

Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

Vol. 45, N° 2, June 2019

Ročník 45, číslo 2, červen 2019

Jako mě poslal Otec, i já posílám vás

Jan 20; 21

Ako mňa poslal Otec, tak ja posielam vás

Ján 20; 21

As the Father has sent me, I am sending you

John 20: 21

go INTO ALL
THE WORLD

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

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

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Convention Mission Statement

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

Misijní posláání 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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I Am Sending You

From its beginning, Christianity has been a missionary-based religion. It is founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ and on individual repentance and conversion—rebirth. In the gospel according to Matthew, Jesus says to his disci-

ples—apostles:

"Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

(Matthew 28:19)

The book of Acts records the very first Christian missionary journeys. They were mainly focused on the Jewish municipalities in the Eastern Mediterranean. The apostle Paul's reach soon spread to include even the "gentiles". Proselytizing in one's area has always been of utmost importance, as the spreading of faith is seen as the primary command and duty of a Christian. After all these centuries, missionary work pulls Christianity along like a silver thread.

It is not any different in the history of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of the USA and Canada. It was natural for young people to volunteer themselves into missionary service, whether internationally or on home turf among Slavs. The first half of the twentieth century especially, saw missionary work by convention members sown in the newly formed Czechoslovakia. It is downright fascinating that newlyweds, instead of having a regular honeymoon, chose to embark on missionary trips, as in the case of Joseph and Rose Shereda, in 1930. This edition of *Glorious Hope* gives us a glimpse into the lives of those who decided to leave their homes and bring the gospel wherever it was needed. We know it isn't always easy. We read their letters and pray for them. Sometimes we don't really realize everything that accompanies the realities of missionary life.

The seventeenth chapter of the gospel according to John tells us of a situation when Jesus Christ prayed for those who will continue his calling. He himself felt the antagonism of those who didn't accept him, and he knew what his disciples would be exposed to. That is why he asked his Father to protect them from evil (John 17:15). In his prayer, he thinks about those who will believe in him on

Continues on page 19

Posílám vás

Křesťanství je od začátku misijní náboženství. Je založené na kázání Ježíše Krista, na individuálním pokání a obrácení—znovuzrození. V Matoušově evangeliu říká Ježíš svým učedníkům—apoštolům:

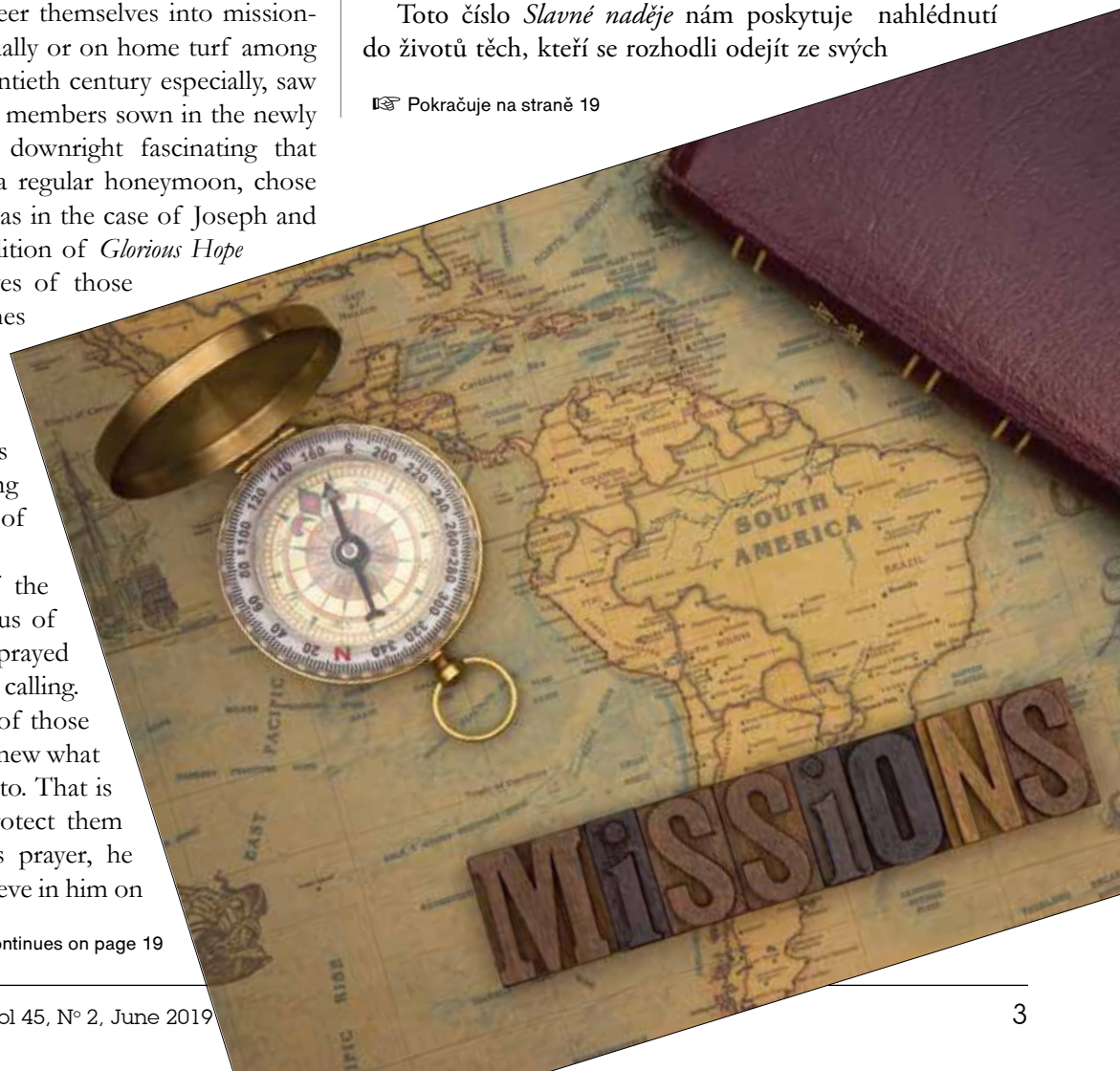
"Jděte ke všem národům a získávejte mi učedníky, křtěte je ve jméno Otce i Syna i Ducha svatého a učte je, aby zachovávali všecko, co jsem vám přikázal." (Matouš 28:19n)

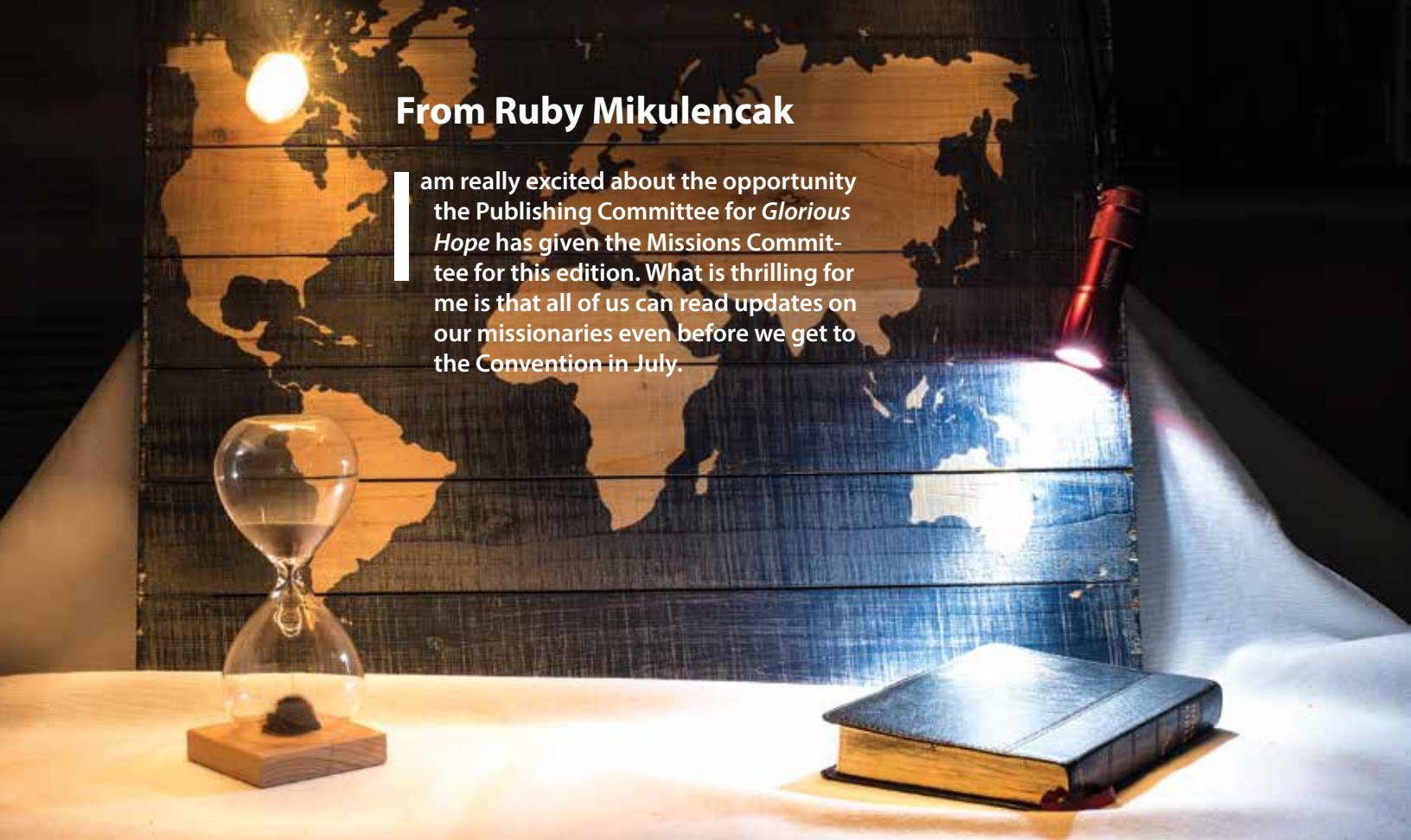
První křesťanskou misií popisují Skutky apoštolů. Byla zaměřena hlavně na židovské obce ve východním Středomoří. Zásluhou apoštola Pavla se rozšířila brzy i mezi „pohany“. Křesťané pokládali šíření víry ve svém okolí za přímý příkaz a povinnost. Po celá staletí se misie táhne křesťanstvím jako stříbrná niť.

Není tomu jinak ani v historii Československé baptistické konvence USA a Kanady. Naprosto přirozeně se hlásili mladí lidé do misijní služby. Ať to bylo na domácí půdě mezi Slovany nebo kdekoli v zahraničí. Zvláště první polovina 20. století zaznamenala misijní nasazení členů konvence v nově vzniklém Česko-Slovensku. Je přímo fascinující, že novomanželé místo svatební cesty zvolili misií, jako to bylo v případě Josefa a Růženy Šeredových v roce 1930.

Toto číslo *Slavné naděje* nám poskytuje nahlédnutí do životů těch, kteří se rozhodli odejít ze svých

Pokračuje na straně 19





From Ruby Mikulencak

I am really excited about the opportunity the Publishing Committee for *Glorious Hope* has given the Missions Committee for this edition. What is thrilling for me is that all of us can read updates on our missionaries even before we get to the Convention in July.

The other reason I am so excited is that this will be a regular feature for the second issue each year of *Glorious Hope*. I trust as you read about our missionaries you will pray more regularly for them. In fact concerning praying for our missionaries, I would like to make some suggestions about how to pray for them consistently.

From my own experience as a missionary and from a recent book on how to pray for your missionaries by Eddie Byun, I hope you will be encouraged to pray more succinctly for our missionaries. It is easy to pray for the prayer requests that the missionaries share, but there are other things we can and should pray for daily.

It is important to pray that our missionaries will be humble. All of us have worries. Worry really is saying that our problems are more powerful than God and this can take away our trust in God. The result is that we think we can take care of ourselves better than God can. Faith, however, is a true sign of humility, because it allows us to believe that God knows what he is doing. Missionaries are not exempt from lack of faith, so it is important to *pray that our missionaries will be humble, relying on God and not themselves.*

Secondly we need to pray that missionaries will sit and be still before the Lord every day. Like all of us, they can get caught up in the busyness of ministry and forget Jesus loves them more than their ministry. They need to be reminded that Jesus loves them and wants to be with them in their daily activity. *Pray that missionaries will have a deep, daily enjoyment of God and find pleasure in His presence.*

One thing that became very clear to me as a missionary is that we have invaded Satan's territory. Spiritual warfare is an inevitability, as Ephesians 6 tells us. We must be ready to fight the battle by putting on the full armor of God. This is very important for our missionaries and the reason we should pray for their protection. In his book Eddie Byun writes "*We must pray for the protection of their faith so that no matter the heartache, the loss, or the disappointment, their faith will remain.*" It takes courage to fight, so in addition to spiritual protection, we should *pray that our missionaries have courage.*

Marriage and singleness is a big deal for missionaries serving in a different culture. We should pray for strength for the single missionaries in the field. They are away from home and family and often feel lonely. It comes especially when there is a big holiday like Christmas or a huge family event like a wedding. It is hard to be so far away when you know your family is all together on this great occasion. *Pray for single missionaries to enjoy the presence of the Lord during those difficult times.*

Marriages face many challenges and additional stress because of living in a new culture. *Pray that the husband and the wife would learn to deeply love and serve one another.* Often the wife and mother is unable to go out as much as her husband because of her children. She can easily become discouraged and feel left out when her husband is out serving the Lord and seeing results.

Pray also for missionary kids (MK's), especially when they are separated from their families for schooling. *Pray for God's comfort for MK's and also for parents during the separation. Pray*

☞ Continues on page 9

Update from Ruby

January began with a trip to Kenya with my church. I went with a team of 12 people for 11 days. We soon bonded as a team. It was wonderful to see people growing in their walk with God as they got out of their cultural comfort zone.

We enjoyed a day and a half safari and then spent the rest of the time at a children's home and school that our Menlo Church supports.

The school has been one of the most successful private schools in Kenya because of their Christian emphasis and dedicated teachers.

After the trip, I returned with malaria and was laid up for several days. I consulted an infectious diseases doctor and it was suggested that I change my prophylaxis when I return. Please pray the new medication will keep me from getting malaria again.

I am excited to be invited as one of the facilitators for an orientation course in Tamale, Ghana. The West Africa Missions Office (WAMO) has at least 12 new missionaries from West Africa who desire to serve the Lord as cross-cultural missionaries.

It is such a joy and privilege for me to help prepare these new missionaries for service. I hope to leave the US on May 30th, arriving in time for the June 3 to 7 orientation course. Pray for safety in travel as well as all the right connections. Pray also as I and other facilitators prepare and pray that our



time together will be encouraging in preparing these new workers for service.

After the orientation course I will travel to Chiana, my old stamping grounds, and visit friends. It will be wonderful to see Sherri, my niece who lives and works in Tamale. Sherri and I will be able to be together for more than a week. I will leave Ghana on June 16th, flying to Wisconsin to spend some time there.

In July, I will travel to Canton, Ohio, to attend the Czech Annual Convention. Please join me in praying for safety and for a refreshing time in Ohio. Also remember to pray for my role as missions chairperson for the Convention. This is a new role for me, and I need the Lord's guidance and direction to

help lead missions forward for the organization. After Canton, I will return to San Jose and continue serving the Lord.

I am so grateful for being part of the body of Christ. I thank the Lord I am involved in a Life Group at our home every other Tuesday. Every Wednesday I serve as a BSF group leader. I am always blessed by fellow travelers sharing their walk with God as together we walk on this road of life. I also attend a bi-monthly group on Justice issues. Continue to pray that God will guide us into ways that we as a church can help with the many issues of justice in our community.

It has been wonderful to be invited as a member of the MIM (Members in Mission) Committee of our Church. We meet several times a year to discuss Menlo's (my church) missionaries and how we can pray and encourage them in their service to the Lord.

People often ask me how I am enjoying retirement. My reply is, what retirement??? Colossians 3:17 says, "And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus." In verse 23 it says, "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." I am grateful for the strength and health to continue serving the Lord and for the privilege of taking part in His great purpose for this world.

My prayer is that you too by His grace are active in loving and serving God to help Him accomplish His great purpose in the world.

Thank you for your continued interest, support and prayers,

Ruby Mikulencak



Christmas 2018 in Wisconsin. Sherri is in the middle

110th Czechoslovak Baptist Convention

LOCATION:

Canton Ohio is 60 miles south of Cleveland, 200 miles from Detroit MI, or Charleston WV and 335 miles from Toronto. The University is only 10 miles from Akron-Canton regional airport and 60 miles from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

As of the 2010 Census, the population was 73,007, making Canton eighth among Ohio cities in population.

Canton is chiefly notable for being the home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the birthplace of the National Football League.



Mark your calendars now and book July 11–14, 2019 for the 110th Czechoslovak Baptist Convention.

The theme this year is:

"Jesus Christ the Same, Yesterday, Today and Forever",
a hopeful, steadying message for times like these.



MALONE UNIVERSITY is a private Evangelical Protestant liberal arts college. It was founded in 1892 by Walter and Emma Malone as a small, co-educational Bible institute called Cleveland Bible College. Malone University holds an affiliation with the Evangelical Friends Church–Eastern Region.

University features 10 residence halls, 23 total buildings on the 96 acre campus situated on the northern edge of the city of Canton.

Malone University — Canton, Ohio

ACCOMODATION:

All delegates will be housed in Blossom Hall, the newest residence on the campus. This three story building offers over 100 rooms with two single beds in each room. Adjacent rooms share a bathroom creating a four bed suite. Please note however that the joining room for single room families will be left vacant so the bathroom will only be shared by the one family.



DIRECTIONS INSTRUCTIONS:

Google map search address: Blossom Hall, Canton, OH 44711

GPS destination address: 2631 Yale Avenue NW, Canton, OH 44711

The Blossom Hall residence is about a 7 minute walk from the Brehme Centennial Center where the meals and the morning program will be held. Fifteen minute walk or a short drive from the residence hall is the Johnston Center Chapel, venue for the convention evening services.





EVENING SERVICES:

The Johnston Center is the most recognizable building on the campus. The Chapel is a 200 seat auditorium where the evening services as well as the Sunday morning service will be held.

The Johnston Center is about a fifteen minute walk from the Blossom Hall. Building offers ample parking and a short drive to the evening services is a good alternative.

DINNING:

Meals will be served at the Hoover Dining Commons, on the upper level of the Brehme Centennial Center, which is a seven minute walk from the Blossom Hall.



MORNING PROGRAM:

The Deuble Room will be the home of the convention morning program and the English Bible Study. This room is conveniently located next to the Hoover Dining Commons.

Czechoslovak Bible Study and children's program will take place in the classrooms on the lower level of the Brehme Centennial Center.



For more information, photos, directions and registration forms please visit www.czskbc.org.

Theme and Topics for 110th Czechoslovak Baptist Convention

July 11–14, 2019

**“JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME
YESTERDAY AND TODAY AND FOREVER.”**

(Heb. 13:8)

Thursday, July 11, 2019

WORLD MAKER (Genesis 1:1–31, John 1:1–3a)

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
(Genesis 1:1)*

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the
Word was God.*

*He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were
made...” (John 1:1–3a)*

Friday, July 12, 2019

SHEEP CHASER (Luke 15:3–7, John 10:10–11)

*“Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does
he not...go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds
it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his
friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found
my lost sheep’” (Luke 15:3–6)*

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that
they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd...”
(John 10:10–11)*

Saturday, July 13, 2019

SON OF GOD, MESSIAH (Mat. 16:13–16)

*“...what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter
answered. “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
(Mat. 16:15–16)*

Sunday, July 14, 2019

PRECIOUS REDEEMER (I Peter 1:18–19)

*“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver and
gold that you were redeemed...
but with the precious blood of Christ...” (I Peter 1:18–19)*

From Ruby Mikulencak... Continues from page 4

too for MK's to continue to follow the God of their parents.

Discouragement and even depression come quickly and often to both men and women, but especially women, both married and single. We can pray that missionaries would have single-minded lives. *Pray for them to understand that success is not fruitful service as much as keeping their focus on God, and God making them like Jesus in the midst of service.*

From experience I know how difficult it is to maintain unity and harmony in a missionary team. If a missionary is not walking close to the Lord, then relationships with others will be hard. Pray that our missionaries will have strength and

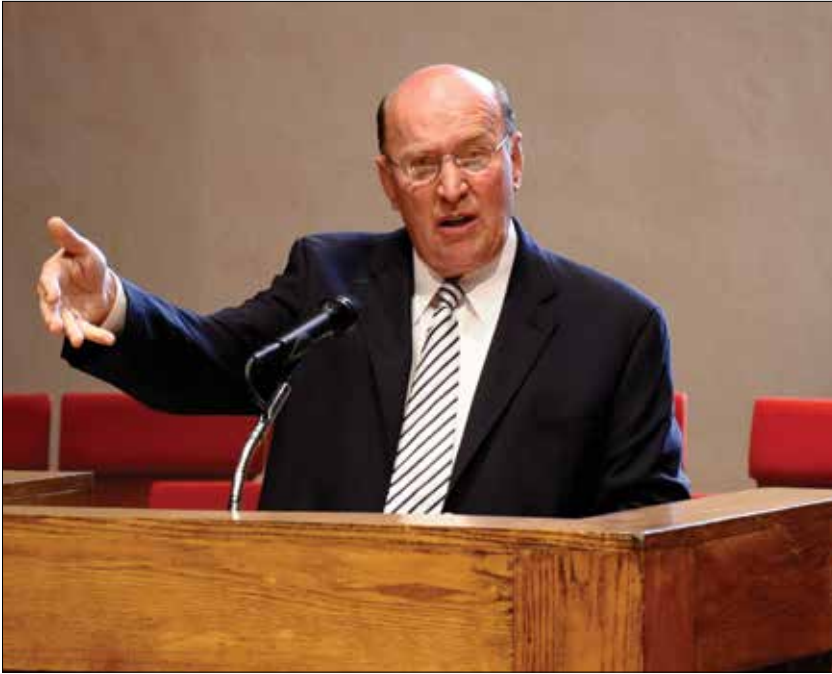
joy to love those around them, not only the people they came to serve but the people they are serving with as well. *We need earnestly to pray for unity within each missionary team.*

As you read the stories of our missionaries in this edition, remember to pray for their prayer requests but also remember the eight things mentioned above that you can pray for at any time for our missionaries. May the Lord give each of us perseverance in praying for our missionaries!

James 5:16b—The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

Honoring the Legacy of General Secretary Emeritus Denton Lotz

*BWA General Secretary Emeritus Denton Lotz Passes Away at 80
BWA Calls Upon All Baptists to Honor His Legacy*



Rev. Denton Lotz at the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention in 2009

(FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA—April 23, 2019)

Today Rev. Dr. Denton Lotz, General Secretary Emeritus of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and faithful servant of the LORD, died at his home in Forestdale, Massachusetts, USA, at the age of 80. The Baptist World Alliance calls upon all Baptists to remember and honor his legacy and to pray for his family.

Born in 1939 in Flushing, New York, USA, Lotz was the youngest of four sons raised by Rev. and Mrs. John Lotz. He often credited his heritage for influencing his ministry, stating that he inherited “a German brain from his father and an Italian heart from his mother.”

After graduating from Northpoint High School in 1956, Lotz attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts. He then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving from 1961-1963. During a portion of his service, he was stationed internationally in Okinawa,

Japan, ultimately achieving the rank of second lieutenant.

After completing his military service, he attended Harvard Divinity School where he served as President of the Student Government from 1965-1966. He earned his sacred theology degree in 1966 as well as being ordained that same year at Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. After completing his studies at Harvard, Lotz began his doctoral studies at the University of Hamburg in Germany, earning a Doctor of Theology in 1970.

1970 proved to be a wonderful year as it was also the year he married the love of his life – Janice Robinson from Ellisville, Mississippi. For the next ten years, they would serve as missionaries with the International Ministries Division of American Baptist Churches. During their missionary tenure, Lotz traveled extensively – often to countries under communist control – with a focus on lecturing, preaching, and serving as a diplomatic representative to government officials on

questions of religious freedom and Baptist life.

During this time, Lotz also served as a professor of missions and homiletics at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Rüschtikon, Switzerland, where he founded the Summer Institute of Theological Education (SITE) – a short-term, intensive theological program for Eastern European pastors and leaders.

While ministering in Europe, he often traveled alongside Gerhard Claas, who was serving at the time as General Secretary of the European Baptist Federation. When Claas was selected to be the next BWA General Secretary, he invited Lotz to be his deputy. Lotz joined the BWA staff in 1980 in the role of associate secretary, with responsibilities including oversight of the Division of Evangelism and Education as well as Relief and Development. He would later be appointed as Director of the BWA Youth Department as well.

After Claas suddenly passed away in a tragic automobile accident in 1988, Lotz was designated as Interim General Secretary. Shortly thereafter, the BWA Executive Committee voted to permanently appoint him, which was affirmed by the BWA General Council later that year.

During nearly two decades of service as General Secretary, Rev. Lotz served alongside five BWA presidents and 71 Vice Presidents as well as numerous commission chairs and staff members. He led preparations for four Baptist World Congresses with a cumulative attendance of 42,000 people from more than 100 countries. He oversaw 20 General Council meetings as well as 16 Annual Gatherings.

“He leaves a massive footprint in the history of the BWA,” said Rev. Dr. David Coffey, former Baptist World Alliance President (2005–2010). “He was a missionary theologian, an inspiring preacher and evangelist, a champion for religious

liberty, a Baptist ambassador, a Christian statesman, and a brother unrivaled in his prodigious remembering of the names of hundreds of people and places.”

Among his many contributions to the BWA, Lotz helped launch the Baptist International Conference on Theological Education (BICTE) in 1991, which was attended by Baptist educators from 52 countries. He was also instrumental in relocating the Baptist World Alliance office to its current facility in Falls Church, Virginia, USA, in 2001. In July 2005 at the BWA Centennial Congress in Birmingham, England, Lotz unveiled the Living Water initiative, a strategic plan designed to enlist and equip local Baptists for evangelism and servant leadership. Since its inception, Living Water events have taken place around the world from Cuba to Bangladesh with more than 4,500 registered delegates in attendance who have engaged in prayer, focused Bible study, evangelism, and leadership training.

In addition to his service as BWA General Secretary, Rev. Lotz was twice elected President of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), an organization chartered in 1893 to work with government and educational institutions to disseminate principles of religious liberty and human rights throughout the world. The IRLA tradition of rotating presidents every two years was broken with Lotz, who was re-elected an unprecedented four times.

Upon his re-election in 2002, then IRLA Secretary General John Graz said, “We are honored to have someone like Denton whose passion for religious freedom is demonstrated in his daily commitment to defend human rights for people everywhere.” Upon his retirement from the BWA, Graz wrote, “Thank you for your convictions, for your intelligent way of expressing your faith, and the values in which you believe without destroying bridges between yourself and others.”

His commitment to racial reconciliation was the catalyst for the formation of the BWA Special Commission on Baptists Against Racism and Ethnic Conflict, which resulted in the Harare Declaration

in 1993 and the Decade for Racial Justice. Because of his tireless advocacy for human rights and religious freedom, the BWA named its annual human rights award in his honor, with ten individuals receiving the Denton and Janice Lotz Human Rights Award since 2006.

His tireless effort and commitment were matched only by his love for people and unwavering optimism even in the face of great challenge.

“In whatever country he arrived, he was welcomed as someone who brought hope to Baptists wherever they were and in whatever situation they found themselves,” said Wendy Ryan, former BWA Communications Director. “There was never a time I traveled with him as part of a BWA team that I did not see him received with great joy.”

His ministry took him around the world from African villages to the Oval Office. His friendships included globally-recognized faith leaders like Rev. Billy Graham as well as leaders of state such as former United States President Jimmy Carter. Upon his retirement from the BWA in 2007, Graham wrote, “Your strong leadership and personal faith has been an inspiration and blessing to me.” Carter shared the following, “As I think of all the BWA has accomplished for Baptists around the world in the past twenty years, I know that your gifted leadership has helped to make it all possible. You have served a great organization with conviction and honor.”

After his “retirement,” Lotz continued to travel and preach in addition to serving as Senior Pastor of Tremont Temple Baptist Church in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. He also remained active in the life and ministry of the BWA, including providing encouragement to the organization’s newest leader.

“Denton Lotz was one of the most significant Baptist leaders of the second half of the twentieth century. His profound leadership touched countless lives around the world as he championed evangelism, religious freedom, and the ministry of the global Baptist family,” said Rev. Dr. Elijah Brown, BWA General Secretary. “From my first individual meeting with Den-



Rev. Denton Lotz and Rev. Robert Dvorak at the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention in 2009

ton in 2007 until the present, he offered regular and meaningful encouragement and insight. To Janice and all of the Lotz family, I stand with you as does all of the Baptist World Alliance in mourning and in recognition of a life of incredible service. Thank you for sharing Denton with us. While today I feel a keen sense of loss in Denton’s passing, I believe his leadership and legacy will continue to shape and mold the Baptist World Alliance for years to come.”

Rev. Lotz is survived by his loving wife, Janice, their three children, and many grandchildren. A memorial service has been scheduled for Friday, April 26, at 12 p.m. at Tremont Temple Baptist Church in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, with a reception following. A live-streamed memorial service celebrating his life and legacy will also be hosted by the Baptist World Alliance at Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Virginia, USA.

J. Merritt Johnston
Director of Communications & Media

Minitonas Cornerstone Baptist Church

90th Anniversary Report



It was our joy and privilege to have had the opportunity recently to visit the town of Minitonas, nestled in the Swan River Valley of western Manitoba. We last visited the area 11 years ago (2008), so our children had very few memories of that time. Traveling with Mom and Dad (Bernie and Libby Racinsky) helped to

bring all of the local geography and family history alive to us, as Minitonas is where both were born and raised. While we enjoyed many things on our trip, the focal point was the 90th anniversary celebrations of Cornerstone Baptist Church, formerly First Czechoslovak Baptist Church. These celebrations were held the weekend of May 17 to 19, and I will try and give you a sense of what we were able to experience.

The theme verse for the weekend was Matthew 28:20b – “And lo I am with you always”. This was reflected in various ways during the weekend as we reflected on the past, spoke honestly of the present, and looked to the future. The speaker for the weekend was Vance Nelson. Vance was born in Minitonas and came to Christ as a young man. He now has an apologetics ministry named *Creation Truth Ministries* (creationtruthministries.org). Over the three days, we were encouraged by the tangible evidence that exists in creation to support the Bible’s account of origins. Our faith was bolstered as we considered that the God who spoke light into being has also shone the light of the gospel in our hearts.

Unsurprisingly, music played an important role in the celebrations. Sonia Mateika (organ and choir director) and Lois Sevckenko (piano) were instrumental in organizing the band and choir selections. The mixed-generation congregation enthusiastically sang both traditional and contemporary songs. Brent Mason led the contemporary singing during the weekend and also presented some of his own compositions at a Saturday evening concert. A highlight was certainly the “Czech Band” that played several pieces for a prelude Sunday morning followed by the playing and singing of the Czech

and Canadian national anthems. Some of the original band instruments were even placed on display! Finally, Dorothy Schroeder (Buess) ministered with an appropriate song for the weekend: *Find us Faithful*.

There were several opportunities for sharing public testimonies. These often consisted of thanksgiving to God for his grace, thanksgiving for those who ministered in times past, and a trust in God’s faithfulness through times of testing and hardship. It was encouraging to our faith to hear from all who shared. One important event was Sunday morning when Darlene Hardy presented Olga Slepicka with a special gift recognizing her presence at the founding of the church in 1929 (as a very young girl!). This was significant for our family as Olga is my father’s last remaining aunt.

Woven throughout the weekend were many opportunities for warm fellowship and good eating! There seemed to be a never-ending stream of Czech pastries and other treats along with a Saturday meal that was open to all. The culmination of the festivities was the sold-out banquet that took place on Sunday after the service. It was truly outstanding in every way and especially heartening to see the church basement full of young and old, reminiscing, viewing the collages of pictures surrounding the basement walls, catching up, and sometimes meeting for the first time.



At each event throughout the weekend, the attendance steadily rose until there were about 200 of us gathered together on Sunday morning. What a testimony to the goodness of God and the labours of the organizers. All of this would not have been possible without many hours of preparation and planning. Undoubtedly this was a labour of love by the entire church but the organizing committee bears special mention: Pastor Byron Hardy, Henry and Florence Jersak, and Katherine Staniland. Edna Kopecky was also invaluable in assisting the team with many items of preparation. All of their work helped to make the weekend a very special celebration for us and I'm sure for all who attended.

I close by sharing a prayer request that Pastor Byron shared with us at the Sunday service: that we would remember to pray for this church in the days ahead. God has indeed been faithful to this flock for 90 years although the journey has not always been easy. Many reading this article either benefited directly from this ministry or are descendants of those who did. All of us can join in prayer that this church would continue to be a gospel witness to a lost world, remembering that Christ has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age!

Tim Racinsky





Ministry Vision: Evangelizing and Church Planting via Mobile Bible Store and Media Ministry in Serbia and Slovakia.

The summary of the latest happenings in our ministry:

Pre-Field Ministry: *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”* (Matt.7:7) Jan was very busy contacting dozens of churches, pastors, and mission committees, to see if the Holy Spirit will initiate the move toward partnering in the ministry of the Gospel to Serbia and Slovakia. We have met some of them in person and presented to them our vision. We got very encouraged by each of them. Four churches invited us to come and have the ministry presentations on Sunday mornings. Praise the Lord! His Holy Spirit is opening the right doors and putting a burden for this ministry on the hearts of people. We are holding on to what Hudson Taylor has said: *“If I am guided by God, in going out, He will open the way and provide the means.”*

Radio Ministry: Logos Radio is online 24/7. Ana is mostly occupied with writing radio messages. She enjoys studying, writing, recording, and choosing music and songs. Jan is editing and sending the recorded materials to the chief editor in Slovakia. The last period was marked with topics like *Why Do Innocents Suffer? Is Jesus the Only Way to Heaven? What About Those Who Never Heard About Jesus? Why Can't My Moral Life Take Me to Heaven? Can Christian Spiritual Experience be Explained with Autohypnosis?* – and other similar topics.

Learn more about Serbia: March 24 marked the 20th anniversary of NATO's bombing Serbia. Two decades later, the region is still reeling from billions of dollars of damage, and an alleged outbreak of cancer-related illness caused by the depleted uranium bombs. American actor Johnny Depp is filming a documentary about the environmental catastrophe on more than 100 locations in Serbia, Kosovo, and Montenegro.

PRAISES:

- We are thankful for churches and friends who became

our ministry partners in the last three months. At this point, we are at 67% of the monthly support.

- We are thankful for each donor of one-time donations that will be used for the Outfit & Passage account.

- In the last three months, we have been confronted with a tough issue, and found out that the longer we walk with the Lord, the more we gain the ability to rely on Him. The words of Charles Spurgeon were a significant help to us. Spurgeon explains: *“... fully trusting the Lord means with our whole weight to rely on Him.”*

- Thanks be to the Lord that Jan is still working as a part-time associate pastor at Grace Baptist Church, and that preparing radio messages for Logos Radio is possible even from Canada via the internet. This way we are so busy that there is



With Barry Moore, Canadian retired evangelist who used to have many evangelistic crusades in northern Serbia and Slovakia back in the 80s and 90s

not much time left for worrying.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for us as we are contacting new churches as potential partners in ministry.

- Join us in praying that the Lord will fully fund the ministry by September 2019, and we will be able to move to Serbia in December 2019.

- We have a lot of traveling in the coming months: up and down Ontario, then Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania – for ministry presentations, the Czech-Slovak Baptist Convention, and another training session in ABWE-HQ, PA.

- We must accomplish some assignments before the taking of our training in ABWE-HQ this coming July.

In the most holy name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – *“The humble King who was named a fraud and sacrificed as the Lamb of God”,*

Jan and Ana Franka

Steve Mattocks



“friendly” soccer games with local teams, and programs with the churches’ youth groups.

The camp in Hodonin reached over 30 children. Besides teaching the basic soccer skills, we spent time each day talking about the basic storyline of Scripture: Creation (God created a good world); Fall (Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve’s disobedience); Redemption (God sent Jesus, His Son, to bring forgiveness and reconciliation) and Completion (One day God will restore all things and put Creation right again).

The work in Breclav also involved roughly 30 or so children. This camp takes place in a low-income sidliste, or apartment complex. The local church has been conducting this camp for close to 20 years, and we are starting to get second-generation campers. Several teen campers have become involved with the church’s youth group, and some from the very first camps are involved in the larger church body. Such fruit is encouraging to see.

This summer Caleb and I will be returning to Czech for another mission trip. We plan on helping the same two churches with their summer ministries. Please keep us in your prayers.

Though it’s been nearly 10 years since we left the Czech Republic, the Lord continues to give us opportunities to minister in that country.

Last July, we took a soccer-based mission trip to the southeast corner of the country. My sons, Steven and Caleb, along with my nephew, Lucas, went with me to Breclav and Hodonin. We joined a small group of men from California to form a mission team. Together, we partnered with two local churches to do evangelistic outreaches. These outreaches took the form of soccer day camps, several



Missions work in Podgorica, Montenegro

History of their Mission

Vladimir Cizmanski is a past delegate of the CZSKBC Convention. He is of Slovak descent, though he was born in Serbia. Together with his wife, Marijana, Vladimir began missions in Montenegro and started a church plant over 25 years ago. Montenegro is a picturesque Balkan country, full of rugged mountains, and beauty along the Adriatic coastline.

“It was God’s calling for me to go to Montenegro. There was no other drive, no family or friends, just the need of the Gospel in Montenegro. In the beginning, people were informed that Evangelicals were not good,” Vladimir explained. They were considered a sect and dangerous. The people of Montenegro were told that this religion was destructive and brought from the West, making people apprehensive and hard to approach. “It was hard to get started. People were afraid. They recognized that we were believers as soon as we mentioned Jesus. They were comfortable talking about religious things, and the mention of God, but as soon as Jesus was named, they would ask which sect we belonged to. Soon after the name of Jesus was spoken, the door of that conversation would be shut. But little by little, by showing the people that believers too were normal, and not dangerous, they began to listen.”

Today the situation is very different. As more foreign businesses have come to Montenegro, the people are more open. There is now more of an interest in other religions beyond Orthodoxy and Catholicism. “People often are disappointed in religion in Montenegro, because of the political issues that the churches become involved in. This became an opportunity for us and gave us space to talk about real faith.” said Vladimir. With the globalization of the internet, people are able to connect and be influenced by different things around the world. Now more informed, Montenegrins have begun to realize that much of the world was connected to other religions, and the idea is not so strange to them anymore. This has made it easier to evangelize, but it does not mean that these people are rushing to hear the Good News.

The keys to Evangelizing in Montenegro

Friendship evangelism is very much needed in Montenegro. It is a great need that Vladimir acknowledges. “We distributed 500 invitations, inviting people to come to our Easter service. None of those people came.” He affirms that building relationships is still the best way to get people to visit and be

more apt to hearing. “We believe we are sowing and that there will be a time for harvest, but it is a process for hearts to be ready.”



Vladimir and Marijana Cizmanski

It was about 11 years ago that the church began the Samaritan Shoe Box program. This helped Vladimir to see that his friends were more open to the Gospel and he was able to gain their trust. The Samaritan shoeboxes showed the people of Montenegro that they were cared for and that good was wanted for them and their families. This allowed Vladimir to develop connections, and more and more children started coming to their Christmas programs. The Children’s Ministry offered each Sunday began to grow. There are now 20 children coming from non-believing families and Vladimir has been able to see them grow. Many are now in their teens.

Moreover, there are camps available to them in the summer. When other missions teams come to help host the camps, Vladimir notes that having foreigners can be a big help. “Some

kids build these relationship connections, and are attracted to the freshness that someone not from this region brings into camp life. Kids can learn new things that they are not familiar with,” he says, and lasting impressions can still be seen. Having these summer camps has allowed Vladimir and his team to minister to the youth in an unconventional way and in a safe environment, which makes their parents at ease sending them there.



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Visibility

Montenegro is home to roughly 650 thousand people. Vladimir estimates, of this population, there are only approximately 300 born-again believers. Though Jesus says that where His people are, he is also, to the people of Montenegro, a physical building is an important sym-



bol of legitimacy. Vladimir and his team are housed in a physical building but it is not deemed a church. The construction of a brick and mortar church can become the visible symbol that is needed for people to accept that believers are not hiding or secretive about their faith. “When you set up the meeting place—in a church—you are sending the message that you are transparent, serious, and not going anywhere. This will help us to be recognized and officially present,” says Vladimir.

It is their biggest need. Their current church is housed in a small two-room converted cafe that can only accommodate a limited number of people. A larger space is needed for the main sanctuary, but most of all, they need more space to accommodate the children that attend. The church includes about 50 members and can minister to upwards of 30 children on a given Sunday, and Vladimir welcomes the continual growth. “We are praying we stay united and in a position to proclaim the Gospel,” he said, with hopes that the building



will not be solely for church services. It is their hope that there can also be a mission centre where they can host over 15 people. There are many organizations that want to send their teams for evangelizing, activities, and seminars. This would mean that there is also a need to have an office space, and rooms for study and prayer.

The First Ever Evangelical Church Building in Montenegro

The plan is to construct a four-storey building. The government has given permission for the church to purchase the land on which they intend to construct it. Despite these advances, there remains a funding gap to complete the project. But as in all things, Vladimir and the team have continued to rely on God’s providence through the generosity of His people around the world. This includes the ministry that His people provide in service, as future teams are needed to come and serve at the camps and as hands to build once the building is erected.

In writing this, it is my hope to go and help with a team for both the camps and construction. If the Lord too, has laid it on your heart to join us in Summer 2020, it is my prayer that the Lord would have you join.

Please contact us at andrea7turner@gmail.com

Andrea Lamos-Turner



Luke and Megan Adams

(Past Convention missionaries to Czech)



Hello everyone!

From time to time, people who were connected with us through our missions work ask us for a little update on our lives since we returned to Canada, and recently, we were just asked to type one up for a church magazine. So, we thought we would take the opportunity to share it with anyone else interested in reading. Hope you all are doing well, and you can read on below!

Since arriving back in Canada about a year and half ago, life has been busy and full of change. Although we spent the previous 10 years before missions living in Oakville, Ontario, we decided upon returning to Canada to relocate to our hometown of Truro, Nova Scotia, to be closer to our families. Megan's parents and siblings all live in town, and my (Luke's) parents do as well. We made this decision not only so our children would be closer to their extended family, but so that we could better support my parents as well. My father has not been well (undiagnosed) for about 4-5 years now, and we wanted to be available to my parents during this time. Although my father's health has continued to decline, we were able to assist and help facilitate the sale of my parent's home and help them transition to an apartment. The transition has been very positive for my mother, who no longer has to worry about keeping up their home on top of other worries, and they love having their grandkids around. Continued prayers for my father would be very much appreciated.

In the midst of that process, our family also transitioned into our very first "permanent" home as well. Our oldest, Cole, had just turned one when we left our apartment in Ontario; our second, Jensen, was born during the midst of

our support-raising travels; and our third, Lucy, was born during our time in the Czech Republic. Since returning, we have added one more to the pack with another daughter, Daniela, born late last summer. Needless to say, we are very relieved to give our children some stability for this period of time. Cole is now 7, Jensen is 5, Lucy is 2, and Daniela will turn 1 this August.

On top of all the moving and relocating during this time, figuring out a new career path has been the other major challenge since returning. My background before missions work was in music, and unfortunately, opportunities for that career are not near as numerous here as they were in Ontario. I ultimately decided to pursue my long-time hobby of photography, and started up a business doing portrait and wedding photography. Granted, not an easy career path either, but the business has been steadily growing and so far has been successful, and ultimately has allowed Megan to remain at home with the kids, where she somehow manages to home-school our two older children while keeping everything (and everyone!) in order.

The transition home has been a tough one in many ways, not just as we carved out a new life, but also in finding our compass again. We had visions of hitting the ground running, helping out people, jumping into local church ministry, and reaching out to those in our community. But what we have found many times is that it was hard to have any extra energy to give beyond what we ourselves and our family required. After leaving a situation where reaching our community and helping people was literally our job description, feeling guilty and questioning our purpose has sometimes been hard not to do during this last year.

I think what we have come to realize, though, is that you don't come out of these transitions quickly, let alone overnight, and that it was all right to simply "be" for a period of time in our lives. And with that realization (and Daniela getting a little older), things have slowly been getting a little more normal, and we have been able to start being involved and giving more of ourselves again. Baby steps really, but we are thankful that the daunting task of moving home, helping my parents, buying a house, starting a business, and schooling our kids has mostly gone pretty okay really.

As for missions, it's hard to say. The tension of trying to minister in and acclimatize to a foreign country combined with the unpredictability of financial needs and sustainability was a hard way to live indeed, but we think back to our time



in Czech often. I still often dream and speak Czech in my sleep (although I'm slowly forgetting it). Often times, Cole & Jensen will reminisce about something that happened there, or sing a song they learned at pre-school. It was and is a part of our family's life and history, and we look back with good memories of our time there, and of the people we met and worked with. And although we don't currently have any overwhelming desire to be back in Czech, I often wish I could just drop by the local Sokol (gym) on a Monday evening and play a game of florbal (floor hockey) with the friends I made there.

We want to thank you all so much for your involvement, support, love & care during this period in our lives and our mission to Czech. We made so many new friends all over the US and Canada, and were blessed by so many different people through this endeavour—and that has truly been one of the best parts of all this. It is an experience and a time we will never forget, and we are so grateful that you took part in it with us.

Please pray for:

- The continued growth of Luke's photography business.
- Our kids as they continue to grow up and settle into life here.
- Megan, as she schools and raises the children.
- Our spiritual walk, as we continue finding where we fit in and can serve.
- Luke's parents as his father deals with continuing health issues.

Thanks so much, everyone! Feel free to write us a note and give us an update on you! We would love to pray for you as well. Love and blessings,

Luke & Megan, Cole, Jensen, Lucy, Daniel

Editorial...

Continues from page 3

the basis of the disciples' work and testimonies, in the coming days, years, centuries, millennia...

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 17:20–21).

Every believer has their place in society; each is called to mission work. A follower of Jesus Christ has their own calling, whether in their own family, or among strangers. This mission is shielded by God himself: *"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."* (John 17:24).

Prayer is the key that opens heaven.

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

Editorial... Pokračování ze strany 3

domovů a nést evangelium tam, kde je potřeba. To, že to není jednoduché, jistě vnímáme.

Čteme jejich dopisy a modlíme se za ně. Ne vždy však domýšlíme souvislosti, které přináší reálný život misionářů.

Sedmnáctá kapitola Janova evangelia nám zaznamenala situaci, kdy se Pán Ježíš modlí za ty, kteří budou pokračovat v jeho poslání. Sám pocítil nepřátelství těch, kteří ho nepřijali, věděl, čemu budou jeho následovníci vystaveni. Proto prosí svého Otce, aby je uchránil od zlého. (Jan 17;15) Ve své modlitbě myslí také na ty, kteří na základě jejich služby a jejich svědectví uvěří v následujících dnech, letech, století, tisíciletí...:

"Neprosím ale jen za ně. Prosím i za ty, kteří ve mě uvěří skrze jejich slovo. Ať jsou všichni jedno, jako ty, Otče, ve mně a já v tobě; ať jsou i oni jedno v nás, aby svět věřil, že jsi mě poslal." (Jan 17;20–21)

Každý věřící má ve společnosti své místo, každý je povolán do misie. Následovník Ježíše Krista má své poslání, ať je to ve vlastní rodině nebo mezi cizími. Tato misie je zaštitěna samotným Bohem: *"Otče, chci, aby ti, jež jsi mi dal, byli se mnou tam, kde jsem já, aby viděli slávu, kterou jsi mi dal."* (Jan 17; 24).

Modlitba je klíč, který otvírá nebe.

Nataša Laurincová, šéfredaktorka

Hope for Kids Nepal — GraceMode Asia

Peter and Leena Kuruc



Who are we? We are group of people who are motivated by a passion for helping vulnerable kids.

I (Peter) decided to dedicate my life to helping kids in danger of human trafficking many years ago. I realized that I could not live on the face of this Earth without at least trying to change the fate of a few little ones lost in the pit of human trafficking and sexual slavery.

So my wife Leena and I decided to start our organization called "Hope for Kids Nepal" because Nepal is where my wife was born and it has become my home as well. We are based in Kathmandu. We have made our decision.

Support for children in Sindupalchowk

One of our ministries is supporting existing orphanages in the Kathmandu Valley and the children who live in them. We paid the school fees for 13 kids in Sindupalchowk province. We paid for their school uniforms. We were able to manage some money for children's stationery. Overall we spent: 63 000 NPR (572 USD)

Starting a charity in Nepal

We have had a plan to start a charity in Nepal for some time now as a branch office to our charity in Slovakia. Until now we were not able to accomplish this goal, mostly because we don't have enough responsible people for a charity board. The whole process of starting a charity is complicated and it's not certain how much time it will take. It may take a couple of months.

The main advantage of starting our own charity registered in Nepal is that it will be much easier for us to control where our donors' finances are going. That was always one of our main priorities. That way, supporting children with scholarships in provinces of Sindupalchowk, Jumla and Kathmandu, and future projects we are preparing, will be under one "roof". Also, we won't need to rely any more on other charities and organizations and their oversight as in the past. Please pray for success in this.

Support for Children in our Scholarship Program

We had a plan to add 10 more children into our scholarship program. For now we decided to cancel this plan for two reasons:

1. We decided to start our own charity branch in Nepal to have all our future projects "under one roof". 2. Leena and I had to leave Nepal because of our personal problems and we had a swing in our donor base. We decided to wait a couple of months and then decide how many children we will be able to support long-term.

The sincere desire of our hearts is to support as many children as possible. That's why recent decisions were hard for us, but we believe that we will be able to support more children in the near future. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Peter and Leena

After our marriage crisis, we both left Nepal and consequently we lost everything we had. We found a stable ground for our marriage in Slovakia. First of all, we would love to thank from the heart all the people who supported us financially and through prayer during our marriage crisis. It means a lot to us.

We don't know how many more months we will be in Slovakia. Based on guidance from our mentors and people who are more experienced than we are, we decided to not rush into anything and take our time making our next decisions. If or when we will go back to Nepal is for now a matter of secondary importance. We are trying to give time to one another.

We both would love to continue in ministry, but for now we are confused and we don't know how many people and donors we lost in recent months. We are seeking what exactly is God's will for our lives. But right now we have basically decided to continue our ministry in Nepal. We just don't know how much time we will need for one another.

Thank you once again for your prayers and thanks to all of you who are still supporting us financially through this difficult time. The last few months have been very difficult for us, but we have hope we will become stronger than ever from this.

Asking for prayers

1. Please pray for all the children we are supporting.
2. Please pray for the process of establishing the charity in Nepal.
3. Please pray for our marriage and decisions on our future ministry.

Thank you for your prayers and for your moral support. God bless you.



Grace Mode

Rev. Al Dagal, Executive Director



Pastor Al at his Microphone



Eloise and I are enjoying the challenges of heading up the ministry of GraceMode in these very active years after “retirement” as we live in the mode of grace. What began as almost a “hobby ministry” has grown into a world-wide endeavor of ministry and missionary

work. We are in our thirteenth year of producing the daily devotioncast, “Moments of Grace”, which has been discovered in 114 countries around the world. I bring the messages, and Eloise is the announcer. This podcast production is the “flagship” of our ministry, and it has connected us with a variety of people and ministries, opening doors of missionary work that now has us with GraceMode missionaries and ministry partners in four countries.

Six years ago, we began partnering with Pastor Prem Raulo in Odisha, India. Together, Pastor Prem and I spent ten days training persecuted pastors and evangelists and ministering in many churches and an orphanage in India. On January 1st of this year, we began a joint ministry in two villages in two Indian states, bringing education, food, Christian teaching, clothing, and medical help to fifty children. In one of the villages, we already have a new congregation meeting. Pastor Prem and his FAITH Ministries, Odisha, India, bring a full range of ministry outreach to the area, and we are a big part in their effort.

For three years now, we have been bringing on official GraceMode missionaries. The first missionary couple, Bishnu Buhdthapa and his wife, Goma, came on board after receiving their seminary level training in the Philippines. They are Nepalese, and, although I cannot share specifics of their work, they are serving in Nepal, where evangelistic work is now illegal. Persecution is part of their system of law now, but Bishnu and Goma know that Jesus is the answer for their own people. I can say this: They are right where God wants them to serve. They have two very young sons.

Our next missionary couple is familiar to many in the convention. Peter Kuruc, who helped as a translator in Slovakia for our convention’s ministry team and attended the convention two years ago, came on as an official missionary with us, while he was living and working in Kathmandu, Nepal. He

serves as our director of Asia ministries, helping guide our involvement in India and Nepal. Recently he and his Nepalese wife, Leena, have moved to his native Slovakia to work on their own relationship and marriage.

We are just in the process of appointing our third missionary, Pastor John Olwanda, who lives in Kenya with his wife and very young son. We are excited to expand into Africa in this way, and we look forward to what God has in store for us. Pastor Olwanda’s involvement will include prison ministry, pastoral ministries, evangelism, and much more, as funds become available.

Here at home, Eloise and I continue leading our Iron Men and Iron Ladies groups, bringing church services to an assisted living facility, counseling, providing pulpit supply and standing alongside local pastors and serving as a resource for local ministries, as opportunities open up. I still do weddings, funerals and baptisms, along with personal evangelism, etc. My health remains good, and Eloise is recovering from a recent shoulder replacement surgery. As



Pastor Al and Eloise Dagal

God gives strength, we will continue to serve Him.

Our needs? We really covet your prayers. We publish newsletters regularly, and our web page, www.gracemode.org, is always on, where you can even click on our media player and listen to “Moments of Grace” any time. My job includes raising funds for the whole ministry. Regarding that, we really just want to let God’s people know what we are up to and what the needs are, and we ask God to touch hearts and provide. The needs are real; funds are kind of scarce; God is our provider!

GRACEMODE is a ministry that focuses on evangelism and spiritual growth that is designed to challenge, comfort and bless the listener. The ministry puts out a daily online devotioncast, and is also available for speaking events and pulpit supply. Moments of Grace was founded by Pastor Al Dagal while he served as senior pastor at Grace Community Bible Church in Pueblo, Colorado. GRACEMODE has been podcasting for 12 years now with positive ratings. (You can hear a daily devotional podcast, called “Moments of Grace” on our web page, on I-tunes or at gcbc.podomatic.com any time, day or night.)

Mark & Gretchen Potma

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (John 20:21)



For every family, each season of life has its own joys and challenges, and it's no different for a missionary family. We were blessed while our children were small to have grandparents and other family members on both sides who were willing and able to travel to Prague to visit us. That, along with our home assignments and biannual summer trips to North America, helped our kids maintain a solid connection with our extended family and our home cultures. Even though there were always things to miss, whichever side of the ocean we were on, we always told our kids: home is wherever we are together as a family.

We had to start adjusting that motto as we examined the post-secondary educational options for our oldest son. With advice from an organization called Share Education Services that helps missionary families in Central and Eastern Europe with their educational needs, along with helpful tips gleaned from other missionary families, and most importantly, step-by-step guidance from the Lord, we came to the conclusion that it would be best for our children to get their high school diplomas in Ontario, so our oldest son led the way and went back to our home town for grade 12 at a wonderful Christian school where he had already spent two separate school years during our home assignments. He lived with close family friends during that year and is still like an adopted son in their family. We missed having him with us during that year, but he did very well and benefitted from having input into his life from his "adoptive" family and from many different Christian role models. The following year was a home assignment year

for us and we enjoyed being under one roof and around the same table once again.

Our family is a little bit like the Czechoslovak Baptist Union in that we have roots in both the U.S. and Canada, so we made an intentional decision at that point to solidly put down roots in our Canadian home town near our sending church. We wanted our kids to be together while completing their high school and post-secondary educations and not scattered across North America whenever the rest of us arrived from Prague. We now have two young adults living together, attending university in the same town and well connected with their church and Christian community. Their visits back to Prague are a special treat that the Lord has blessed us with, and we are also very thankful for technology that allows us to communicate and to see their faces almost any time—although we do have to keep in mind sometimes that our

day is their night and that they can't really facetime with mom or dad during a lecture!

Next year the balance will be even, with three members of the family on either side of the Atlantic and eventually, it will be just the two of us returning to Prague and leaving four young adults behind. But who knows what God's plan might be? Some of them may find their way back to the Czech Republic with a job or calling. We are proud of their flexibility and resilience in adapting to their lives as MKs (missionary kids) and their resourcefulness and independence as they start out in their own adult lives.

UPDATE

At our recent combined Sunday service and annual meeting at South City Church, over 100 people gathered from Skalka Church, Ládví Church, Network Praha Church, the Mongolian church, and the new church plants at Bohnice and Prosek. Together we worshipped and fellowshiped and praised the Lord for his grace and goodness over the past year. PRAISE God for the excitement, unity and growth that we have experienced this past year as one church in seven locations.

Three couples at South City Church and five couples at Ládví Church are benefitting from the eight-week marriage course that we are conducting every Monday and Tuesday. One couple has already attended one of our Sunday services and another two who live in Bohnice are interested in coming to our preview church service on April 7th. Please PRAY for



At the Palm Sunday service of the Mongolian church in Prague, six people prayed to receive Christ as their Saviour! The new believers have been requesting Bible studies and discipleship. Daniel (Munkhuush) and others plan to follow up with them in the weeks ahead. Please PRAY for these new Mongolian believers and also for Daniel, who is looking forward to being ordained as a pastor in May.

During the current Alpha course at the Prosek church plant, Karel gave his life to Christ and is now meeting regularly with Mark and others for discipleship and preparation for baptism. Please PRAY for Karel and for others from Ládvi Church who are considering being baptized in June.

Vit is doing very well. His rehabilitation has gone well and he just has a slight problem with movement in one foot. He will be officially starting his internship in June but is already involved with ministry at the church. Mark was just mentioning that he is planning to join us at English camp this year, so he will be working with the teens and translating the evening messages. The church is trusting the Lord for his salary for the next two years.

We are glad to have Noemi with us for Easter. She has finished her second year of university and is looking forward to a 4-month internship in her field of study. Luke has only four more months of a summer semester before he is finished with his university studies, and is enjoying a week in Minnesota with our family there. Thank you for your prayers for our family!



strong marriages for all eight couples and for the opportunities that we have to follow up with them.

Tomáš and Karolína, one of the couples from last year's Preparation for Marriage course are getting married in April, and Mark will be officiating at their wedding. They are attending our church at Ládvi and have been getting involved in ministry. Please PRAY for us as we continue to meet with them to prepare for their wedding and also for their married lives together.

Please pray for Bohnice church planting team members. PRAY that God would guide their planning and prepare the way to implement plans for sharing God's love in Bohnice.



110th CZECHOSLOVAK BAPTIST CONVENTION

Canton, OH

July 11–14, 2019

Jesus Christ

— THE SAME —

YESTERDAY

TODAY

And

FOREVER

