

Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

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The Lord is God,
and he has made his
light shine on us.

Psalms 118: 27a

Hospodin je Bůh,
on je nám světlem!

Žalm 118; 27a

Hospodin je Boh,
osvecuje nás.

Žalm 118; 27a

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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.

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

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Fellowship

The world is in perpetual motion. In the past twenty years, the world has undergone irreversible changes, especially in the area of communication. The traditional methods of doing things are slowly being pushed aside, with a wide variety of electronic instruments and computer technology taking their place. The computer itself has become an indispensable component of people of the 21st century. The computer has spanned the distance of thousands of kilometers and expanded people's horizons not only to the rest of the world but to the universe as well. At the same time, it has also isolated people from one another. Many people are becoming loners, fixated on their computers. It is a peculiarity of this age. One can get by on one's own. All the more reason to have large gatherings and conventions. The most important thing is to share together that which we have in common.

This June the members of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of the United States and Canada will gather for the 104th time. Faith in the living God, the creator, and in Jesus Christ, projected in boundless experiences, adventures and change in people's lives is the glue which binds us together and creates fellowship. The words of the apostle Paul bring near the content of such a fellowship: *"And above all these things [put on] charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father by him."* Colossians 3:14–17

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



Obecenství

Svět je v neustálém pohybu. Za posledních dvacet let došlo k závažným změnám hlavně co se týče komunikačních prostředků. Tradiční způsoby jsou pomalu vytlačovány. Na jejich místo nastoupila široká škála elektronických přístrojů a zařízení počítačové techniky. Samotný počítač se stal nepostradatelnou součástí života člověka 21. století. Počítač překlenul tisíci-kilometrové vzdálenosti a otevřel člověku pohled nejen do celého světa, ale i do vesmíru. Zároveň však postavil člověka do izolace. Z lidí se stávají samotáři fixovaní na počítač. Je to zvláštnost současné doby. Člověk si vystačí sám. O to větší smysl má pořádání velkých sejití a konferencí. Jde hlavně o vzájemné se sdílení o to, co je společné.

Letos v červenci se členové Československé baptistické konvence Spojených států a Kanady sejdou již po 104. Víra v živého Boha Stvořitele a Ježíše Krista, promítnuta v nesmírném množství zkušeností, zážitků a změn v životě lidí, je tím pojítkem, které tvoří toto obecenství. Slova z listu apoštola Pavla nám přibližují náplň takového obecenství: *„Nadto vždy buďte oblečeni láskou, která je poutem dokonalosti. Ve vašich srdcích ať vládne Kristův pokoj – právě k němu jste byli povoláni v jednom těle. Buďte vděční. Slovo Kristovo ať ve vás přebývá v hojnosti. Navzájem se ve vši moudrosti vyučujte a napomínejte. S vděčností v srdci zpívejte Bohu žalmy, chvalozpěvy a duchovní písně. Cokoli děláte, ať už ve slovech či skutcích, všechno to činite ve jménu Pána Ježíše.“* (Kolosenkým 3; 14–17)

Nataša Laurincová, šéfredaktorka



From the President



Genesis 18 paints an intimate portrait of the heart of Abraham and the heart of God. It begins: *"The Lord appeared to Abraham..."* It is instructive to note the setting of this appearance. It was by the great trees of Mamre, while Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. I love the phrase *"the great trees of Mamre,"* suggesting majesty, strength, stability, like the giant redwood trees in California. The trees of Mamre I expect were a bit more modest, but still displaying the beauty and wisdom of God. What place close to home might stand in the place of the trees of Mamre for us?

Then there's the matter of sitting. People on the go, active, purposeful people have little time for sitting—**or do they?** There is a difference between unceasing movement and directed action. A heart in fibrillation, its muscles contracting all at once in uncoordinated fashion, is a heart in trouble. A healthy heart has a rhythm, a beat, a regular sequence of contraction and rest. It was while Abraham was quietly sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day that he became aware of the presence of the Lord. This was not lost time, but holy, significant time, which informed and directed all the rest.

Welcoming the Lord's coming, Abraham eagerly sought to offer hospitality so his guest might be refreshed. How often have we thought that a humble

attitude, an eager reception, a readiness and desire to serve Him is refreshing to the Lord? See Abraham standing by when the meal was prepared, on call, willing and ready to serve in whatever way he might be needed.

It was then that it happened. The Lord shared a personal message with Abraham regarding something long on Abraham's heart—the birth of a child to him and his wife Sarah. It was good news he had long been waiting for. In addition, before He left, the Lord shared something further with Abraham, something on His heart concerning the fate of Sodom. Amazingly, Abraham was taken into the councils of the Almighty and pled persuasively for the neighbouring city, and for his relative Lot and his family who lived there.

The picture of God and Abraham in Genesis 18 reveals a dynamic relationship involving quiet reflection, willing service, personal communication, compassion for others and stretching faith.

"The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day." Genesis 18:1

How might the Lord appear to us, and what might He say? We won't know unless, like Abraham, we learn to sit and be still, listen and wait.

P.S. If I am not mistaken, there are some lovely trees on the campus of Allegheny College in Meadville PA. Hope to see you there in July

□

Stan Mantle



Kniha Genesis nám v 18. kapitole zobrazuje srdce Abrahamovo a srdce Pána Boha. Začíná slovy: *“Hospodin se pak Abrahamovi ukázal...”* Je vhodné si tento výjev připomenout. Stalo se tak u mohutných stromů háje Mamre, když Abraham seděl v poledním horku u vchodu do svého stanu. Líbí se mi vyjádření *mohutné stromy háje Mamre*, nasvědčující majestátnost, sílu a stabilitu, jakou můžeme vidět u obrovitých sekvojí v Kalifornii. Předpokládám, že stromy háje Mamre byly trochu skromější, přesto však zobrazující krásu a moudrost Pána Boha. Máme nějaké místo připomínající symboliku stromů háje Mamre?

Posezení má svůj důvod. Lidé, kteří jsou v neustálém pohybu, aktivní, se specifickým zaměřením, nemají čas si sednout — nebo mají? Je zde rozdíl mezi neustálým pohybem a řízenou činností. Není-li zkoordinovaná srdeční fibrilace se stahy srdečního svalu, srdce není v pořádku. Zdravé srdce má rytmus, puls, pravidelné intervaly stahů a pauz. Přítomnost Hospodina si Abraham uvědomil právě při tom, když seděl v poledním horku u vchodu do svého stanu. To nebyl promarněný čas, ale posvátný, význačný čas, který předurčil a řídil všechno další.

Přivítáním Hospodinovy návštěvy se Abraham horlivě snažil poskytnout pohostinnost, aby se jeho host mohl zotavit. Přemýšleli jsme někdy nad tím, že pokorný přístup, horlivé naslouchání,

hotovost a touha Mu sloužit jsou Hospodinovi velice milé? Pozorovat Abrahama u přípravy občerstvení, hotového a ochotného posloužit vším, čím by bylo potřeba.

A vtom se to stalo. Hospodin sdělil Abrahamovi své poselství týkající se toho, po čem Abrahamovo srdce toužilo — narození dítěte. Dlouho čekal na tuto dobrou zprávu. Než Hospodin odešel, podělil se s Abrahamem ještě o jednu věc, kterou měl na srdci, týkající se osudu Sodomy. Abraham byl překvapivě zahrnut do rady Všemohoucího a vemlouvavě prosil za sousední město a za svého příbuzného Lota, který tam bydlel se svou rodinou.

Obrázek o Bohu a Abrahamovi v Genesis 18 odhaluje silný vztah zahrnující tiché přemítání, ochotu sloužit, osobní komunikaci, soucit s bližními a rozšiřující se víru.

“Hospodin se pak Abrahamovi ukázal u háje Mamre, když seděl v poledním horku u vchodu do stanu.” Genesis 18; 1

Jak by se asi nám zjevil Hospodin a co by řekl? Pokud se nenaučíme tiše sedět, naslouchat a čekávat jako Abraham, tak se to nedozvíme.

P. S.: Jestli se nemýlím, krásné stromy rostou i v areálu Allegheny College v Meadvillu, PA. Těším se na setkání v červenci.

Stan Mantle
přeložila Nataša Laurincová

□



Speaking to God in Urgency Prayer

Rev. Joseph Novak

For everyone who asks and keeps on asking receives; and he who seeks and keeps on seeking finds; and to him who knocks and keeps on knocking, the door shall be opened."

(Luke 11:10, Amplified Bible)

Today we want to re-examine the purpose of praying. I know that much is written about prayer. Different authors talk about effective praying. I will also try to answer several practical questions: who should pray, when, how and why. Why do we pray anyway? What is prayer? Someone said that what is air for our breathing, water for our garden, food for our body, so is

prayer for our soul— it is life! True prayer includes petition, thanksgiving, confession, praise and worship. But it is not a shopping list like some children tell Santa Claus what they want for Christmas. Neither is it only conversation with God when we tell Him how needy we are and how generous and wonderful He is. He knows that. True and sincere prayer means surrender and involvement. It means telling God, *Lord I am willing to do whatever you want me to do and go wherever you send me. And not Lord I want to know what you want but please send somebody else.*

Who should pray?

According to the words in our text, Jesus declares that all of us should pray, and that we may pray anywhere under all circumstances. This includes everyone, young and old, when we are happy or sad. We should also be diligent and determined in praying; and we should never give up. That is the reason why Jesus repeats it three times saying, *keep on asking, seeking and knocking on the door.*

We have many Biblical examples of people who prayed:

a) Abraham prayed urgently for God's mercy to spare Sodom and Gomorrah because his nephew Lot lived there. In Genesis 18, Abraham asks God if He will also destroy the righteous with the wicked. He started with 50 righteous and came down to ten. But God did not find there even ten righteous persons.

b) In Numbers 12:13 we see Moses praying for his sister Miriam to be healed from leprosy. He also prayed for rebellious people who were ready to stone him because they had no water in the wilderness of Rephidim (Exod. 17:4).

c) Elijah prayed for the son of the woman who looked after him

during the great famine in Israel in the days of Ahab and Jezebel (I Kings 17:20). Later on Elijah prayed for rain (I Kings 18).

d) In Psalm 51 we see King David urgently praying for cleansing, forgiveness and restoration of the joy of his salvation.

e) Another example of urgent praying is King Hezekiah, who prayed for healing, and God gave him 15 more years (Isa. 38:5).

f) We also know that in the days of the Persian king Darius, jealous governors and all other leaders encouraged the king to sign an order that for thirty days, nobody should pray to another god; and whoever did so was to be thrown into the lion's den. Daniel still prayed three times each day, kneeling by the open window, looking towards Jerusalem (Dan. 6:10).

g) From Acts 12 we see the church in Jerusalem praying urgently all night for Peter's release from prison.

h) Paul prayed for vision after he met the Lord on the way to Damascus (Acts 9). There are many other examples of people praying, but the best example is our Lord Jesus. He prayed on many occasions, publicly, privately, out loud or quietly, but he always prayed. We too have that privilege to pray. Let us use that opportunity to speak with our Heavenly Father.

I read that a homeless man died in a snow storm. After police found him, he had with him in a plastic bag \$75,000 in uncashed cheques. He also had savings bonds worth thousands of dollars and \$19,000 dollars in his bankbook. Isn't it interesting and sad: he had all the necessary financial resources for living a meaningful and comfortable life but he did not use them. How sad, but we have many people who are spiritually starving because they

do not use the resource available to them: the opportunity to ask their Heavenly Father for help. No, God did not promise to give us everything we want, but He certainly assures us that he will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19).

I feel that the telephone is a very good example of praying. Most of us use our telephones to talk to our family and friends. We call them to greet them, to thank them, or ask a question. We call our doctors, and many other people, to make an appointment. Sometimes the lines are busy, so we must call back. We are grateful to Alexander Graham Bell for this invention, with his first successful telephone conversation on March 10th, 1876, with his friend Watson. Since that time we have seen a big improvement in this industry. We have cell phones of many sizes. These telephones are changed and improved all the time. Some have computers and many other options built into them. Today telephones are changed so quickly that yesterday's product is obsolete today.

When I was in pastoral ministry, I prayed with people over the phone, and I still do that now. This is a fantastic privilege. It is easier than writing a letter or going to visit someone. We just call them on the phone. Yes, I believe that prayer is that direct and amazing line which connects us with our God. Unfortunately this incredible privilege is neglected by so many people. Someone said that *no Christian is greater than his prayer life. How true that is.*

We may also ask God in prayer for guidance, protection, wisdom, strength and for many other blessings for ourselves, for our family, friends, government and world leaders.

The Place of Prayer

We may pray anywhere, everywhere and anytime. I pray in my office and as I walk or sit and rest. Jesus prayed by the lake, in synagogues, in the garden. He prayed as He multiplied the bread and fed the 5,000 people by the sea of Galilee (John 6:11). He prayed by the grave of His friend Lazarus, who had been dead for four days (John 11:41). In other words Jesus prayed all the time, sometimes publicly, and on other occasions privately.

The beauty of it all is that we don't have to wait until we are old or when we are at the church, or in a place where there are other believers, or until we have a great need or face disaster. We may pray anytime and anywhere, at home, in school, at work, at night when we cannot sleep. It is said that when we cannot sleep, instead of counting sheep we should talk to our Shepherd. It is wise to start the day with a prayer early in the morning, continue to pray during the day and end the day with a prayer of thanksgiving for protection and many blessings. Unfortunately some people only pray when they are sick, or have some other problem. We should pray for direction before we face difficulty and when we are healthy and well.

How to Pray?

Some people think that the only and right way to pray is when they kneel and close their eyes and fold their hands. Others feel that they must use some fancy words or polished language, and pray long prayers. Yet in reality our prayer should be short, simple, direct but sincere. Look at our children when they talk to us, either when they come with requests or simply want to have a discussion with us. They use simple language. We too, as God's children, should be talk-



Rev. Joseph Novak

ing to our Heavenly Father that way. Remember the dying thief on the cross. He prayed a very short and simple prayer. But his prayer was urgent when he said: “Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom,” (Luke 23:42). That was all, yet Jesus heard him and gave him a very encouraging answer: “Truly I tell you. Today you shall be with me in Paradise,” (Luke 23: 43).

I feel that the Lord’s prayer is a very good sample of a short, practical and powerful prayer. The opening words are “Our Father...” Jesus always prayed to his Father. Therefore we too in prayer must see God as our living, loving, and caring father, who is ready to hear and bless us. While praying we don’t have to shout like the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (I Kings 18:26–29). No, we don’t have to shout. Our God is not dead or deaf, nor is He sleeping. All we have to do is whisper a prayer. He is always very near and

He always answers our prayers. However sometimes He says: “Yes my child, I hear you and I am granting you your wish.” And sometimes God says: “My child, I heard your prayer, but you must wait a while. This is not the right time.” We must be reminded that delay is not denial. And sometimes our Heavenly father says, “No, this is not for you.” Remember that the apostle Paul prayed three times that the Lord would take away from him whatever *the thorn in the flesh* was, but the Lord said no: “My grace is sufficient for you. For my strength is made perfect in weakness,” (II Corinthians 12:8).

No, we don’t have to be on our knees when we pray, or have folded hands and closed eyes. Especially if you are praying while driving your car, keep your eyes open! I don’t think that our position makes much difference to our Lord. He does not look at our position. He looks at our heart. Jesus shows us in Matthew 6:5–8 how not to

pray. He tells us not to be long-winded like the Pharisees and other hypocrites who were praying long prayers in a public place in order to show how holy they were. Another Biblical example of how not to pray is the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector, who were both at the temple to pray. We read in Luke 18:11–13 that the Pharisee prayed, “God, I thank you that I am not greedy, dishonest, or an adulterer, like others. I thank you that I am not like that tax collector over there. I fast two days a week and give you one tenth of my income.” But the tax collector stood at a distance and did not even raise his face to heaven, but beating his breast, said, “God, be merciful to me a sinner.” Jesus says that that tax collector went home justified, but the Pharisee did not. In our prayers we are not to try to impress God or people around us with our self-righteous words. But rather we are to be humble and pray like that tax collector who pleaded for God’s mercy.

However in prayer we should be determined, keep on asking, seeking and knocking on the door of God’s mercy and grace. Jesus also uses an illustration of a widow and a judge (Luke 18:1–8). The unjust judge helped the widow because she kept on coming and pleading for his help. She was importunate and insistent.

However it is always very important to end our prayer with these words: *Lord, may your will be done. With your help I will do whatever you want me to do and endure whatever circumstances I must face. I believe that your finger which is pointing my way is a part of your powerful hand which will protect me and provide for my needs whatever they may be, physical, spiritual, emotional and financial.* The apostle Paul confirms this truth when he

says: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus," (Phil. 4:6–7).

We should also pray with praise and thanksgiving, thanking the Lord for our family and friends, for our government leaders, local, provincial, state and federal. The apostle Paul reminds us in I Timothy 2:1–4 to pray for our leaders and other people in authority, so that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence toward God. We especially should remember international leaders as they try and negotiate peaceful solutions in our sick and dangerous world, which is filled with terrorism, war, hunger, suffering, sorrow and other problems. In my pastoral ministry I always reminded our people never to forget, and never to forget to appreciate, the price Jesus paid for our redemption, and the price that so many people paid with their lives, so that we may live freely.

God reminds us through his prophet Jeremiah that we will find Him when we seek Him with all our heart (Jer. 29:13). James reminds us to pray for wisdom and understanding as we seek God's leading before we make any major decision. In Matthew 26:41 Jesus is telling us to pray so that we don't fall into temptation because the devil is always trying to seduce us.

We also pray because in prayer we can tell our Heavenly Father everything, especially those things we cannot tell anyone else, not even our closest and trusted friends, because most people don't understand our concerns and distress. Remember Hannah, the mother of Samuel, when she

prayed to have a child. She told this to God, because nobody else could understand her distress and sorrow; When Hannah was quietly pouring her heart out to God, even the priest Eli did not understand her. He thought that she was drunk (I Sam. 1:10).

Somebody said that we should pray because prayer is one weapon which our enemy cannot duplicate. Even if God does not change our circumstances when we call on Him in honest prayer, He will change us and our outlook on these circumstances.

When to Pray?

We may pray anytime and anywhere. Jesus prayed at the time of decision and before He performed His miracles of healing or feeding the hungry multitudes. Just before His crucifixion, Jesus urgently prayed in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:41–42) saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will, but Yours be done." We should also pray urgently at the time of illness and before surgery, exams, trips, and before any other decision or important step we take. Marriage is also one of those important steps which require much praying, asking for God's direction, discernment and help. We especially must pray urgently when we face disappointment, difficulty, danger or tragedy. Remember how Esther prayed before she went to meet Xerxes, the Persian king, and plead for her life and for the Jewish people who faced annihilation because of the wicked and greedy Haman. Esther prayed urgently and fasted with all her servant girls (Esther 4:16).

Why Should we Pray?

Did you stop and think about why we should we pray?

Because Jesus and His disciples

prayed. We already saw Jesus praying in many places and for different people. In Luke 18:1 Jesus told His disciples to keep on praying and never give up. The apostle Paul also tells us in I Thessalonians 5:17 to pray without ceasing.

In conclusion I want to remind you that it is wise and very helpful to have a prayer list. Write down the names of those people or situations you want to pray about. Sometimes we may not have paper and pen to write our requests or prayer list. But we always have our hands with us. Your hand provides a practical prayer list:

a) Our thumb is so close to all the other fingers. This should remind us to pray for all those near to us: members of our family and friends and neighbours.

b) Next is our pointing finger. It represents all those who are pointing our way: parents, preachers, teachers.

c) The middle finger is the biggest and strongest of all other fingers. It should remind us to pray for all who are strong: our rulers, army, police, judges and other people of authority.

d) Then we have our weakest finger. This one encourages us to pray for all who are old, weak, handicapped, poor and sick.

e) Finally we have our little finger. It should remind us to pray for our little children and for our own humility.

We are never too small for God to use us, but we may become too big. Yes, let us keep on asking, seeking and knocking on the door of God's mercy and grace. May we all do it, all the time, under all circumstances. Amen.

Joseph Novak, sermon,

103rd Annual

Czechoslovak Baptist Convention,

July 2012

□

Walking Wisely In a Wacky World

Judy Shoff

Excerpts from a study in Proverbs (Part 3)

Meet the Author



Before we go any further into the study of the book of Proverbs, it might be well for us to take a look at the primary author of this book.

Solomon, as we all know, was the son of King David in the Old Testament. I love the instructions King David gives to his son. We read about

it in 1 Kings 2:1–3: *“When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. ‘I am about to go the way of all the earth,’ he said. ‘So be strong, act like a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go and that the Lord may keep his promise to me...’”*

When Solomon became king, it was his desire to please God completely. God gave Solomon a test. God told Solomon to ask for anything he desired from Him—whatever it might be—and Solomon asked God: *“Give thy servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”*

Solomon realized that on his own, he would be unable to lead the nation. He did not ask God for things with which to gratify himself. And God blessed Solomon because he had a pure heart and his motives were right.

When we seek God with all our hearts, we take the focus off ourselves. Material possessions and things that gratify our selfish human nature no longer take precedence. Pleasing God preoccupies the life of the person seeking God with all his or her heart.

When we are preoccupied with pleasing God with all our hearts, the focus of our prayers no longer is “God bless ME—God grant ME the things I want, or God make MY life easier.” Our focus becomes Almighty God, and our prayers will be: *“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, send revival, send conviction, give me wisdom to help bring others to You.”*

God blessed Solomon with everything a person could want when things were no longer important to him. Yet, the sad commentary of 1 Kings 11 tells us that Solomon did not guard his heart, but let the old, self-centered human nature come in and take control. Solomon did not heed his own warnings. Sadly, he committed both spiritual and physical adultery.

Our concern today should be, “How can I avoid the trap that Solomon fell into?” We must be on guard. We must stay in the Word and be willing to obey God’s commands and not try to apply them to someone else. Proverbs 4:23: *“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”*

Recently, I heard from a dear friend who is well along in years, still vibrant and joyful in all she does. In her card to us, she wrote, “I try to talk to someone about Jesus every day!” What an inspiration and challenge that was to me. Stay in the Word and let your light shine.

☞ Continues on page 17

Moudře kráčet neobvyklým světem

Judy Shoffová

Výňatek ze studie knihy Přísloví (3. část)

Seznámení s autorem



Než budeme pokračovat v dalším studiu knihy Přísloví, bylo by dobré se blíže seznámit s autorem této knihy.

Všichni dobře víme, že Šalamoun byl synem krále Davida ve starozákonní době. Líbí se mi pokyny, které král David svému synovi dal. Čteme o tom v I. Královské 2; 1–3: Když se přiblížil čas Davidovy smrti, dal

svému synu Šalomounovi tyto pokyny: *“Já odcházím jako všechno pozemské, ty ale jednej statečně a mužně a zachovávej, co ti svěřil Hospodin, tvůj Bůh. Chod' po jeho cestách, dodržuj jeho ustanovení, přikázání, pravidla i svědectví zapsaná v Mojžišově zákoně, aby se ti dařilo vše, co podnikneš, všude, kam se obrátíš. Potom Hospodin splní slovo, které mi dal...”*

Když se stal Šalamoun králem, snažil se, aby se Bohu líbil. Bůh podrobil Šalamouna zkoušce. Řekl mu, že může požádat o cokoli, a Šalamoun Boha prosil: *“Dej tedy svému služebníku chápavé srdce, aby dokázal soudit tvůj lid a rozlišovat dobro od zla. Kdo by jinak mohl soudit tento tvůj nesmírný lid?”*

Šalamoun si velmi dobře uvědomoval, že jen tak bude schopen vést lid. Neprosil Boha o věci k vlastnímu potěšení. Protože měl Šalamoun čisté srdce a dobré úmysly, Bůh mu požehnal. Hledat Boha celým svým srdcem vyžaduje soustředění. Majetky a materiální věci, které uspokojují naši sobeckou lidskou přirozenost již nejsou v popředí. Člověk, který hledá Boha celým svým srdcem, se snaží o to, aby se Bohu líbil.

Když se celým svým srdcem snažíme Bohu líbit, v našich modlitbách již neprosíme: “Bože, požehnej MĚ; Bože, dej MI to, co chci JÁ,” nebo “Bože, ulehči MI život.” Cele se zaměříme na Všemohoucího Boha a budeme prosit: *Přijď království Tvé, buď vůle Tvá, obživ, usvěď, dej mi moudrost vest druhé k Tobě.*

Bůh požehnal Šalamounovi ve všem, co jen člověk může chtít. Přesto I. Královská 11. kapitola nám podává smutnou zprávu o tom, že Šalamoun své srdce neustrážil a nechal se opět ovládnout svou starou, sobeckou lidskou přirozeností. Šalamoun nevěnoval pozornost své vlastní výstraze. Žel, dopustil se duchovního i tělesného cizoložství.

Měli bychom se dnes zaměřit na to, *jak se mohu vyhnout léčce, do které upadl Šalamoun.* Musíme být ve střehu. My sami musíme zůstat ve Slovu a musíme být ochotní řídit se Božími přikázáními, ne se snažit je aplikovat na někoho jiného. Přísloví 4; 23: Především dobře chraň své srdce – právě z něj všechn život vychází.

Nedávno se ozvala vzácná přítelkyně již v pokročilém věku, stále čilá a radostná při všem, co dělá. Na lístek, který nám napsala, uvedla: “Každý den se snažím někomu povědět o Ježíši!” Jaká to pro mne byla inspirace a výzva! Zůstaň ve Slově a necht' tvé světlo svítí.

Jasný obraz toho, co Bůh od svého lidu očekává, vidíme u Ozeáše 4; 1–3: *Slyšte slovo Hospodinovo, synové Izraele, Hospodin má žalobu na obyvatele země: V této zemi není věrnost ani láska a nikdo nezná Boha. Jen samé kletby, lži a vraždění, zlodějství a cizoložení – rozmáhá se to víc a víc, jedno krveprolití za druhým! To proto země uvádá a každý její obyvatel je vyčerpán; polní zvěř i ptáci na nebi hynou společně s mořskými rybami.*

Charles Spurgeon's Devotion

Whoever Claims to Live in Him Must Walk as Jesus Did

1 John 2:6

Why should Christians imitate Christ? They should do it for their own sakes. If they desire to be spiritually healthy, to escape the sickness of sin, and to enjoy the vitality of increasing grace, Jesus should be their model. For the sake of their own happiness, if they desire to drink deeply of His best wine, if they want to enjoy holy and happy communion and oneness with Jesus, and if they desire to be lifted from the cares and troubles of this world, they “must walk as Jesus did.”

Nothing will be of greater assistance in having a godly walk toward heaven than wearing the image of Jesus on your heart, allowing Him to rule your emotions. You will be the happiest and will best exhibit His sonship when you walk with Jesus in His very footsteps, enabled by the power of His Holy Spirit. Walking far from Him, however, makes you feel unsafe and uneasy.

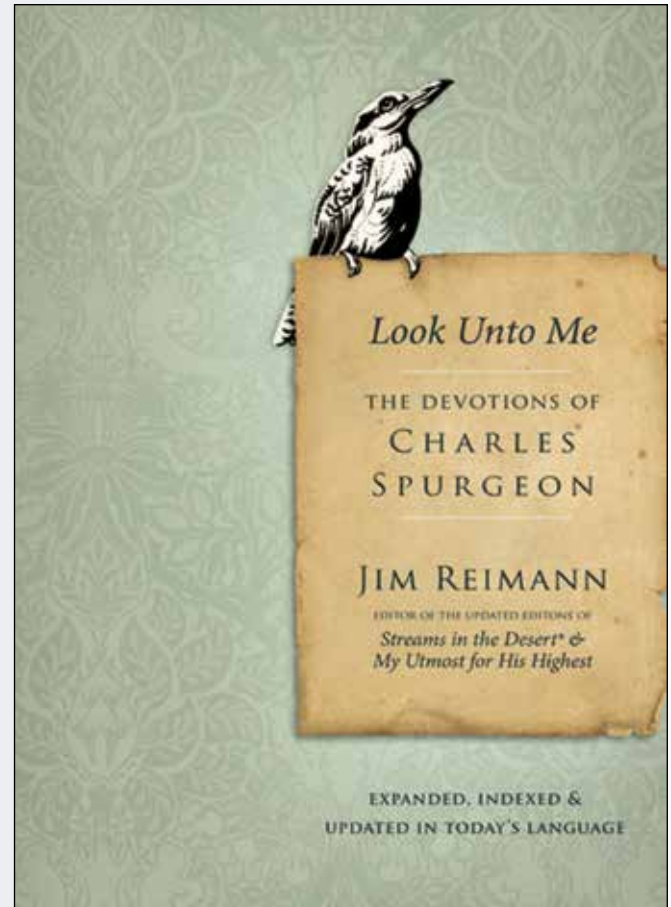
Next, strive to be like Jesus for the sake of the gospel. Oh, poor gospel, you have suffered cruel blows from your enemies but have been only half as severely wounded by your foes as your friends! Who made those wounds in that sweet hand of godliness? It was the professing believer who used the dagger of hypocrisy. And he who enters the sheepfold under false pretenses, who is simply a wolf “in sheep’s clothing” (Matt. 7:15), disturbs the flock more than the lion outside. There is no weapon half as deadly as a “Judas-kiss.” Inconsistent, professing believers injure the gospel more than the sneering critic or the atheist.

Finally, imitate Christ’s example especially for the sake of Christ Himself. Dear Christian, do you love your Savior? Is His name precious to you? Is His cause truly important to you? Do you want to see the kingdoms of this world become His? Is it your desire He be glorified? Are you longing for souls to be won for Him?

If so, imitate Jesus! Be an epistle of Christ, “known and read by everybody” (2 Cor. 3:2).

Taken from *Look Unto Me: The Devotions of Charles Spurgeon*, by Jim Reimann.

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

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

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

Goodrich Community Church 100th Anniversary

"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

Original 1938 building from the south side, built with the help of many gifts from Czech Convention members at that time



Rainbow pointing to the cross on the church



Winter Christmas scene from the NW side



Goodrich Community/Baptist Church is celebrating 100 years of sharing God's salvation story for God's glory this summer, August 4, 2013. Services on August 4, our big day, will be held from 10 AM to 12 noon followed by a catered dinner at 12:30 PM. A second service will run from 2 to 4 PM, followed by anniversary cake and ice cream.

These services will feature Reverend Robert Dvorak, former Czechoslovak Convention president, leading in an old-fashioned hymn sing and preaching the Word. Many testimonies of both members and former pastors will be shared, telling their story of God's glory in their lives through the church over 100 years. Special music by former members and friends who have been impacted by the church will also be shared.

Address: Goodrich Community Church, N2753 Lemke Dr., Athens, WI 54411



The sanctuary



Edmund Chan,
a native of Singapore, leads the Covenant Evangelical Free Church in Singapore. He has authored several books to include, *Growing Deep in God; Mentoring Paradigms; Growing Deep in Faith; and Cultivating Your Inner Life.*

Diana Francis
(Bahamas) is the President of the Student Christian Movement of Bahamas (SCM) and the host of a youth television program, "U Gat Issues". She is a song writer and the author of the book, *Straight Up Youth Talk*. Diana is the co-pastor of the First Baptist Church in The Bahamas.

Thembelani Jentile
(South Africa) is the Senior Pastor at the Mamelodi Baptist Church in South Africa. He is a columnist at the national newspaper, Sunday Sun as well as a regular contributor of the Move Magazine. He has authored two books, *Repairing Broken Altars* and *Broken but Blessed*.

Lucas Leys
(Argentina) is the director of the Hispanic Division of Youth Specialists and the President of Publishing at Vida Publishers, the Spanish division of Zondervan. Lucas has authored fifteen books including *Effective Youth Ministry* and *500 Youth Ministry Ideas*.

Dave Overholt
(Canada) is the founding pastor of the "Church on the Rock" one of the largest and longest running Next Generation-targeted Baptist churches in North America. He is the author of *Reasons to Believe; Live What You Believe; and Soul Searching the Millennial Generation*.

Christian Rommert
(Germany) serves as the head of the German Baptist Youth Department and co-initiator of the "Safe Churches" campaign that deals with the question of child protection.

Rachael Tan
(Taiwan) is a member of the faculty at the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary and the associate dean of the graduate school at the Asian Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary. She served as pastor for over ten years in the Philippines and was a member of the BWA Emerging Leaders Network.



Edmund Chan
(Singapore)



Diana Francis
(Bahamas)



Thembelani Jentile
(South Africa)



Lucas Leys
(Argentina)



Dave Overholt
(Canada)



Christian Rommert
(Germany)



Rachael Tan
(Taiwan)

SEMINARS

Leaders

- Navigating Social Media
- Engaging Youth who are Involved in Risky Behavior
- How to Strengthen my Youth Ministry
- Understanding Global Youth Culture
- Youth Ministry Issue - to be determined
- HORIZONS
- Counseling in Youth Ministry
- Children's Theology
- Safe Churches
- Balancing Career and Youth Ministry
- Lifestyle Challenges
- Women in the Sex Trade
- Leading Youth in Short Term International Mission

Young Adults

- Maximizing your Ministry
- Living a Life of Mission at Home
- What Can I Do to Strengthen the Ministry of my Church?
- Conflict Resolution
- Connecting with Young Adults Outside the Church

Youth

- Youth and HIV/AIDS
- Percussion in Worship
- Creative Arts
- Using Sports as Ministry
- Practical Advice for Growing in Faith
- Environmental Based Ministry
- Understanding the Bible
- Abstinence
- Peace and Justice
- Using Social Media
- Ministry After Disaster
- Peer Counseling
- Stop Hunger Now (Interactive Experience)
- Writing Worship Songs
- Campus Ministry
- Toxic Relationships
- How to Serve in your Community
- Baptist Heritage and Identity
- Youth and Finance
- Economics in the World and your Faith
- How to Study your Bible
- Living Intentionally as a Christian
- Incarnational Faith on Campus

Children's Corner

The days are getting longer and the weather is heating up. School is out for the summer, and families are starting the yearly traditions of camps and vacations. This, of course, can only mean one thing: it's almost time for the 104th Czechoslovak Baptist Convention!

I am so excited! I've been working hard the past few weeks thinking of fun ways for us to learn about how we can glorify God even as children, and I can hardly wait to see you at the convention.

We will be learning about a group of incredible children that did amazing things for God even though they were young and small.

In Timothy 4:12 it says, *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."*

I remember being a kid sitting in the pews at church and thinking, "But what can I do to serve God? I'm just a kid... you have to be an adult to do all that big stuff." I was so wrong! There are so many ways we can glorify God! A few weeks ago I asked some of the children in my church about ways they could serve God or glorify God in their everyday lives. Take a minute to think of some ways you could glorify God, and then read a few of the answers my kids gave me for some extra ideas!

"I can invite my teacher to church!" – Micah (8 years old)

"I can listen to my mommy and daddy when they ask me to do stuff. They know what's got to get done. And they make all the money. I don't have a job." – Noah (6 years old)

"I can take care of my little sister so my mom can get some stuff done around the house!" – Owen (7 years old)

"OH! I could be nice to my brother. Then maybe he will be nice to me, and I think that would make God happy." – Cindy (5 years old)

While there are things that you won't be able to do till you're older, the Bible is FULL of stories of kids who served God and devoted their lives to ministry at a very young age. I can't wait to share some of their stories with you! I just know we'll have a great time as we learn from the Bible, eat great snacks, do some skits, sing lots of songs, and have a wonderful time playing together and worshipping our Lord! Make sure you're registered, and I'll see you soon!

Miss Pickles





Visit to Ethiopia via the UK

My trip to Ethiopia via the UK was fantastic! My heart was overjoyed to see the enthusiasm of the Ethiopian Church for missions. Several couples have already gone to places like South Sudan, Pakistan, India and Zambia. Soon others will go to China and Malawi.

Most of the missionaries are supported by one or two Ethiopian congregations. Many of these people live in rural Ethiopia with very little in the way of financial reserves. Still, they see themselves as active members of God's team in spreading the Gospel across the world and thus are willing to sacrifice in order to send

their people overseas. It was a humbling experience to see their love and devotion to God and the desire to be engaged in His plan for missions.

It is always hard when you are starting a new thing! The SIM East Africa Office personnel have been working hard on encouraging and sending out missionaries. It was a privilege to come alongside them for a week to work together on the necessary things that are done within a mission organization in selecting, training and sending out people. It is our hope that the week together has enabled them to fulfill their roles better.

Helen and I warming up in Ethiopia

Before traveling to Ethiopia, I spent time in the UK, where it was snowy and cold. I spent three days there, but almost spent more because of the snow and cold. Fortunately we flew out of Heathrow as planned. I am glad I did not make the journey alone. With flying, the African proverb says it well: "Two is better than one."

My companion traveler to Ethiopia was Helen Heron, the international personnel coordinator.

While in the UK, I enjoyed sharing in two sessions of the SIM UK

orientation program. It was wonderful to interact with young people preparing to serve the Lord across the globe.

Ethiopia growing and changing

After serving in Ethiopia for almost eight years, I left in 1978. In over 30 years the change has been phenomenal. I could hardly recognize streets and buildings except for SIM HQ.

When I went to Bingham Academy, the SIM MK school, I did not recognize it at all. It is now an international school catering to many different nationalities.

Addis Ababa is a thriving and growing city with many new buildings and many people. The church has grown numerically and spiritually as seen in their renewed engagement in missions.

Going back re-introduced my taste buds to injera wat, a popular local dish.

Praise and Prayer

- For Ethiopian missionaries serving across the globe
- For finances and logistics in getting missionaries to the field
- For adjustments and fruitful ministry in the country God has called these his servants

Ruby Mikulencak



Moudře kráčet... Pokračování ze strany 11

Bůh očekává od Izraele (Svého vyvoleného národa), aby se určitým způsobem choval. Měl být moudrý. Vidíme tedy, že opravdová Boží moudrost je praktická a je zřetelná ve slušném chování člověka.

Stejná výzva platí pro nás i dnes. Dočteme se o ní u Jakuba 3; 13–16:

Kdo je mezi vámi moudrý a rozumný? Ať to prokáže svými skutky – ušlechtilým životem ve vlídné moudrosti. Máte-li však v srdci hořkou závist a svárliвість, nechlubte se a nelžete proti pravdě.

To není moudrost přicházející shůry, ale ta pozemská, pudová a ďábelská. Kde je totiž závist a svárliвість, tam vzniká nepokoj a kdejaká špatnost.

Náš postoj se projevuje při našem jednání, naše jednání svědčí o našem postoji a postoj ukáže, jsme-li skutečně moudří a kráčíme po cestách Páně. Ptejme se: *O čem svědčí mé jednání a můj postoj?*

přeložila Nataša Laurincová





Dear Friends and Partners in the Gospel,

We are happy to bring you another update concerning our preparation for the work of the gospel in the Czech Republic. We hope you will be encouraged by God's faithfulness to make His name known among the Czech people.

Praises and Prayer Requests:

- Praise the Lord for churches and individuals who are truly excited about the work in the Czech Republic and are eager to be a part of it.
- Praise the Lord for new partnerships.
- Praise the Lord for his constant provision and the body of saints that He has surrounded us with and called to partner with us. We thank God for you!
- Pray for the upcoming year of the CBI (Czech Bible Institute) as it is gearing up to be a busy one. The new semester starts in the fall.
- Continue to pray for Jamie and the kids as they are studying the Czech language (not an easy language to learn).
- Continue to pray for new opportunities for partnerships to develop.
- Pray that if God wills, the churches that are considering partnering with us would join us as we take the gospel to the Czech Republic.

In Christ, *the Váhalas*



Walking Wisely... Continues from page 10

In the book of Hosea 4:1–3 (NASB) we see a clear picture of what God expects of His people: *“Listen to the Word of the Lord, sons of Israel. For the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land. There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery. They employ violence so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and everyone who lives in it languishes, along with the beasts of the field and birds of the sky, and also the fish of the sea disappear.”*

God expected Israel, His chosen nation, to behave in a certain way. It was the way of the wise. Therefore, we see that true wisdom from God is practical and can be seen through proper human conduct.

The same challenge is still issued to us today. We can read about it in James 3:13–16: *“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in humility that comes from wisdom. But if you*

harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such wisdom does not come from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”

Our actions reveal our attitude, and our attitude reveals whether we are truly wise and walking in the ways of the Lord.

A question to ask ourselves: What do my actions and attitude reveal about me?





Poenaru Post: For Such a Time as This

“You will always have the poor among you,” (John 12:8) – the words of our Lord resound in our ears, as children with major surgical needs start coming to our new BethanyKids unit in Addis. Some come from the so-called “emerging



Little J., accidental victim of gunshot, after his second surgery

states” of Ethiopia, the less privileged and developed regions, hundreds of miles away, and they are clearly not comfortable in the cosmopolitan environment of our hospital. Others are sent to us by various NGOs or friends from neighboring countries such as Southern Sudan and Somaliland. Many of our patients come from our previous work areas in the

Horn of Africa, considering the grueling 16-hour car drive across the border so much easier than flying to Kenya... Most have been sick for years yet were unable to access health care, whether because of poverty or social or geographical isolation. Children whose operations would normally be done the first few days after birth come to us years later, and even in their teens. Like the two precious girls with bladder exstrophy, a debilitating congenital problem where the urinary bladder is open to the skin, thus leaving the children wholly incontinent throughout their lives until surgery. Both

girls came from far away with unoperated exstrophy well into their teens—thus how great their joy was when they became, by God’s grace through the surgery, “whole” and dry for the first time in their lives!

We receive all these children and their weary, scared but hopeful parents with love, compassion, and hopefully good care. We try to provide them with social support as they adapt to the strange, busy life of Addis, and we share with them the ultimate healing that only the Great Physician can bring. D. is one of several wonderful volunteers whom God seems to have placed in our path here in Addis. She talks to the moms of our little patients, gets them set up in Addis, finds places for them to stay or simply opens her own house to them. Is it surprising that already a couple of the moms have had faith-changing experiences while under *BethanyKids’* care? *“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another,”* (John 13:35).

Other praise items

Frehun: Dan’s pediatric surgeon “partner” in Addis, who was the BethanyKids’ first trainee from Ethiopia, successfully sat his certification exams, becoming not only the first pedi-



Frehun smiling in his new consultant office at the hospital

atric surgeon who graduated from the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), but also the first pediatric surgeon to receive his training in East Africa! He is now a fully-fledged consultant pediatric surgeon, one of only four in the country of 90 million people!

ACLA: Addis Christian Life Assembly (ACLA) is a small church in a slum area in the city center, where God seems to have led us to worship and serve. The English-speaking congregation is in fact almost completely made of younger Ethiopians, with the exception of the pastors’ team which



Dan with young patient and her mother, healed after 3 surgeries

comes from Alberta... small world! We love ACLA's family atmosphere and outreach focus – reminds us of our precious home churches in Canada...

For your prayers

Dita: She is working hard to finish her master's thesis, while at the same time providing support and counsel to the hospital in the areas of infection control and quality of care. Her previous experience in Kijabe comes in very handy as she strives to engage the local staff's skills and assets, and the results are already appearing. Please pray, though, that she will be wise in dividing her time, helping in ways that build up, and focused also on the final stretch of her degree...

Our boys: They are continuing in university in Canada, and we sure miss them! Please pray for Daniel's challenging studies at McGill, as he splits his time with increasing campus ministry as well. Daniel had the opportunity to go to the Urbana missions conference last December, and came back even more committed in his faith and interested in cross-cultural missions. Christopher is now in his co-op work term, enjoying increasingly complex assignments at Sunlife in Waterloo. He is also enjoying the Meeting House fellowship for spiritual nourishment.

Medical college: Dan has been asked to help at the small medical college associated with Myungsung Hospital. It just opened its doors last year to 23 students, and it strives to bring a strong Christian culture of excellence and servant leadership. Unfortunately it lacked someone with undergraduate medical education experience, and Dan seemed to be that person "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). Please pray that Dan will handle well this serious task, and manage dividing his time between the school, the hospital, and his own unfinished studies. *Please also pray for (and let us know if you know any) instructors in basic health science (organic chemistry, biochemistry, physiology, anatomy, pharmacology)*

who could teach intensive courses over a few weeks at a time, or stay for longer—we are in severe need of such instructors!

Our finances (actually God's finances): we remain about 20% under our budget support level calculated by AIM, mostly because of the cost of university for our boys. This would require that we return for longer periods to Canada to earn income for covering the deficit, which we are ready to do but it is not ideal for the ministry. We trust that our "God will meet all [our] needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus," (Philippians 4:19), and we know that He does that through His people. We therefore value your prayers for provision.

We thank you all for your wonderful partnership in our



Dan & Dita in front of the Korean Hospital

mission. This new stage in the work and in our lives is surely different from the preceding ones, but we are excited about how God continues to use us and look forward to His healing and grace in Ethiopia!

Blessings in our wonderful God,

Dan & Dita

If you would like to find out more about or contribute to our ministry please contact:

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The first class of MyungSung Medical College (before Dan came on board...)

After 6 weeks away from the US, I return full of joy and praise for all that the Lord has done. Safety in travel, visiting the Singapore office, teaching at Sabah Theological Seminary (STS) and interacting with students eager to learn, visiting friends in Ghana and having a worthwhile new sending entity consultation. I wish I could give you a long description of my time in each place. I am once again amazed at God's kindness and grace enabling to make this trip!

Some of the highlights of the trip are being in a new context learning cultural cues and also being able to worship with Asian brothers and sisters in Christ on the three Sundays I spent in East Asia. It was exciting to hear news from China on the Church's desire to become more involved in global missions. It also included meeting and getting to know 11 students at STS and seeing how they applied the teaching to their ministry. I left Malaysia and Singapore with a joyful heart.

I have to admit the long air journeys and layovers in between trips was not so exciting but when I touched down in Accra and walked through immigration and collected my luggage, I thought, ahh... yes I am home! But things never remain static and it soon became obvious that though it was good to be back to see some many friends, God clearly reminded me, my place was no longer to be Ghana. It was with a bit of fear that I started the consultation with 16 people. We discussed many things during on three days together which I think helped me to understand better the purpose and makeup of the new sending bodies of SIM.

My own understanding has grown as to how SIM can facilitate more missionaries coming from nontradi-

tional mission sending countries. The offices act more as connecting offices of perspective missionaries with receiving areas who are asking for missionaries. Their function is different to the traditional sending bodies but the aim is still the same; to get workers into the harvest field. It was wonderful to meet the directors of four areas who I hope to work more closely. Please pray for Obed, Worku, Walter and Bako as they lead the work in their respective areas. Seeking to send out workers for the harvest from East Africa, South Africa, West Africa and Latin America.

I would love to give you a day to day account of friends I met in Ghana and the things we discussed. One thing for sure is how much they appreciated my visit and thanked me over and over again for returning. I was reminded again of how Ghanaian believers apply

the Word of God into their context. I wish I could write a book about the theology of the ordinary Christian in Ghana. My friend Diana has a gift of composing songs in her mother tongue and one of her songs has few words but a profound depth of meaning is:

"the world is a market we come and shop and then we go home"

It was very special to be able to spend time with Sherri, my niece, and to meet the

many associates for whom she is responsible and who keep her very busy. I also must admit I felt the heat and realized again the strength and stamina needed to work in Ghana.

I thank each of you for your part in praying and giving so that I could make this trip to successful. I thank God for your involvement! I pray that God will continue to reveal Himself to you as you remain on the journey of walking with Him.

□



Consultation

A Singapore feast



Teaching at Sabah Theological Seminary



New Sending Consultation



Time with Sherri and good friends



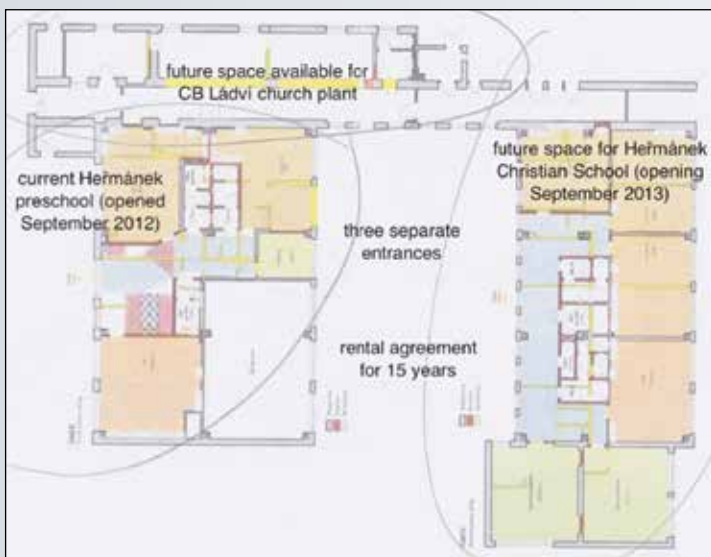


"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Psalm 127:1

Reconstruction at CB Ládvi



Just knock out a few walls (above, left), and it should look something like this! (below)



As soon as the building permit is issued, reconstruction can begin in earnest at the new North City ministry facility, CB Ládvi. A common meeting place will be ready this fall, Lord willing, effectively connecting the pre-school wing with the school wing of the Heřmánek Christian School. Our M4 church-planting team for CB Ládvi is praying and planning strategic outreach opportunities to begin this fall for the inhabitants of the North City communities.

Facility updates at CB Skalka

Increased attendance at Skalka's Sunday services is a good problem to have! We've created space for more people by installing a new screen and a projector from the ceiling. Now 40 to 50 people can fit comfortably, with additional space for up to 60 people if needed. New red curtains at the front help to cut the glare from the west-facing windows, especially for the Mongolian church's afternoon services. The curtains were installed just in time for a special marriage blessing service for Daniel, the leader of the Mongolian church at Skalka, and his wife Tamir. They were married three years ago at the Mongolian Embassy, but have always desired a Christian marriage



blessing. On April 6th, Mark officiated, and they renewed their vows to one another before friends and church family.

A new home for South City Church?

South City Church was established 12 years ago, first as South City Station, then two years later as an autonomous



church. Since that time the ministry has taken place in four different locations: an elementary school, two former pre-schools, and the basement of a Catholic community center. The current meeting space is no longer suitable and is limiting any possibilities for growth. The elders are praying and seeking God's will regarding the purchase of a permanent facility for South City Church, and they are asking for prayer for making wise and strategic decisions.

A spring wedding



What's that coming down the road?

Earlier this month, we all attended the wedding of Standa and Hanka. Hanka became a Christian at our very first Sunday service at Skalka on October 14, 2007. Although she no longer attends the Skalka church, she has continued to grow in her faith, and for the past three years has served as the office manager of the Czech Christian Mission Society.

Summer is on its way!



After a prolonged winter, we are glad to see signs of spring everywhere. Summer Family English Camp, from June 29th to July 5th, is coming up quickly, with teams joining us from Kansas, Illinois, and Pennsylvania. We just recently increased capacity to 165 people – good thing, since we already have 143 people registered!

It's also time to finalize details of our one-month summer ministry trip to



Sharing family times

North America. Although we won't be able to see everyone, we'll be connecting with as many friends and churches as we can.

July 8 fly to Toronto
 July 8–10 McKellar, ON
 July 11–12 Dorchester, ON
 July 13–23 Windsor, ON
 July 24–Aug 7 Plymouth, MN
 Aug 4–7 (Mark) Westcliffe, CO
 Aug 9 fly from Toronto

Prayer Points

- Please continue to PRAY for preparations for the U.S. teams for English Camp, for us as we assign teaching groups, for the Czech Christians who will be helping, and for our coworkers preparing teaching materials.
- Please PRAY for discernment for South City Church's decision-making process regarding the possibility of purchasing a permanent church facility.
- Please PRAY that the Lord would lead someone to come teach English with us at Skalka, and also provide English instruction at Heřmánek School.
- Please PRAY for a positive decision from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture regarding South City Church's sponsorship of Heřmánek Christian School as a church school.
- Petr, our pastoral intern at Skalka, and his wife Mirka are expecting their first child in October. Please PRAY for good health for Mirka and the baby.
- Luke, Noemi, Ben and Elise are all doing well. Please continue to PRAY for their development in all areas—especially their spiritual development.

Building up the body of Christ,

Mark and Gretchen, Luke, Noemi, Ben, Elise



