitebně. Postupně se modlí ještě mnoho lidí v sále, obzvláště ti, kteří se vydrželi modlit celých třicet šest let.

Vzpomíná babička Lydie na tu hroznou chvíli, kdy lékař v Americe o jejím druhém těhotenství prohlásil: „Kdybyste byla moje žena, neváhal bych ani pět minut?” Možná na to ani nevzpomíná, protože co je slovo člověka proti zaslíbení, které dává Bůh!

Požehnan buď muž, který doufá v Hospodina, který důvěřuje Hospodinu. Bude jako strom zasazený u vody; své kořeny zapustil u vodního toku, nezakusí přicházející žár. Jeho listí je zelené, v roce sucha se ničeho neobává, nepřestává nést plody. (Jeremjáš 17,5–8)

Křesťané povstávají a všichni zpívají starý chorál, jehož refrén se nese k nebesům:

*Vždy, Bože, tobě plesá vstříc můj duch:
Ty's slavný Bůh, ty's slavný Bůh!!!*

Vitrážový kříž oslnivě září.

*Vždy, Bože, tobě plesá vstříc můj duch:
Ty's slavný Bůh, ty's slavný Bůh!!!*





The Lord is My Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. Psalm 23:1-2

Hospodin je můj pastýř, nic mi neschází. Na zelených loukách mi dává spočinout, ke klidným vodám mě přivádí. Žalm 23; 1-2

Hospodin je môj pastier, nič mi nechýba. Vodí ma na zelené pastviny, privádza ma k tichým vodám.

Žalm 23; 1-2