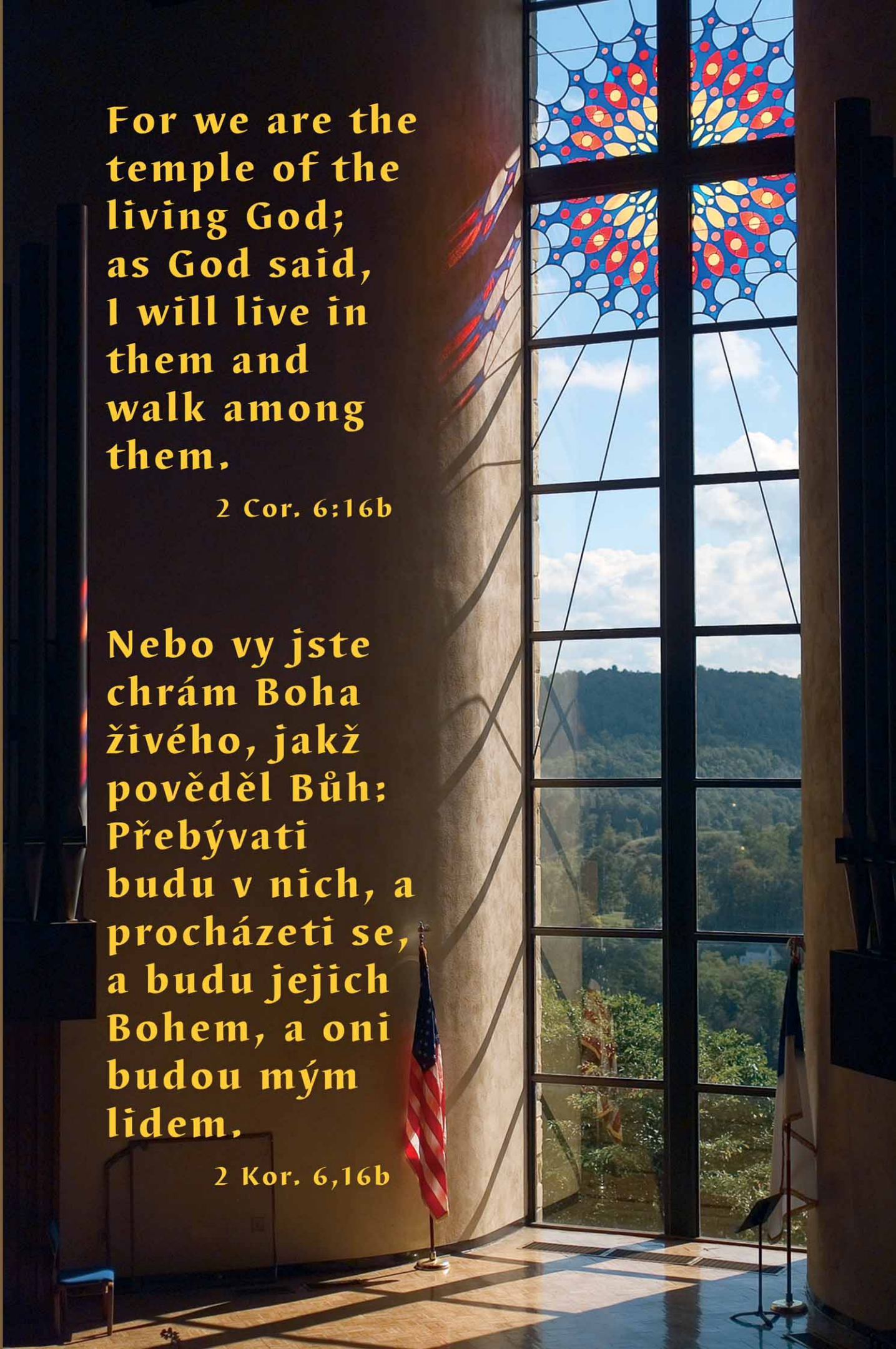


For we are the
temple of the
living God;
as God said,
I will live in
them and
walk among
them.

2 Cor. 6:16b

Nebo vy jste
chrám Boha
živého, jakž
pověděl Bůh:
Přebývati
budu v nich, a
procházeti se,
a budu jejich
Bohem, a oni
budou mým
lidem.

2 Kor. 6,16b



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.

Misijsní poslání konvence

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

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Glorious Hope / Slavná naděje

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Editorial



In this issue of *Glorious Hope* you will get to read about our annual Convention meeting. Each year, and this is no exception, we try to insert photographs of the year's participants among all the written articles. It is in its own way a documentation of the things that happened and people who were present. Those who came

may reminisce, and those unable to come this year may see familiar faces. And perhaps unfamiliar faces as well. Every year we welcome someone new, who is attending the Convention for the first time. Everyone has a personal history and to listen to the memories and experiences of individuals is very special. It is proof that *Glorious Hope* links together people native to the heart of Europe. There are nice times shared which testify to the love of Jesus Christ. This year we welcomed, for the first time, brother Harry Kejr from Kansas, who traveled alone for 1100 miles, despite the fact that he is not the youngest of men any longer. We asked him to write a few words for us. Brother Harry agreed and even you readers can now meet him in these pages.

Now I must mention the previous issue of *Glorious Hope*. It came into your hands unbelievably delayed. About that

Continues on page 57

V tomto čísle *Slavná naděje* se dočtete o letošním konvenčním setkání. Jako každým rokem, se snažíme vložit mezi psané slovo i fotografie účastníků. Je to svým způsobem dokumentace o tom, co se odehrávalo a kdo byl přítomen. Ti, kteří se zúčastnili konvence zavzpomínají a ti, kteří nemohli přijet, uvidí známé tváře. A nebo také neznámé. Každým rokem vítáme někoho, kdo přijel na konvenci poprvé. Každý má osobní historii a zaposlouchat se do vzpomínek jednotlivců je vzácné. Je to důkaz toho, že *Slavná naděje* je pojítkem lidí pocházejících ze srdce Evropy. Jsou to velmi pěkné chvíle a svědčí o lásce Pána Ježíše. Letos jsme poprvé přivítali bratra Harryho Kejře z Kansas, který cestoval sám 1100 mil i přesto, že není nejmladší. Požádali jsme ho, ať nám napíše pár slov. Bratr Harry napsal a můžete se s ním setkat na těchto stránkách i vy, čtenáři.

Nyní se musím zmínit o minulém čísle *Slavná naděje*. Dostalo se vám do rukou s neuvěřitelným opožděním. O tom však psát nechci. Teprve na konvenci jsem zjistila, že bratři z redakce se na mne domluvili a napsali o mém jubileu, tak nějak za mémi zády. Myslím si totiž, že pokud neuveřejňujeme narozeniny všech členů

Pokračování na straně 57

Note:

Last issue back cover: The half figure of Christ is reproduction of Grünewald's original, two small panels are studies of Maria Gabankova.



Front cover: Wilcox Chapel, A-B College, Philippi
Back cover: Convention 2006 picture
Other pictures: Darko Siracki, Jan Titěra, George Sommer



Life with God Very Near

For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will live in them and walk among them.'

2 Cor. 6:16b

97th Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada Philippi, West Virginia, July 6-9, 2006

As always, our annual convention starts almost six weeks earlier. Preparations with registration, printed materials, meal tickets, programs, accommodations, Wilcox Chapel set-up, banners, audio-visual equipment and so on are too numerous to mention. When delegates arrive



General Board Meeting

at Alderson-Broadus College campus, everything must be ready. I really appreciate the fact that even our guests from the Czech Republic were helping us with preparations this year (you can see it in the picture).

On the first day, Thursday, the General Board had their meeting. President Robert Dvorak, welcomed all members and thanked them for coming. For his devotional Bob read from Chapter 40 of Isaiah. In his comments he reminded us that the convention is in its 97th year; and if we wait on the Lord, we will renew our strength, and run and not be weary. He then led the group in prayer.



Jan Titěra and Ján Banko in Action

The president said that we are happy to have guests visiting us from the Czech Republic. Jan Banko introduced the Rev. Jan and Mrs. Vera Titera. Jan is the General Secretary of the Czech Baptist Union. Jan then thanked the convention for the invitation; and he expressed warm greetings from the Baptist church in Brno, the largest Baptist church in the Czech Republic.

Dr. Dvorak announced that John Alac is a groom of less than two weeks. Ken Devine is now the full-time pastor of Hatch Hallow Baptist Church. We miss John Jeren Sr. at this meeting. He went to be with the Lord on April 26, 2006. Rev. and Mrs. Kmetko sent a message that they cannot be here because of Andy's health. There were also messages from John Gabor, Richard Mazanec, and Shirley Mobley.

Reports: The financial secretaries, Vera Dors and Henry Pojman, gave their reports. Vera said that giving is down and is the lowest that it has been in the eight years that she has been financial secretary. One reason is that in the previous year two fairly large estates gave money to the Convention in the amount of \$20,000.



Joseph Novak, Robert Dvorak

The treasurers, George Gregor and Otilia Alac, gave their reports, which were printed in the booklet.

Joe Novak gave a report on the tract ministry with his usual enthusiasm. The Czechoslovak Evangelical Mission has printed over 357,185 tracts and distributed 259,645 of them. Total printing to date is 3,498,915, and over 3,401,375 brochures are witnessing in 76 countries around the world. Since the last convention he has mailed out 331 Bibles, one New Testament, 486 books, 1,515 pens, 1,483 pencils and several tapes with messages, calendars, Christian magazines, unused Sunday school lessons and old Christmas cards. He read several letters which he had received. He then asked the members to pray for wisdom and strength for him to go on.

President Bob Dvorak reported for the Trust Funds in the absence of Bill Rotar. The report was very encouraging.

The Awards and Recognition Committee recommended that the following board members advance to Emeritus status: Rev. Vlado Canji, John Gabor and Robert Karhan.

Rev. Jan Titera, General Secretary of the Czech Baptist Union, gave us a closer report on how they will use the mission grant we have given them. He expressed sincere gratitude for this mission grant and asked the members to continue to pray for their ministry.

Natasha Legierski, editor of *Glorious Hope*, expressed her gratitude for the support of the convention. At the present time out of approximately 900 copies of the magazine, 530 go to the USA, 190 to Canada, and 172 overseas. Ten years ago 1,300 copies were being mailed. All Baptist churches in the



Hymn Singing



Natasha Legierski, Věra Titěřová

Czech Republic and Slovakia receive copies. The question was asked as to why the delay in getting the issues published. Natasha replied that there is a problem getting everything together, other commitments, work, and one article may delay a whole issue. She thanked everyone for their prayers and encouragement. With the internet more people have access to the magazine. She thanked those who contribute, and she requested more articles. A new issue of *Glorious Hope* was supposed to arrive on campus on Friday, July 7, (during the convention) but the printing company called to say that the imager (equipment needed to prepare the material for printing) had broken. It is hoped that it would be fixed and by Tuesday, July 11, *Glorious Hope* will be delivered to Philippi.

Committee appointments:

Nominating: Joe Novak—chair, Daniel Widlicka, Kenneth Devine, Jan Banko, William Rotar, Jan Franka, Stan Mantle, Garth Priebe

Budget: Robert Dvorak—chair, George Gregor, Bill Rotar, Otilia Alac, Henry Pojman, Vera Dors,

Publishing: George Sommer—chair, Joe Novak, Natasha Legierski, Jan Banko, George Legierski

Auditing: Jerry Andrs—chair, Stan Mantle, Donna Nesvadba, Larry Rucker

Missionary: Jerry Andrs, Jan Franka, Fred Opocensky

Youth: Darko Siracki, John Alac, Tom Devine

Awards & Recognitions: Robert Dvorak—chair, Milan Lev, Ann Opocensky, George Sommer.

The president and the executive secretary are ex-officio members of all committees.

The Nominating Committee reminded us that all pastors are automatically members of the General Board, so their names will no longer be written on the ballot. This will include Jan Banko, Stan Mantle, Ken Devine, Darth Priebe, and Bill Rotar.

The executive secretary, George Sommer, gave his report.

- There have been 2,816 hits on the web page as of July 5, 2006.

- The money sent to the Czech Baptist Union has been received.

- In the General Board Report is printed the proposal from the Slovak Baptist Union for funds which they will receive in 2007.

- George Sommer made a motion that the president of the Slovak Baptist Union, Tomas Kriska, and his wife Ester be invited as convention guests in 2007.



Jan and Věra Titěřová, Robert Dvorak

- He announced that Friday night will be Youth Night and that on Saturday the young people will have a picnic at Audra State Park.
- Future Convention dates are July 5–8, 2007; June 26–29, 2008; and the 100th Convention will be in 2009.
- The midyear meeting will be November 17, 2006, at Scranton Road Bible Church in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Members were reminded to give the names of those deceased to Robert Dvorak so they can be read at the Communion/Memorial Service on Sunday morning.
- George announced that we have a new electronic carillon on campus.

President Robert Dvorak gave his report. He announced that a couple of years ago the decision was made to revise the by-laws. The committee for this work consists of Donna Nesvadba, Stan Mantle, Darko Siracki, George Sommer and Robert. The suggested by-laws were read. After the Board meeting the committee was planning to review them; and if they feel they are ready to go to the general membership, it should be at this convention.

It was mentioned that the number of registrations is down this year. One of the reasons is that gasoline prices are high. We are happy for the support of Canadians but we need to work on U.S. participation.

New business: John Alac stated that Youth Night at the convention would be substantially different from the services we usually have. Young people would plan the entire service.

On Friday morning the first business meeting was opened by President Robert Dvorak, who thanked all for attending. He read from Colossians 3. During his comments he stated that we are to bear with one another as we do what is necessary, have great friendship toward one another, and whatever we do, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus—including the business of this convention.



George Sommer

Joe Novak reported for the Nominating Committee. He reviewed the ballot which will be used for voting the next day. The Ballot for 2006–2008 (Executive Board) and



Ice Cream Social—Sara Lamos, Amy Nesvadba, Andrea Lamos, and Vlado Kralik

2006–2010 (General Board) is as follows:

Executive Board Members: *President*—Robert Dvorak; *First V-President*—Joza Novak; *V-P for Canada*—Jan Banko; *V-P for Parl. Proc.*—John Jeren, Jr.; *V-P for Publications*—Natasha Legierski; *Executive Secretary*—George Sommer; *Assist. Secretary*—Gloria Andrs; *Treasurer-USA*—George Gregor; *Treasurer-Canada*—Otilia Alac; *Fin. Secretary USA*—Vera Dors; *Fin. Secretary Canada*—Henry Pojman; **Glorious Hope:** *Editor-in-Chief*—Natasha Legierski; **Canadian Office:** *President*—Jan Banko; *V-P*—Donna Nesvadba; *Secretary*—Milan Lev; *Treasurer*—Otilia Alac; *Finance Secretary*—Henry Pojman;

Members-at-large—Milan Lev, Joe Jersak, Fred Opocensky
General Board Members: John Alac; Otilia Alac; Jerry Andrs; Vera Dors; Brian Dors; Vlado Dudok; Robert Dvorak; George Gregor; John Jeren, Jr.; Joe Jersak; Natasha Legierski; Milan Lev; Richard Mazanec; Donna Nesvadba; Joza Novak; Fred Opocensky; Henry Pojman; Vlastimil Pojman; Donald Shoff; Darko Siracki; George Sommer; Marija Sommer; William Springle; Bob Struharik; Daniel Widlicka; Esther Widlicka; William Widlicka.

All pastors of convention member churches are automatically members of the General Board.

They are: **Jan Banko**—Toronto Czechoslovak Baptist Church; **Stan Mantle**—Grace Baptist Church, Windsor; **Ken Devine**—Hatch Hollow Baptist Church; **Bill Rotar**—Christ Community Church, Campbell; **Joe Abraham**—Scranton Road Bible Church Cleveland; **Garth Priebe**—Corner Stone Baptist Church, Minitonas.

They are ex-officio members with voting privileges.



Youth Picnic at Audra State Park



Daniel Widlicka

George Sommer gave the report of the executive secretary, which is the same as reported during the General Board Meeting.

The president presented the by-law revisions proposed by the General Board. Members were encouraged to read them as printed before the Saturday morning business meeting.

Greetings were extended from: the Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Toronto; Grace Baptist Church in Windsor; Scranton Road Bible Church and

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Karhan and Mr. and Mrs. William Widlicka; Alice and Andrew Kmetko; Richard and Cora Mazanec; Shirley Mobley; John Gabor; Bob Struharik and his wife who is recovering from surgery; Dick and Grace Niswonger, (Dick is recovering from heart surgery); Donald and Judy Shoff as they open a new church in the Chicago area.

We were delighted to have Harry Kejr attend this year from Brookville, Kansas. He is 82 years old and drove himself to the convention.

It was announced that next year is the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, Virginia, and perhaps members would plan a visit to Jamestown to coincide with their trip to Philippi.

thanked the financial secretaries and treasurers for all their hard work.

This was the business portion of the 97th Annual Convention. Even though the number of delegates was lower than in other years, (mostly because of the high price of gasoline), the spirit, blessings, and fellowship (as we say “obecnství”) were on a very high level. All messages were well prepared and we were blessed.



Darko Siracki

On Thursday night, after several years of absence, we were pleased to hear Philippi Baptist Church choir under the direction of Dr. Jud Bracey and accompanied by Marija Sommer. Both of them then worked with the convention choir. Also the president of Alderson-Broadus College, Dr. Steve Markwood, welcomed our annual convention.

Friday night was Youth Night. Darko Siracki was worship leader, and John Alac hymn singing leader. He “copied” Dan Widlicka, including his blue, red and white jacket. Brian Dors was in charge of “Recogni-



John Alac

tion of the Nations.” I am very pleased that the debut of Youth Night was so successful.

Following the service a power point presentation about Czech Baptists was presented.

Later, in order to cool down, we consumed a lot of ice-cream while waiting for dark and our 7th annual fireworks.

On Saturday all young people, under the direction of Darko Siracki and John Alac, departed for Audra State Park for a picnic, devotions, play, swimming etc. More about their trip can be found on the Youth Page in this issue of *Glorious Hope*.

Children, under the direction of Kristina Vlasic, had their studies and play during the day and evening services. Sunday morning Kristina led the children’s talk. More about children’s work can be found in the Children’s Corner.



Communion Service

Saturday night, after the famous, but abbreviated, “Old-Fashioned Hymn Singing with Bob Dvorak at the Piano,” our usual “Saturday Evening Concert” was held. We heard many young and “older” talents. It is always a special time enjoyed by everyone.

On Sunday morning, following Communion, the Memorial Service and Sunday school, during the morning service, gifts were exchanged between the Titeras and the convention officials. After the service the convention picture was taken. At the banquet we certainly enjoyed a typical Czechoslovakian meal—pork roast, dumplings and sauerkraut. What more could we ask for?

In the afternoon many of the delegates gathered at the Sommers’ for refreshing watermelon, testimonies, obecnstvi and an evening picnic.

In summary, we enjoyed very much the visit of the Titeras, as representatives of the Czech Baptist Union.

Jan Titěra was the Czech Bible Study leader and also



Fellowship at the Sommers

delivered the Friday night sermon during Youth Night. On Saturday morning Vera gave a report and testimony of ladies’ work in the Czech Republic.

Although small in numbers, the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada is alive and doing great work on this continent, as well as supporting the work of our brothers and sisters in the Czech and Slovak Republics. Our music program during every convention is of the highest quality and we are very grateful to all who participated.

We should not forget the countless hours Helen Pojman and Deb Lev put into registering and taking care of all participants. Also thanks go to Jan Banko and Kristina Vlasic for their help.

In closing we hope you will make every effort to be here next year. Nothing can replace the blessings you receive here and take home to share with others you come into contact with. How blessed we are to have such great Bible Study leaders, pastors, prayer time leaders, and youth and children workers. May our Lord bless you all for all you did to make this convention a memorable one. God willing, see you next year in Philippi.

George Sommer, Executive Secretary

Gloria Andrs, Assistant Secretary



Jan Titěra, Ján Banko

83rd Annual Meeting of the Czechoslovak Baptist Women's Missionary Union

Saturday, July 8, 2006

As part of the 97th Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, President Esther Tarr gave warm greetings in welcoming those present, and opened the meeting with prayer and the singing of the hymn "Blessed Be the Name." Scripture reading was Psalm 148 (Natasha Legierski in Czech and Debbie Lev in English).

The Toronto Ladies favored us with music, accompanied by



Esther Tarr, Dorothy Dvorak

greetings from the Czech and Slovak Baptist Women's Missionary Union.

The theme of their Convention was from Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord, and not unto men." She shared her testimony. She was born into a Christian family. Her name Vera means "Faith," and her parents knew she was truly a gift from God, having survived serious complications at birth. Her new birth at age 17 also was a miracle.



Natasha Legierski

Michele Moore on the piano. Jane Widlicka led in prayer, thanking God for the privilege of meeting together in these beautiful surroundings.

The minutes of last year's meeting were approved as read, and last year's Treasurer's Report was also approved. Donna Nesvadba introduced this year's proposed Budget. She encouraged us to give

generously today and throughout the year. This is crucial to our fulfilling our missionary outreach. After prayer, the offering was taken, and Marija Sommer played a medley of hymns on the organ. We were then favored with a beautiful hymn entitled "How Deep the Father's Love"—by the Convention Ladies.

Our president introduced our speaker, Mrs. Vera Titerova, wife of Rev. Jan Titera, General Secretary of the Czech Republic Baptist Union. She expressed her pleasure in being here at the Convention, yet told us this was not "her cup of tea." Her husband is usually the one speaking behind the pulpit and she is sitting in the audience. She brought

She is so thankful for her new life in Christ and the privilege to serve the Lord as a pastor's wife.

She has three children and three grandchildren. She told us of the wide-spread outreach of the Women's Missionary Union. They visit the sick and elderly, orphanages, mentally handi-

capped. She

told us of

Project Simon, help for a dear 3-year-old who has spinal muscular atrophy and is being cared for at home. The Sisters help with his care. This wide-spread missionary outreach is part of the European Union. They are all bound together with the love of Jesus. Prayer is important, they have special prayer meetings and participate in the World Day of Prayer. Their motto for 2006 is Psalm 121:3-5, "He who watches over you never sleeps." She challenged us not to neglect prayer. Prayer is the most crucial thing we can do. God listens and answers. God allows things, but never leaves us (Romans 8:28). She wished us God's blessing—individually, on our



Dona Nesvadba

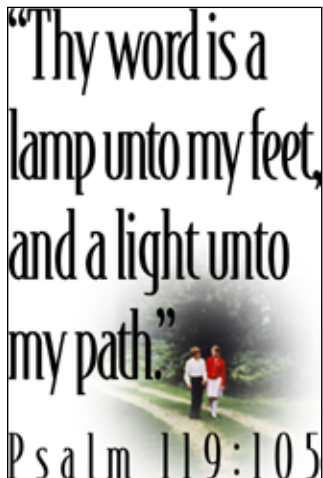


Esther Tarr, Dorothy Dvorak, Věra Titěrová

Continues on next page

Editorial... Continues from page 50

I do not want to write. Only at Convention did I find out that the editorial staff agreed to and wrote about my birthday somewhat behind my back. I think so long as we do not write about the birthdays of all our Convention's members, neither should mine be written about. As you read you will find out that the editorial staff do not share my opinion. After reading



both contributions, I realized that I owe the readers a few words of testimony, pertaining at the moment to my life on earth. We all come to realize that life is a gift from God. Twenty-six years ago, I went through an operation that dealt with a possible bout of cancer. We had, at that time, two small children. Back then, one waited five to seven days for the results to come in from the laboratory (in Czechoslovakia). I remember praying to God, imploring Him to allow

me to raise my children. I couldn't imagine having to leave them. I saw the negative results as a second chance and a gift of life through God's grace. Then I learned to see each day, each moment as a gift. That is why I view each birthday as a display of God's grace and goodness. By His grace I was born, and I live and rejoice in the fact that I am God's child. (The fact that I have white hair and am aging doesn't bother me at all).

God later added one more child to us (in Canada). Today I am immensely grateful to Him that I may also know my children as the adults they have grown up to be. That is also a gift. And Psalm 116 is my confession.

Editor-in-Chief *Natasha Legierski*



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



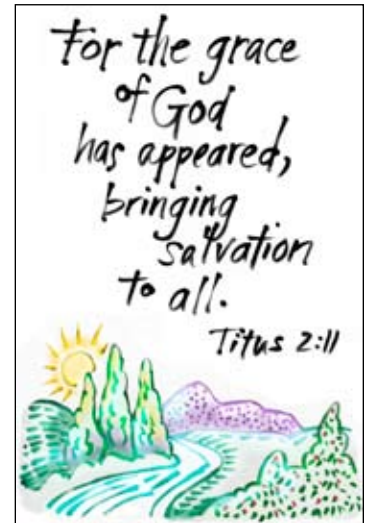
Editorial... Pokračování ze strany 50

konvence, nemají tam být ani moje. Jak jste se dočetli, bratři se mnou názor nesdílíte. Po přečtení obou příspěvků jsem si však uvědomila, že dlužím čtenářům pár slov svědectví, týkajících se právě mého bytí na zemi.

Všichni si uvědomujeme, že život je dar od Pána Boha. Před 26-ti lety jsem se podrobila operaci, kde se jednalo o možné rakovinové onemocnění. Měli jsme již dvě malé děti. Tehdy se na výsledky z laboratoře (v Československu) čekalo pět až sedm dní. Vzpomínám si, jak jsem Pána Boha prosila, aby mi dovolil ty děti vychovat. Neuměla jsem si představit, že bych od nich měla odejít. Negativní výsledky jsem vnímala jako z Boží milosti znovu darovaný život. Tenkrát jsem se naučila

vnímat každý den, ba okamžik života jako dar. Proto také každé další narozeniny vnímám jako projevenou Boží milost. Z Jeho milosti jsem se narodila, žiji a těším se z toho, že jsem Božím dítětem. (Vůbec mi nevadí, že stárnu a mám bílé vlasy). Pán Bůh nám později ještě jedno dítě přidal (to již v Kanadě). Dnes Mu jsem nesmírně vděčná za to, že mohu naše děti také znát jako dospělé lidi. To je také dar. A Žalm 116 je mým vyznáním.

Šéfredaktorka *Nataša Legierská*



Women's Missionary Union... Continues from page 56

families, and on our church families. Remember God is watching (Psalm 121)

Esther Tarr and Dorothy Dvorak presented our speaker with our Convention afghan and a Certificate of Appreciation. Our closing hymn was "To God Be the Glory." Dorothy then remarked at the beautiful view from the chapel. She read Psalm 90:17 and closed with prayer.

Jane Widlicka



MOVING ?

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Christ's Seven Last Words

Thomas Cosmades

Part 2

II. I Tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise. (Luke 23:43)

On the way to the cross and on the cross itself God's son was the object of everyone's derision and scorn, perhaps even by some who had forgotten his benevolent acts. Ridiculing the weak and infirm has always been a baneful trait. By pouring out their contempt on the underdog, people presume themselves to be superior. Even the two condemned men joined in the shrill mockery (cf. *Matt. 27:44; Mark 15:32*).

In the meantime the Holy Spirit was moving to fulfill an amazing act of conviction and redemption. God's grace was working in the heart of one of the criminals.

This man observed the sinless Jesus dying in torment and looked at his own wretched life. All he had done passed before his eyes like a video. Not a thing was right. If his aggrieved parties could gather around, how many accusing fingers would be pointed at him! Conversely, not a single person was blaming Jesus of any wrong doing. His accusers could only say again and again that he claimed to be the Son of God. While the other condemned man was getting harder and harder, this one was becoming mellow with each passing moment.

The Holy Spirit was now in control of this sin-infested life. For the first time he came face to face with the reality of deserved punishment for sin. If the judicial powers that condemned him were fair, how much more would God be just in his ultimate judgment! What thoughts went through his mind? Jesus said, "...when the Holy Spirit comes he will convince the world of sin and righteousness and judgment" (*John 16:8*). Who was he to accuse the innocent Jesus? How could he think of him as an incapable person? This Christ could forgive, grant eternal life and take the soul to paradise. His heart-change was sudden and staggering.

As commonly known, the penitent thief rebuked his friend for his heartless and derisive behavior, drew his attention to the fear of God, and alerted him about the judgment

which was upon them. The impenitent man had not given much thought to a deserved sentence. He was eager to seek a convenient way out of death, and if possible to return to his former practices. The condemned man admitted Christ's total innocence. He addressed him with his name, *Yehoshuah*, which means '*Yahweh saves*.' He even subscribed to the eschatological truth regarding Christ's return as King. He asked forgiveness, realizing that Christ was the only one who could truly forgive. The evidence of repentance was complete.

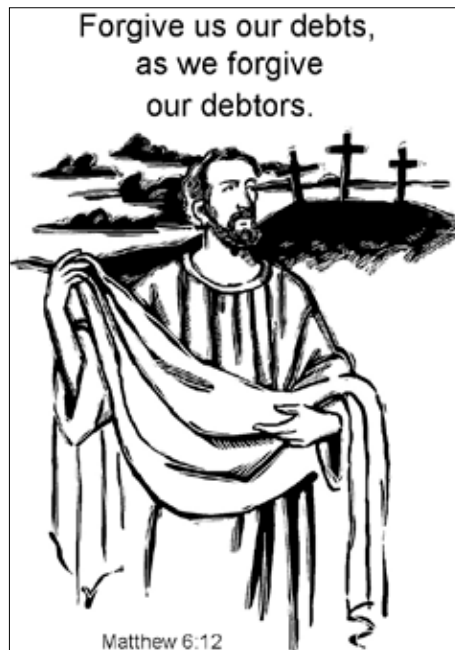
Christ's loving response is vitalizing. His absolute authority comes through very clearly. He assured the transgressor of paradise (v. 43). This delightful word appears only three times in the New Testament (cf. *II Cor. 12:4; Rev. 2:7*). Christ accomplishes an amazing transformation. He carries the foremost sinner to paradise at his proper approach to the Savior. Christ reveals the destiny of the redeemed soul the moment the sinner breathes his last. Paul explains this as, "*being absent from the body, at home with the Lord*" (*Phil. 1:27; II Cor. 5:8*). Through this certainty our Lord exposed the deception of the 'soul sleep' theory or the 'soul's annihilation' at death.

In this unequivocal assurance the Savior of the world opens the road to paradise to every redeemed person, delivering him from the dark confinement of Sheol, or Hades. Now without hesitation we can clarify to everyone the true nature of Paradise and point them to the Savior

who alone grants entry into it. Christ equips his believer with the right to refute all misconceptions and destructive adventures which are fed by false doctrines. We declare to everyone, transgressors of the law of God, that salvation and paradise are available through the Savior who was crucified. The only requirement for the sinner is to believe in Christ, turn from sin and entrust his/her soul to the giver of eternal life.

III. Woman, behold your son! Behold, your mother! (John 19:27)

The most tender-hearted person who walked on earth is hung on the cruel cross. In this third word from the cross his mother is the focus of his tenderheartedness. His merciful behavior is



very obvious in the first word as well as in the second. In the third, it reaches its apex. Jesus' concern for his mother during his hour of agony is a beautiful display of love and concern. These are evident in this profound expression. Addressing his mother as 'woman' (cf. *John 2:4*), should not be considered a term of disrespect. The word may have taken a different connotation in our time, but it was a form of salutation in that age. For references of Christ's relationship to Mary, refer to *Luke 2:51*; *Matt. 12:46-50*; *John 2:3-5*; *Mark 3:21*.

Jesus received his human body from Mary, but never ceased to retain and reveal his divine nature. Mary's remarks to Gabriel should also be remembered (*Luke 1:38, 47*). During Jesus' life on earth the obvious conflict in Mary's mind cannot escape the attention of a careful New Testament reader. Her inner crisis is climaxed at the foot of the cross where along with the other three women her soul is tormented. At this critical stage she needs a word of uplift. Her Son's consoling words reach her and his much-loved disciple John. "And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home" (*John 19:27*). At the Incarnation, the timeless and spanless Christ reached into the realm of time and space. This is certainly one of the mysteries of the 'Enfleshment.'

Most people's knowledge of Christ naturally centers on his human existence. However if his divine nature receives little or no attention during this crucial stage of his life, violence to his two distinct natures may accrue. While he lived within the limits of time and space he often manifested his timeless and spanless nature which belongs to God alone. But he who entered into time and space with its restrictions would shortly return to his eternal nature and existence. Paul emphasizes this condition in clear-cut terms: "...even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we regard him thus no longer" (*II Cor. 5:16b*). This is a poignant Christological truth which escapes the attention of many.

In the third word from the cross Christ not only showed tenderness to his bereaved mother, but also severed all physical attachment to her. This attachment continued throughout his Incarnation but it was to be terminated at this point. He was moving to timeless and spaceless eons, therefore he could no longer be regarded from a human point of view. With the third word from the cross he put into proper perspective the distinctiveness of his two natures.

Being in the realm of time and space we often encounter some difficulty to comprehend distinctly the supernatural and natural essence of Christ. The mystery of the Incarnation has

always required a wide scope of study and, certainly, of faith. Mary's relationship to Jesus started at Nazareth at the Annunciation. It came to an end at Golgotha in the fulfillment of God's plan of redemption. The human relationship between the Eternal Word and the chosen virgin had to terminate at this point. Christ is now announcing this necessary break. He is moving away from the restriction of time and space to the realm where neither exists. Every earthly attachment has to come to an end. The Eternal Son is returning to the Eternal Father, leaving behind all earthly attachments. God who sent his own Son at the right time to be born of woman, under the law (cf. *Gal. 4:4*), now is welcoming his triumphant Son to the eternal domain.

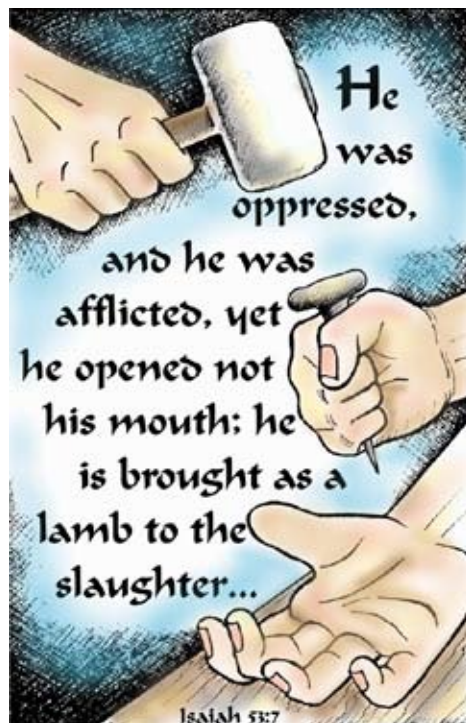
IV. Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

(*Matt. 27:46*; *Mark 15:34*; *Ps. 22:1, 2*)

Rejection and separation is one of the saddest human predicaments. A person's isolation from other humans is indescribably devastating. The only worse condition is to be separated from God and abandoned by him because of spurning his love. Jesus Christ was forsaken on the cross by God in his princely undertaking of bringing men and women to him. People who are unaware of damnation as a consequence of their rejecting God need to ponder Christ's own rejection by the Father.

While anyone calling on the Lord's name is saved, many a sinner's obduracy carries him to the point of no return. The deliberate transgressor may have become dull to his plight. The person in the pale of damnation beyond the possibility of rescue is in desperate straits. Those who foresee the destiny of the lost can appreciate this. Our Lord was forsaken by God on the cruel cross. God said to Moses "...for a hanged man is accursed by God..." (*Deut. 21:23b*). The apostle Paul re-emphasizes this saddest condition when he says, "For it is

written, 'cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree' " (*Gal. 3:13b*). This divine verdict must not be forgotten. The sinless Christ became a curse for us in order to lift God's curse hanging over us. If he had not been cursed and abandoned by God, you and I would have been cursed and abandoned throughout eternity. The terror of separation seen in the crucifixion of Christ should be a clear warning to every sinner. With his tormented cry our Lord was reminding everyone of the awful prospect of eternal agony.



Continues on page 63



Ever buy a bunch of bananas and have them turn black before you use them? I eat a banana every morning, but it seems that I can never get them to last. By the end of the week I want to put on rubber gloves just to peel the black mass. We need some way to preserve them, make them useful for a longer period of time without using

toxic preservatives. Got any ideas?

Like some Christians, bananas have a short useful life. This brings up the motto of TWR, "Producing fruit that lasts." I would be interested in your help with these Czech letters. Which ones do you think represent "lasting fruit?"

1. Roman writes, "Dear brothers and sisters, about six months ago I became a regular listener of your evening programs. They bring me great blessings.

"Last year my dear wife, Verka, died. Yet God is faithful and at 73 I was able to become self-sufficient. I cook, do my laundry, iron, bake, do the cleaning, about everything necessary. What I cannot do, brothers from the church come and help. It's so very interesting that God is sending widowers and widows my way, people I haven't seen for months or even for years. When He does, I serve them with the good news of salvation. May God powerfully bless you."

YES or NO?

2. Dusan says, "I would like to thank you for sharing the blessed message of Christ. Mainly, I want the Truth. Please, help! In your comment on the book of Revelation, you said there is no mention of purgatory in the Bible. I am Catholic and I know the Catholic Church teaches that purgatory does exist. What's right? Please, excuse my question and answer me. Thank you for your understanding. May the good Lord bless you in your ministry."

YES or NO?

3. Vladimir from Serbia pleads, "Dear co-workers! I cordially greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I bring you the plea of several listeners in Vojvodina. Many have listened to your programs for tens of years and are very grateful. We are blessed with the comments on the book of Revelations. But many young people do not understand Czech well. Could you, please, give us texts of these programs? We could translate and air them on our local radio station that covers the area of 35 km around Bacsy Petrovec. Thank you for understanding and

Kúpili ste si už niekedy zopár banánov a tie vám očerneli ešte predtým ako ste ich použili? Ja jem banán každé ráno, ale zdá sa, že nemôžem dosiahnuť, aby sa nepokazili. Ku koncu týždňa si chcem dať gumené rukavice aby som ošúpal tú čiernu masu. Potrebujeme nejaký spôsob ako ich uchovať, aby boli použiteľné dlhšiu dobu bez použitia toxických konzervovadiel. Máte nejaký nápad?

Ako niektorí kresťania, banány majú krátku dobu použiteľnosti. Toto prináša motto TWR "Produkovať ovocie, ktoré je trvalé" Bol by som rád, keby ste mi pomohli s týmito českými listami. Ktorý z nich podľa vás reprezentuje "trvalé ovocie"?

1. Roman píše: "Drahí bratia a sestry, asi pred šiestimi mesiacmi som sa stal pravidelným poslucháčom vašich večerných programov. Prinášajú mi veľké požehnanie. Moja drahá manželka Vierka minulý rok zomrela. Napriek tomu Boh je verný a vo svojich 73 rokoch som sa mohol stať sebestačný. Varím, periem, žehlím, pečiem, upratujem, zhruba všetko nevyhnutné. Čo nemôžem urobiť, prídu mi pomôcť bratia zo zboru. Je tak veľmi zaujímavé, že Boh mi posielal vdovcov a vdovy do cesty, ľudí, ktorých som nevidel už mesiace dokonca roky. Keď to robí, slúžim im dobrou zvesťou o spasení. Nech vás Boh mocne žehná."

ANO alebo NIE?

2. Dušan hovorí: "Chcel by som sa poďakovať za šírenie požehnaného posolstva o Kristovi. Hlavne chcem Pravdu. Prosím pomôžte! Vo vašom výklade na knihu Zjavenia ste povedali, že nie je žiadna zmienka o očistci v Biblii. Som katolík a viem, že Katolícka cirkev učí, že očistec existuje. Čo je správne? Prosím ospravedlňte moju otázku a odpovedzte mi. Ďakujem za vaše pochopenie. Nech vás dobrý Boh požehná vo vašej službe."

ANO alebo NIE?

3. Vladimír zo Srbska prosí: "Drahí spolupracovníci! Srdečne vás zdravím v mene nášho Pána Ježiša Krista. Prinášam vám prosbu niekoľkých poslucháčov z Vojvodiny. Mnohí počúvali vaše programy desiatky rokov a sú veľmi vďační. Sme požehnaní cez výklad na knihu Zjavenia, ale veľa mladých ľudí dobre nerozumie češtinu. Mohli by ste nám prosím dať texty týchto programov? Mohli by sme ich preložiť a odvysielat' na našej lokálnej radio stanici, ktorá pokrýva zhruba 35 km okolo Báčskeho Petrovca. Ďakujem za vaše pochopenie a odpoveď. Boh buď s vami."

ANO alebo NIE?

4. SMS (textová správa) od Stanislava hovorí: "Srdečný pozdrav z Madridu. Veľká vďaka za vašu prácu. Som kamionista. Cestujem cez celú Európu a mám spoločníka Boha a vaše vysielanie."

ANO alebo NIE?

Aký je váš názor? Ktorý z nich ohodnotíte ako "trvalé ovocie" a prečo?

George Cooper (gcooper8@gmail.com)
za TWR Česko a TWR Slovensko
preložila: Miroslava Kopčoková



David opens his renowned prophetic psalm with the same words (cf. 22:1). The writer to the Hebrews is referring to Christ's "...prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears" (5:7a). Gethsemane, Gabatha (cf. John 19:13), and Golgotha constitute three stages in the divine display of judgment. At the start Christ addressed God as 'Father.' At this crucial point of separation and adjudication the Father is executing his harsh judgment on the One in whom sin has necessitated total rejection. The Bible is full of 'whys.' This one is certainly the most thought-provoking. Paul supplied the only valid reply to this 'why': "...the free gift of righteousness reigns in life through the one man, Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:17b).

God judged sin in the severest execution of justice, i.e., in the flesh: "...sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh" (Rom. 8:3b). In this divine act the Son was abandoned by the Father "and was numbered with the transgressors" (Isa. 53:12). "God made him to be sin... so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (II Cor. 5:21). He assumed Adam's sin and condemnation to death (cf. Gen. 2:17). "He became a curse for us" (Gal. 3:13; Deut. 1:21-23). He suffered to make sinners sons and daughters of God (John 1:12). He became the only price for our redemption (I Cor. 6:20; 7:23). He agonized in order to take our cup of staggering and drink it to the dregs (cf. Isa. 51:17, 22). It is through such humiliation that the sinners' forgiveness and everlasting blessedness is secured.

V. I thirst. (John 19:28; Ps. 69:21)

Man cannot survive without water. Next to the air we breathe, water satisfies our foremost need. Sometimes we hear of people perishing in a desert because of the absence of this essential substance. Ever refreshing is the flow of life-giving water. One views with deep grief a whole series of intense torments of Jesus at the crucifixion. This one appears to be his worst misery.

In the animal kingdom the anguish for water is very plain. David draws a touching scene of it with his pen: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" (Ps. 42:1, 2). Here is a parallel between the hankering for water and craving for the living God. If we take this in the broader sense we may safely assume that Jesus' thirst was two-fold: for physical water from which he was deprived and yearning for spiritual water. Not only was he cut off from natural water, but on the cross the Father-Son relationship was woefully broken. During that sad hour his soul was severed from the eternal fellowship with his beloved Father. This was a deprivation which came upon him only on the cross.

Christ, the giver of water which quenches thirst forever,

the water that becomes a spring, is now cut off from it. He is agonizing for a drop of cold water (cf. John 4:14; 7:37, 38; 6:35b). His acute thirst became a matter of mockery to the soldiers who always carried a jug of water with them (cf. Luke 23:36). They were fully satiated while making sport with thirsty Jesus. What serene person can conceive of such sadistic disparaging? Isn't this an appalling picture of fallen man?

Our Lord refused their stony-hearted offer which contained a pain-killing substance. He needed to be dying with his feelings and faculties intact. Undoubtedly the soldiers had not met another person hanging on the cross who refused this sedative. The religious leaders consistently declining the water which Christ offered to their forefathers in so many circumstances (cf. Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:7-11; Ps. 78:15; 105:41; 114:8; Isaiah 48:21; I Cor. 10:4) were on the road to death in their spiritual drought. They couldn't care less for Isaiah's pronouncement: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (12:3; cf. 58:11). Their deception was at its apex. In the Apocalypse John had a delightful glimpse of "the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Rev. 22:1). What a thrill it must have been to behold this extraordinary river running "through the middle of the street of the city". (Rev. 22:2). What incongruity! The Lamb was now crying out for water in the hour of his death.

The prayer of David in Psalm 42:1 & 2 will not be needed in the celestial city. An abundance of physical and spiritual water for those who were redeemed by thirsty Jesus will be everywhere. There are those who spurned his salvation as the religious leaders did in Christ's day. These people will be perpetually thirsty, crying as the rich man did to Father Abraham (Luke 16:24).

□

The Listener's Post... Continues from page 62

your reply. The Lord be with you."

YES or NO?

4. An SMS (text message) from Stanislav says, "Cordial greeting from Madrid. Big thanks for your work. I am a lorry driver. I travel over the whole of Europe and am accompanied by God and your broadcast. YES or NO?"

What is your opinion? Which qualify as "lasting fruit" and why?

George Cooper (gcooper8@gmail.com), for TWR Czech and TWR Slovakia

□

From Our Readers



July 28, 2006

I first heard about your organization and work a few years ago when visiting with the Potmas in the Czech Republic. At that time I did not get the information of when you meet.

I did some checking, it seems like a couple years ago, and this year I received the information package and magazine. I decided to try to work it into my schedule. Some arrangements did not work out as I had planned, so I decided to drive and go anyway.

It has been a real blessing for me to be there at the conference in West Virginia this July. Since the home-going of my wife, the Lord reminded me of Psalm 92: 14-15: *"Even in old age they will still produce fruit, they will remain vital and green, They will declare the Lord is just; he is my rock; There is nothing but goodness in him!"*

Everything seemed so positive at the conference. I appreciated the strong emphases on the Word of God, and how well it was presented. The selection of songs, the singing and the choir were outstanding. The times of getting acquainted and the fellowship with people was a very positive time for me. All the arrangements were so good, including the weather.

We were challenged with Matthew 6:33: *"Seek you first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you."* This continues to be a good reminder to me. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 is a good conclusion, *"Rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"*.

Harry Kejr



Belton, TX, December 29, 2005

Dear Friends in Christ,

Please use the enclosed check for the support of *Glorious Hope* magazine, which we very much appreciate receiving.

Thank you, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Mares



April 2006 New Port Richey, FL

This is a donation from my dad, John Gabor, for the General Fund. He will not be able to make a visit this year. I will be sending you a check each month for a donation.

Thanks & God bless, Donna Queralto



Dear George,

January 13, 2006

Enclosed is a check which is in memory of our dear friend of some 60 years, Helen Horvath. She will be deeply missed by her many friends and our children too, because they have many happy memories of visiting with her as they were growing up.

Sincerely, Alice and Andy Kmetko



Dear George,

This gift is in memory of a very dear friend, Helen Horvath, whom we've known and loved for many years. She will be missed in the Convention.

Thank you all for your faithful service and devotion to this work.

In Christ, Bill & Esther Widlicka



Dear Vera,

December 2005

Thank you very much for *Glorious Hope*; we love to read it. Enclosed is a donation for *Glorious Hope*. Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year 2006.

In Christian Love, John & Maria Valko



Dear Mr. Dvorak,

December 2006

Enclosed is a check to help advance the mission and the call from God to reach others. Wishing you a very joyful Christmas season and many blessings in the New Year.

Sincerely, Evelyn S. Hanzlik



Thank you for sending *Glorious Hope* to us. We do appreciate getting it. Hope we can attend your conference some time.

God bless you all, Rev. & Mrs. A.V. Berkner



Dear Friends,

Moneta, VA, January 6, 2006

Enclosed is our gift for *Glorious Hope*. We trust it will reach the right hands. We appreciate *Glorious Hope* as always. It keeps us up on news of old friends.

May God give you a blessed and fruitful New Year

Yours by His grace, Rev. Daniel & Ida Feryance



Miami, FL

Hope all is well My dad wants to send his donation each month. He will not be able to make the convention this year because of his health.

God bless and much love to all. Donna Queralto,

John Gabor's daughter



Westlake, OH, July 1, 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Enclosed is my check which I wish to be used for the Women's Work of the Convention please. I'm sorry that I will not be able to attend the convention again this summer, but due to some health problems and lack of transportation I've decided that I will not be able to do it.

May the Lord guide you and give you wisdom as you make plans for the future of the convention. I'll be praying this for you all.

Sincerely in Christ, Ruth A. Hitchcock



Dear Brother George Homeland, CA, 12/29/2005

Thank you for your faithfulness in keeping the word of our convention ongoing. George and I want to encourage you and the rest of your staff. Enclosed is a small contribution to help further the gospel.

God bless you all, *George & Dorothy Pospisil*



Dear George, May 12, 2006

Enclosed is a check. Some of it is in memory of our dear friend John Jeren Sr. And the rest is for the Convention. We pray that the Convention is a blessed time for all attendees and that the weather is good for the young people's activities. How we remember our good times of fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters. We miss it greatly.

In His love, *Alice and Andy Kmetko*



Dear Baptist Convention Members, June 2, 2006

I'm enclosing a check for the General Fund of the Czechoslovak Convention. This is in memory of my late husband Herb Hitchcock's tenth year since going to heaven. Thanks for the Glorious Hope magazine, which helps to keep me informed of the Lord's work in the convention.

Sincerely, *Ruth A. Hitchcock*



Dear Vera, Sun City, AZ, June 5, 2006

Enclosed is a check in memory of my niece, Janet Sedjo Spegle. Please apply this to Glorious Hope. Thank you and God bless.

In Christian love, *Helen (Lenie) Wilcox*



July 9, 2006

Please use the enclosed gift for the support of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention in memory of my father and mother, John S. Chovan and Anne S. Chovan. May God bless you as you spread His light to the world.

John Chovan



Galloway, NJ, June 14, 2006

Dear George & Marija,

This is just a note to say you are the most gracious, thoughtful and kind two people we have ever been blessed to know. You work so hard to have everything in order and ready, and make the convention a wonderful time for all who attend.

The afternoon at your home on Sunday was the icing on the cake. Marija, for sure you must write a book about the time you have seen God work in amazing ways in the lives of people you know. I am sure it must please God when we look back and realize how He has been at work. What a great God we serve.

Thank you for being God's very special servants.

In Jesus' love, *Milan & Virginia Steffel*



Dear Brother George July 12, 2006

We passed up another convention and can truly say that

our hearts ached as we had to stay home.

We missed being with you all and the sweet fellowship and services. We have to adjust to unexpected changes in our lives but are thankful that God is in control. Bill (at 89) has gone through some trying days and now we are beginning to see signs of hope.

We heard great things about the Convention and know it was a blessed time for all. Please greet Marija for us, and God bless you both.

Regards, *Bill & Esther Widlicka*



Dear Friends in Christ July 16, 2006

My brother Rudy and I are enclosing a gift for Glorious Hope in memory of our parents Paul and Christine Durkovich. God bless you all.

Shirley and Rudy Durkovich



Dear friends May 24, 2006

Enclosed is a gift for convention work. It is in memory of James Adam and Beatrice Fort.

In Christ, *Josephine Adam*



Jan and Otilia Alac



Roberta and Larry Rucker, Gloria and Jerry Andrs

Memorial Service at the 97th Annual Convention

Sunday July 9, 2006

Maria Dzuriakova	November 18, 1954–July 26, 2005	Kosice, Slovakia
Irene Franczych	– June 25, 2006	Algonquin, IL
Joel Gregor	February 3, 1953–March 11, 2006	Hatch Hollow Baptist Church
Mark Habuda	September 12, 1958–August 25, 2005	Evangelical Slavic Mission, Windsor, ON
Helen Horvath	July 20, 1922–January 7, 2006	Hatch Hollow Baptist Church, PA
Maria Husaruk	June 16, 1907–April 23, 2005	Montebello, CA
John Jarison	March 26, 1920–September 22, 2005	Grace Baptist Church, Windsor, ON
John Jeren Sr.	September 22, 1917–April 24, 2006	Christ Community Church, Campbell, OH
Emilie Jersak	April 11, 1914–May 30, 2006	Corner Stone Baptist Church, Minitonas, MB
Jack Knowler	August 6, 1926–September 26, 2005	Grace Baptist Church, Windsor, ON
Jerry Nicodem	– July, 2005	Des Plaines, IL
Martha Ostojic	February 4, 1911–June 13, 2006	Grace Baptist Church, Windsor, ON
John M. Pavelda	October 23, 1915–November 24, 2004	Phoenix, AZ
Vlasta Springle	September 20, 1912–December 5, 2005	Czechoslovak Baptist Church, Toronto
Anita Tarr	June 2006	Illinois

Mark Habuda.

September 12, 1958 – August 25, 2005



Psalm 40
I waited patiently on the Lord;
He turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me ...
He set my feet on a rock
And gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth,
A hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear
And put their trust in the Lord
Blessed is the man
who makes the Lord his trust

It is a year ago, that our dear Brother Mark Habuda passed on to be with the Lord Jesus Christ at the age of 46. He faithfully served (always scheduled his work around the services and activities at the church), and enriched the Kingdom of God as a true witness, founding member, an elder, and the first music director at the Evangelical Slavic Mission of Windsor, Ontario.

Mark was a responsible entrepreneur who wisely invested his time and resources in the children and the young, fully knowing that we are here with a mission and that our time is limited. He has gone without regrets to be in the everlasting arms of the Heavenly Father and it is an understatement to say that we have

lost a great man. Yet, our loss became his gain. There are many of us that were profoundly touched by Mark's life and ministry and today, even though we are saddened that Mark has gone, we are evermore thankful that he was with us.

Please be mindful in your prayers of those that miss him the most: Habuda, Brkovic and Korcok families, and especially his wife Mila and children Justin, Cassandra and Carmen.

Rev. Vladimir Kralik

Barbara L. Dempsey (Kennerly) Manas

March 27, 1927 – August 15, 2006



Barbara L. Dempsey Manas (nee Kennerly), 79, of Seven Hills, beloved wife of the late Rev. Florian Manas and the late John D. "Jack" Dempsey, passed away Tuesday, August 15, 2006, following a lengthy and courageous battle with progressive supranuclear palsy. Funeral service was held on Friday, August 18, at 10 a.m. at Parkside Church, 7100 Pettibone Rd., Chagrin Falls. Interment

followed at Western Reserve Memorial Gardens, Chesterland. More about Barbara's life will be published later.

Continues on next page



Date to remember

• 97th annual convention is behind us. I believe that it was very successful and very blessed. But more about convention can be found in this issue of *Glorious Hope*.

• Convention midyear General Board meeting will be held in Scranton Road Bible Church, Cleveland, Ohio Friday,

November 10, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. There will be an evening service at 7:00 p.m. with president Robert Dvorak preaching and after that we, as usual, will have *"An Old Fashioned Hymn*

Singing with Bob Dvorak at the Piano". Do not miss this opportunity for good obecnstvi-fellowship.

• July 5-8, 2007 is a new date for 2007 Annual Convention.

• Check the convention web page for pictures from 2006 Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada: www.ab.edu/czslbaptconv

George Sommer
Executive Secretary



In Memory... Continues from page 42

Emilie Jersak

April 11, 1914 – May 30, 2006



*I will sing to the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.*

Psalms 104:33

On May 30, 2006, Emilie Jersak, our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, went home to be with her Lord and Savior. She passed away at the age of 92 years, 1 month, and 19 days, at the

Swan River Valley Personal Care Home.

Emilie was born on April 11, 1914, to Josef and Emilie Marek, in Novostavy, Poland. Her family moved to Suchdol nad Odrou, Czechoslovakia, in 1925.

As a young girl Emilie accepted the Lord Jesus as her personal Savior and was baptized by Pastor Josef Dvorak. Emilie was married to Jerry (Jaroslav) Jersak of Vykrovice on June 9, 1934. They immigrated to Canada in 1935, settling in the Floradale District in the Municipality of Minitonas. This union was blessed with three sons—George, Lloyd and Henry. In 1949 two young men, refugees from communist Czechoslovakia, joined our family on the farm. John Doyle and Jerry Dayton were accepted with love as "adopted" sons of our family.

Emilie loved to bake and cook, and expressed her love to her family and friends in this way. She enjoyed gardening and spending time with her friends. Often she would "taxi" them to Swan River for appointments.

She loved her church family at Cornerstone Baptist Church (formerly First Czechoslovak Baptist Church), faithfully serving in Marie's Circle and singing in the choir for many years.

She loved to read and she had memorized many poems,

scripture verses and songs. These were such a comfort to her and an inspiration to us all, especially as her health failed. Often at the Personal Care Home she could be heard singing her favorite hymns in the hallways and lounges.

Emilie and her husband Jerry enjoyed traveling together, visiting loved ones and spending several winters in California among friends. Following the passing of her beloved husband, Emilie continued to spend some winter months there with friends. After Emilie's husband passed away she moved into her own home in Minitonas in 1972. When managing her home became too challenging, she moved into the Pioneer Lodge in Minitonas. She enjoyed being close to her friends, sister Kristina and her church. Eventually Emilie required more care and moved into the Swan River Personal Care Home in May, 2003.

Left to cherish her memory are her sons George (Minota) of Winnipeg, Lloyd (Irene) of Killarney, Henry (Florence) of Swan River, her "adopted" sons John (Anne) and Jerry (Rene) of California, her sister Kristina Ozdan, sister-in-laws Annie Marek and Leona Marek; grandchildren Paul Jersak, Bradley (Eden) Jersak, Rodney (Elisa) Jersak, Ronald (Lynn) Jersak, Sandra (Rodney) Ellingson, thirteen great-grandchildren whom she dearly loved, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Emilie was predeceased by her husband Jerry in 1970, parents Josef and Emilie Marek, siblings Amalka (Ota) Maly, Josef (Amalia) Marek, Karel (Herma) Marek, Anne (Joe) Nemetchek, Jerry Marek, brother-in-law John Ozdan, and grandson Glen Jersak.

Emilie leaves a legacy of serving and singing with joy, a rich spiritual heritage for which we are all truly grateful. She is now experiencing the "Blessed Assurance" that she sang about, and that was her hope



Pastor Garth Priebe

Children Are Our Future

Kristina Vlasic

Children are our future” is a popular saying that has much merit. This year during the 97th Czechoslovak Baptist Convention we wanted to give the children a place to be and things to do. In the evenings, childcare was provided while in the mornings we had our own little lessons. The lessons varied from Queen Esther to Noah’s Ark and many more. I was shown



On Saturday, everyone went to Audra State Park. The kids loved being outside, and some were even able to go swimming. Most went back before lunch but Amber and Ashley, my two helpers for the weekend, stayed with the youth and had fun participating.

During the whole weekend, the kids were very well behaved. They listened



what artists we had as they made and colored pictures of their favorite things. By the end of the evening, the room was covered in rainbows, dinosaurs, and family. During one of the morning sessions we took a walk to a cave and had a lesson in taking pictures.

and did everything they were asked. Even when we talked about the movies, they willingly answered and asked many questions. On Sunday, it was sad to see them go, but I hope to see them all again next year!

□



Kristina Vlasic, Katarína Hašková, Jan Alac, Věra Titěřová



Jan Titěřa, Robert Dvorak, George Sommer

97th Annual Convention

By Kornel Bukovec

This year's convention was a blast. There was one disappointment I need to mention though, that in the end turned into a blessing. The youth attendance was lower than usual, and at first sight seemed to dampen our spirits. But it soon became apparent that this small group was growing closer than ever before and by Sunday there was no denying it.

The first ever Youth Night was held on Friday evening. The young people were challenged to participate, and they stepped up to the challenge. Those of us who didn't participate were greatly encouraged by those who did. Stepping out of the comfort zone is never easy, but I think it's safe to say that we would welcome such a challenge in the future. Needless to say, youth involvement is vital for any body of believers, and your



Young People

to stay there by finding accountability partners.

Saturday was spent at the beautiful Audra State Park. After the barbeque, which needed an army of technicians and a fair share of lighter fluid (it was the charcoal) to get the temperature just right, we had a devotional, played soccer and volleyball and swam in the wild and pristine Middle Fork River at Audra State Park.



Sara Lamos and Kristina Vlasic

My hope and prayer is that the bonds the youth made this year will stay strong until the next time we see each other, that these bonds will envelope others, young and old, that the challenges that were taken on will result in success and that there will be more challenge and risk takers.

□



Youth Choir

continued prayers for the young people who attend the conference is greatly needed and appreciated.

Darko Siracki led the youth Bible Study that emphasized God's desire to have us as close to Him as possible. Specifically he spoke of the temple veil that was torn in two upon Jesus' death. The barrier that existed between humanity and God was removed once and for all. We are now free to approach the Holy of Holies just as the High Priest used to before, but now without fear. There is no need to wonder if the sacrifice will not be sufficient or pleasing to the Lord. Our sins have been completely forgiven by the perfect sacrifice by Jesus. A strong point was also made of the fact that many Christians seem content not to enter into God's presence past the torn veil and instead sit just outside as if the barrier is still there. They don't respond to God's invitation to take that final step that makes the whole difference between a powerful Christian life and a weak one. We were then challenged to take that step and



Youth Bible Study at Gazebo

Since the late 1990s, the president annually gives a brief “State of the Convention” address to delegates at Annual Convention time. What follows here is the essence of the remarks made this past July 7, 2006.

It always feels good when we are gathered face to face on the campus of Alderson-Broadbudd College for our annual convention time. Many of us have known each well through a considerable period of time, but we always learn about new ones in our midst and re-learn about people previously met some time or other before. We always cherish the great music of the convention and appreciate the messages that are brought each morning and evening. Remembering our cultural heritage of nationalities is important to us; but even more so, we are able at convention time to recapture the responsibilities of mission that continue to hold us together after ninety-seven years.

I am particularly grateful for several specific signs of healthy convention life and witness in this year 2006.

Blessings. 1) We are proud of the younger persons who are associated here with us. They are growing up. Only a few years ago they were children. Now they are holding down responsible jobs and listening intently for life callings. Here at this year’s convention we were treated to an evening of their refreshing faces and energetic ways as they led the Friday evening worship session. It was great, and it will happen again and again, for sure.

Some of the older folk in the convention can remember that quite a number of years ago there was an American educator and evangelist by the name of Percy Crawford, who conducted a weekly television program from the old Pinebrook School in Pennsylvania. It was called, “Youth on the March.” That image of pressing onward is how we feel about the younger generation of this convention. With such evidence they show themselves part of “the Lord’s army”—unafraid of giving testimony to their faith, expressing deep feelings about following Jesus Christ in their generation. We heard eloquent examples at this very convention from Jodi Nesvadba and Filip Vlasic.

2) As a convention, our connection to mission is tight in its several manifestations. It is taking place in Africa through Ruby Mikulenchak. In eastern Ontario and to the ends of the earth it occurs in the tract distribution work of Joseph Novak. In the Czech and the Slovak Republics TWR radio plunges ahead with the use of airwaves and other enhanced communication forms that bring the gospel into homes, automobiles, workplaces. And mission is demonstrated time and again in the ministries of outreach, evangelism, and Christian care through Baptist churches and their denominational unions in central Europe. At this year’s convention we saw video reporting of the life of congregations and mission outposts among Czech Baptists. Next year we look forward to a similar visual experience from the Slovak side.



More and more, I have the feeling, these are the things which hold the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention to a firmly anchored point of identity and ministry. It is why we are here.

3) Our trust funds (Missionary, and Michaels Scholarships) are healthy and well. Our investments, now valued at approximately US\$250,000, are building a solid future of financial support for mission causes for years to come. We sense here the hand of God’s blessing.

Concerns. There are problem areas too, of course, and they must be noted in the interests of honesty and for prayers and intercessions.

1) We are losing much too rapidly many of the beloved personalities who have been the very soul of loyalty to this convention down through the years—the folk who taught us commitment, loved the brothers and sisters deeply, contributed financially and attended conventions even when things did not go “their way.” They were not in any way idealogues first of all, but servants and supporters. They were our spiritual

parents. Among them I am missing especially at this time the Manases, Jeren and Struharik types, Boubeliks, Michaels, Mobleys, Sivulkas, Horvaths, and a hundred other names. Who will be rising to their stature and taking their mantles of leadership and influence?

2) Finances for regular operations of the convention have dipped in recent months. This past year in the US giving was lower than at any time in the past ten years. One has got to hear this message: “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”...or, vice versa. (Actually, it is true both ways.) Please, we need to correct the record of the last twelve to fifteen months.

3) In the area of leadership, new personalities and energies bless any organization like this one we hold so beloved. It is true that we have

added younger persons and women to our General Board, and we have been fortunate to discover some new teachers in our midst, but more of both are needed. Please let me know who such individuals may be. You may volunteer yourself for service, or recommend others if you have good ideas and hunches about who might be good in the work.

In conclusion, I would say that in some things we’re up, in others things down a bit, but God knows who we are, and we serve a Christ who is steady. In the hands of the Lord we are taken care of now and for as long as he gives us life together.

This is the State of the Convention 2006, at ninety-seven years. You may think of that age as old. I prefer to view it as just beginning to get strong legs under ourselves.


Robert Dvorak



Thinking Back

Esther Tarr



Seems just yesterday we were looking forward to our time at the Convention in Philippi, and now we are thinking about the wonderful days we spent there.

We missed a number of our faithful ladies this year, due either to illness or to other commitments. We've been thankful for the work of Grace Niswonger as our U.S. treasurer for the Women's Missionary Union—however due to Dick's heart surgery they were unable to attend, and she asked to be replaced on our committee. We are happy to have Marija Sommer replace her.

The Ladies' Meeting on the Saturday morning was well attended and our offering met our budget, which was wonderful. Thank you to all who so generously gave either during the year or at the Meeting. An exciting new mission for us is to help support work with the ladies working for Trans World Radio who are planning a program as a Christian outreach for women. Do support this work each month by sending in your contributions either to Marija Sommer, the U.S. treasurer, or to Donna Desvadba, our Canadian treasurer.

The speaker was Vera Titerova. She gave her personal testimony and also spoke of her work in the Czech Republic.

Those of you who have been able to attend Convention know of the wonderful talent of our ladies, and we once again were blessed by their music.

As always, the fellowship was wonderful both at the services and afterwards as we met together.

I trust that you will be able to attend next year.

I read recently a quote by Max Lucado, one of our favourite Christian authors on prayer. It goes like this... The beauty of prayer is that anyone can pray. You don't have to be a certain age, you don't have to have wealth, you don't have to have a certain talent - all you have to have is a stubborn faith and a willingness to intercede.

The missionaries and the projects that we support as the Czechoslovak Baptist Women's Missionary Union do count on your prayers as well as your financial support.

Pray the Lord's blessing on you as you walk with Him these coming months

Esther Tarr

President of the Women's Missionary Union



Dorothy Dvorak, Esther Tarr, Věra Titěrová

Donation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

USA:

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

Canada:

Henry Pojman
2393 West Ham Rd.
Oakville, ON L6M 4P2



Music 2006 Convention



Sara, Andrea, and Milko Lamos



Robert Dvorak at the Organ



Toronto Ladies



Marija Sommer



John Alac



Convention Choir



Nico Mulder, Debbie Lev



Obecenstvi-Fellowship



Ladies' Ensemble



Jud Bracey



Robert Dvorak at the Piano



Natasha Legierski



Donna Nesvadba



Michele Moore

Convention Echoes in Pictures Part 1



President Dvorak



President Markwood



Convention Choir



Jan Titěra



Ján Banko



Stan Mantle



George Cooper



Brian Dors



Vladimir Kralik



George Sommer



Joseph Novak



Milko Lamos



97. Czechoslovak Baptist
Convention
of USA and Canada
Philippi, WV July 6-9, 2006

