

# Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

Vol. 40, N° 3, 2014

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Great are the works of the  
Lord; they are pondered by all  
who delight in them.

Psalm 111:2

Jak veliké jsou skutky  
Hospodinovy, všichni,  
kdo je milují, o nich přemýšlí.

Žalm 111;2

Velké sú skutky Hospodina,  
skúmajú ich všetci, čo v nich  
majú záľubu.

Žalm 111;2

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## Convention Mission Statement

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

## Misijní posláni konvence

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

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## Fellowship

**D**uring every convention, there is a heightened awareness of the sense of fellowship. This word fellowship certainly isn't foreign to our readers, and it manifests itself at every opportunity during convention gatherings. A definition of fellowship may sound thus: a gathering of like-minded people who share vision, which gives its surrounding society character, and has its own dynamics. Fellowship may be seen as a reservoir of expanding energy. Energy cannot be created or destroyed. Energy has force that affects its surroundings. When asked what brought them to the convention, one participant replied, "to recharge my batteries."

What is the source of this energy? In his book *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes: "Christian community is fellowship through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. We belong to one another through Christ and in Him." Yes, that fathomless source is the Lord Jesus Christ. If Christ is the source, energy will manifest itself in *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness...* (Galatians 5:22). Those are the qualities that anyone who claims a part in this fellowship should possess.

*Glorious Hope* is a medium of communication, connecting individual members of the community through the written word. Thanks to the heartfelt speeches and testimonies recorded on the pages of this magazine, those who were not able to attend have the chance to draw on the energies given by attending members.

Looking back over the 105-year history of the convention, Psalm 111:2 comes to mind:

*"How amazing are the deeds of the Lord! All who delight in Him should ponder them."*

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



## Obecenství

**P**ři každém sejití konvence vnímáme velmi intenzívně sílu obecenství. Našemu čtenáři jistě není tento výraz cizí. Objevuje se vždy při každé příležitosti setkání konvence. Definice obecenství by mohla znít asi takto: *obecenství je setkání skupiny lidí stejného nebo smyšleného a víze, která udává danému společenství charakter a má svou dynamičnost.* Obecenství je možné vnímat jako zásobník rozpínající se energie. Energii nelze vytvořit ani zničit. V energii je síla, která působí na okolí. Jeden z účastníků minulých setkání na otázku, co ho přivedlo na konvenci, odpověděl: *dobít si baterii.*

Co je zdrojem této energie? Ve své knize *O obecenství* Dietrich Bonhoeffer říká: „*Křesťanské obecenství je obecenství skrze Ježíše Krista a v Ježíši Kristu. Patříme k sobě navzájem skrze Krista a v Kristu.*“ Ano, tím nesmírným zdrojem je Pán Ježíš Kristus. Je-li zdrojem Kristus, pak projevem energie je *láska, radost, pokoj, tichost, dobrota...* (Galat. 5:22). To jsou vlastnosti, kterými by měl disponovat každý, kdo se k obecenství hlásí.

*Slavná naděje* je sdělovacím prostředkem, písemným propojením mezi jednotlivými účastníky obecenství. Díky hodnotným proslouvům a svědectvím zaznamenaných na stránkách tohoto časopisu mohou ti, kteří se konvence nemohli zúčastnit, čerpat tutéž energii, kterou účastníci konvence okoušeli.

Při pohledu zpět na 105-ti letou historii konvence nelze nevzpomenout Žalm 111:2:

*„Jak veliké jsou skutky Hospodinovy, všichni, kdo je milují, o nich přemýšlí.“*

*Nataša Laurincová, šéfredaktorka*



# From the President



It is good to get out of the regular routine and go off the beaten path. A change of scenery and the chance to explore and wonder at God's beautiful creation is restorative and healing for all of us. As I write this, I am looking forward to an upcoming family holiday on the Bruce Peninsula near Tobermory, ON. There, the cry of the loon and the waves washing the majestic Niagara Escarpment will be a wonderful elixir of peace. This is the dream. Reality has a way of being less and more than our dreams, though.

The 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, July 10–13, was like this. There were fewer of us than in some years. Nevertheless, the spirit and fellowship we enjoyed were strong and sweet. Through the messages on our Convention theme, *Gospel Transformations*, we were reminded of our need for renewal and change. And there was the sense during our days together of a ferment happening among us. New ideas came bubbling forth; healthy discussions about outreach and mission and our future direction took place. The life of the Spirit pressing outward, propelling forward, was alive and active in our midst. Praise and thanks to God for this.

One example of the blessing of change was the picnic on Saturday night. It had been planned with a younger crowd in view who, it was thought, would appreciate a change of venue and format from the traditional Saturday banquet and service. When the envisioned reunion of the TWK (Toronto, Windsor, Kingsville) group did not happen, we wondered whether

the picnic idea, with the inherent uncertainty of weather, and added difficulties of transportation and site set-up, should be dropped. *Why not just go back to the usual way of doing things?* Thankfully, this temptation was not given in to. Instead, the picnic went on with the people we had. And what a wonderful evening we had together. We were blessed by doing something new, by leaving the familiar, by taking a risk.

Here, surely, is a sign of the way ahead. New paths, unfamiliar ventures involving uncertainty and risk, and requiring faith and effort, are the way the Lord leads His people. On the way they learn to trust and depend on Him. Through this adventure of faith, He makes them (us) fruitful. This is the exciting journey we are on.

After a time of ministry, the disciples were ready for a getaway across the Sea of Galilee. Unfortunately (from their point of view), the people followed them around the lake. When dinner time came, the disciples thought it would be good to send the people away. Jesus, however, had a different idea, and arranged a picnic. (Matt. 14:13–21)

I suspect the Lord has more picnics in our future. Most certainly, what He does have in mind is for us, in faith, to turn over to Him what we have—time, energy, creativity, resources – and use them to serve and feed the multitude of dear souls close at hand, who are weary and hungry. "...*You give them something to eat,*" (Matt. 14:16), Jesus says to us. And the Lord helping us, we will.

*Stan Mantle*  
Stan Mantle

# Stránka prezidenta

Upustit od zaběhlých zvyklostí a sejít z vyšlapané cestičky má něco do sebe. Pozměněná scenerie a možnost poznávat a obdivovat překrásné Boží dílo posilňuje a ozdravuje. Zatímco píši tyto řádky, těším se na blíží se rodinnou dovolenou na poloostrově Bruce, nedaleko Tobermory, v Ontariu. Tam volání potápnice a vlny omývající vznešené niagarské hřebený působí jako úžasný elixír pokoje. Je to sen. Většinou však skutečnost naši snům neodpovídá.

Tomu se podobalo 105. sejití konvence na Allegheny univerzitě v Meadville, PA, mezi 10.–13. červencem. Letos se nás sešlo méně. Přesto jsme prožívali příjemné a mocné duchovní obecenství. Potřebu obnovy a změny nám připoměly referáty na konferenční téma *Přeměna vlivem evangelia*. A během společných chvil bylo cítit určité napětí. Objevily se nové nápady; diskutovalo se o našem poslání, o misi, o našem směru v budoucnosti. Zřejmá byla přítomnost Ducha Svatého, jeho vedení a působení mezi námi. Chvála a díky Bohu za to.

Příkladem toho, jaké požehnání přináší změny, byl sobotní piknik. Původně byl naplánován pro mladší skupinu, protože se předpokládalo, že mladí uvítají záměnu tradičního sobotního banketu s následovnou bohoslužbou za piknik. Zorganizovat setkání bývalých mládežníků tří sborů TWK (Toronto, Windsor, Kingsville) se nepodařilo. Uvažovali jsme tedy, zda-li neupustit od plánovaného pikniku, zvláště vzhledem

k nevyzpytatelnému počasí, k problémům s přepravou lidí a ostatních příprav v parku. *Proč se nevrátit k obvyklým způsobům?* Naštěstí bylo tomuto pokušení odoláno. Pikniku se tedy zúčastnili všichni přítomní. A měli jsme se spolu báječně. Upustili jsme od osvědčeného, riskovali jsme a změna přinesla požehnání.

Rozhodně je v tom náznak budoucí cesty. Nové způsoby, neznámé podnikání nesoucí s sebou nejistotu a riziko vyžadující víru a snahu, to je ta cesta, kterou Pán svůj lid vede. Během cesty se mu naučí důvěřovat a spoléhat se na Něj. Skrze odvážnou víru je (nás) činí užitečnými. Nacházíme se na napínavé cestě.

Když skončilo kázání, učedníci se připravovali přelout Galilejské moře. Naneštěs (z jejich hlediska) je zástup následoval. V čas večere chtěli učedníci poslat lidi domů. Ježíš však měl jiné řešení a uspořádal piknik. (Matouš 14;13–21)

Předpokládám, že takových pikniků má pro nás Pán připraveno více. Zcela určitě nás vede k tomu, abychom mu s vírou svěřili všechno, co máme — čas, sílu, schopnosti, prostředky — a používali to ve službě a nakrmili unavené a lačné zástupy duší kolem nás. „*Vy jim dejte najíst,*“ (Mat. 14;16), říká nám Ježíš. A s pomocí Boží, dáme.

Stan Mantle  
přeložila Nataša Laurincová





The 105<sup>th</sup> Czechoslovak Baptist Convention was held July 10–13, 2014, at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. This year's gathering was attended by 100 delegates.

Photos, video and audio recordings are available on our convention web site: [www.czskbc.org](http://www.czskbc.org) and our [FACEBOOK.COM/CZECHOSLOVAKBAPTISTCONVENTION](https://www.facebook.com/CZECHOSLOVAKBAPTISTCONVENTION)

Current and past issues of our quarterly periodical *Glorious Hope* are available in PDF version at::

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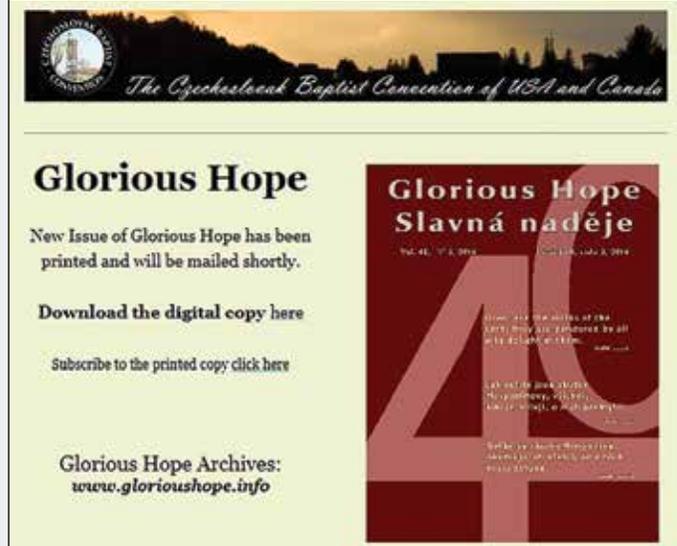
The Mid-year Meeting of the convention has been scheduled for Saturday, November 22, 2014, in Richmond, Virginia. Poplar Springs Baptist Church will host the meeting. Please uphold the leadership in your prayers.

Dates for the 106<sup>th</sup> Czechoslovak Baptist Convention have been set for July 9-12, 2015. It's never too early to mark your calendar and plan your 2015 vacation around next year's convention.



**Mark Your Calendar!**

In His service  
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## Tomáš Kriška... Pokračovanie zo strany 23

Roku 2005, po 16 rokoch služby v Lučenci, pozval Tomáša zbor BJB Viera v Bratislave do služby kazateľa, kde obetavo slúžil až do svojej smrti.

Tomáš spolu so svojou manželkou Ester boli od roku 2009 aj iniciátormi, zakladateľmi a nositeľmi služby manželským párom v Bratskej jednote baptistov. Táto služba rýchlo prerástla hranice denominácie, ako aj hranice Slovenska. Tomáš sa plánoval tejto službe venovať v budúcnosti naplno.

Hoci mu zákerná choroba, ktorú mu diagnostikovali pred dva a pol rokom, postupne uberala sily, Tomáš do poslednej chvíle verne slúžil na Božom diele. Pán života a smrti ho odvolal do večného nebeského domova v nedeľu 18. mája 2014.

S vďačnosťou Bohu za všetko požehnanie, ktoré prostredníctvom jeho života mohli prijať, sa s Tomášom rozlúčili: manželka Ester, synovia Ján a Jakub s manželkou Kristinou a synom Lemuelom Tomášom, dcéra Noemi s manželom Michalom, matka Jaroslava a sestra Marcela. Rozlúčila sa aj celá širšia rodina, príbuzní, známi, susedia a priatelia, ako aj bratia a sestry z cirkevného zboru BJB Viera a BJB Lučenec a z ostatných cirkevných zborov rôznych denominácií.

„Lebo tak miloval Boh svet, že svojho jednorodeného Syna dal, aby nikto, kto verí v neho, nezahynul, ale mal večný život.“ (Ján 3, 16).

### Tomášove kréda:

- *“Najdôležitejšie sú vzťahy, všetko ostatné sú len detaily.”*
- *“Nesmiem brať takéto vzácnych ľudí v živote ako samozrejmosť, ak tu sú.”*
- *“Ak mám pre niekoho povzbudenie a ocenenie, musím mu to povedať hneď, kým sa dá.”*
- *“Človek je taký zdravý, aké sú zdravé jeho vzťahy.”*



Tomáš and Ester Kriška at the convention 2007, Philippi, WV

# Charles Spurgeon's Devotion



Charles Haddon Spurgeon  
by Alexander Melville

## [Isaac] went out to the field one evening to meditate.

Genesis 24:63

Isaac's meditation was a worthy use of his time. Those who spend a great deal of time in idleness with friends, light reading, or useless hobbies could learn wisdom from Isaac. They would find more profitable fellowship and use of their time in meditation than in the vain activities that now have greater appeal to them. We would all know more, live closer to God, and mature in grace more if we spent more time alone in meditation. Meditation "chews the cud," extracting the nutrients from the mental food gathered elsewhere. Thus, when Jesus is the focus of our meditation, it is indeed satisfying and useful. Remember, Isaac found Rebecca while engaged in personal meditation, just as many others have found their beloved mate.

Isaac's choice of the place to meditate is worthy of note as well. In the outdoors we see numerous things upon which to meditate, from tall cedars to small hyssop plants, from soaring eagles above to chirping grasshoppers below, and from the blue expanse of heaven to a drop of dew. All these things are ripe with teaching, and when our eyes are divinely opened, that teaching flashes into our minds far more vividly than knowledge from written books. The inside of our house is not nearly as healthy, pleasant, thought provoking, or inspiring as the great outdoors. We should think of nothing in creation as common or unclean, but recognize that all created things point to their Maker. Then the outdoors will immediately become a holy place to us.

Isaac's choice of the time of day to meditate is also worthy of note. He chose the time when sunset is drawing its veil over the day, the perfect time for calming the soul and allowing earthborn cares to yield to the joys of heavenly communion. The glory of the setting sun and the solemnity of approaching night awaken our sense of wonder and awe.

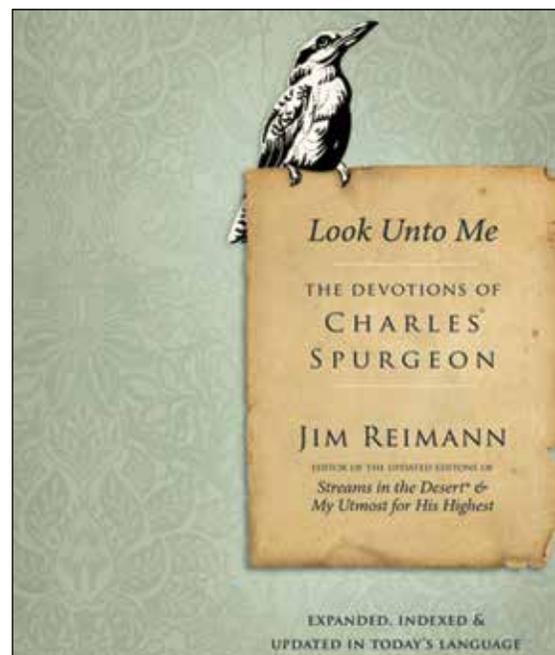
If your schedule allows it, dear reader, it would be quite worthwhile for you to spend an hour walking outdoors this evening. But if you are in the city, the Lord is there as well, and will meet you in your room or even in the crowded street. Wherever you may be, let your heart go forth to meet with Him today.

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

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

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

...Spurgeon preached to around 10,000,000 people. *Look Unto Me* represents some of Spurgeon's most powerful devotions.



Taken from "Look Unto Me"  
*The Devotions of Charles Spurgeon* by Jim Reimann  
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# Transformation in Our Lives

## Missionary Women's Meeting

### Ruby Mikulencak



**I**n many ways, what I would like to share with you is actually a continuation of what we talked about last year. Only we will look at it from a different perspective, which goes along with our theme of Gospel transformation.

Remember this question from last year: how would you describe your walk with Jesus? What part of your personal character hinders your walking closer to Jesus?

One of God's primary goals in our lives is to shape and mold us into the image of Christ. Every circumstance we face enables us to become either more like Christ or less like Him, based on our response.

From last year to this year, have you become more Christ-like? Some of the things I will share today may be familiar because I talked about them last time, but I think they are so important that we need to talk about them again.

Maybe you are thinking, can God really transform me? To help us answer that question, let me pose another question. What would you like to see changed or transformed in your

daily walk with God, and in your habits, in your family, in your relationships at church, at work? Take time to think about this and write some thoughts down. I am not going to ask you to share it with anyone; this is between you and God.

As you have written some of these hindrances to being transformed, perhaps you are thinking, can God really transform me into becoming more Christ-like? I think there are internal and external factors that influence our becoming more like Christ.

Internal factors include a little understanding of our inner self, cultural values and our own sinful nature, to name a few. Could it be that many of us have a superficial understanding of what it means to follow Jesus? We know Scripture and we know a lot about God, but we do not always know ourselves well, and this can prevent our changing. We do not take the time to examine our inner feelings and motives, or our inclinations toward sinning.

We know God can do impossible things. We know He has promised us eternal life in Heaven. We know He will never leave us or forsake us. We know a lot about God in our heads, but we do not do what God says. To be honest, many of us do not live what we believe!

We cannot live what we believe because we begin from ourselves instead of from God. The problem of not knowing ourselves comes from the fact that we do not understand our culture and how much it dictates what we do in life. Please forgive me if I bring up cultural values and how it affects our behavior. Working in a different culture has helped me to understand my own culture. Our behavior patterns are based on our cultural values. These values become an unconscious part of us as we live and grow up. We don't even think about why we act the way we do, because that is the way we have always done things. Besides, that is what everyone else around us is thinking and doing.

One very important value in North America is that our worth as individuals is found in what we have and what we do. Most North Americans strongly believe that success comes through hard work and initiative. If you exercise and diet, you will lose weight; if you practice singing, you will become a better singer; and if you work hard at your job, you will provide for your material needs and move up the ladder of employment.

Notice, however, that this is all based on performing. Is that wrong? No, most values are neutral when it comes to what is good or bad. The idea of performance making us a success is seen in every part of our life, at work, at home and, yes, even in the church. We live on the basis of performance, not on God's

saving grace. We know in our minds that we are saved by grace, but when it comes to living out a godly life, we base it on our own performance. When we perform well, we feel good about ourselves.

We feel more loved by God when we are performing according to our expectations and rules. We are taught to have a quiet time, to pray, to go to church, to be involved in serving in the choir or in the kitchen. We do these things and think we are spiritual Christians, or at least we are not too bad, not like those who steal, gossip or lie. However in our daily life, we get angry

**Since following Jesus is a relationship and not a performance, what does God want from us? We always put forward what we want from God. But what does He want from us? He wants us to trust Him, believe Him, and draw close to Him. What would that look like if we did it every day? There are many things to show what it would look like to trust, believe and draw close to God, but I want to name two:**

- Refuse to worry.
- Move forward boldly and do not let fear paralyze you.

with our husbands. We are not happy if our friend gets promoted or does something we do not like. We are short with our children because they do not meet our expectations. A friend or loved one gets cancer. We lose our mate of many years.

If we could look inside when these things happen, we would see that we are disappointed in God and how He has engineered our life and circumstances. With all of life's difficulties and complications, what we expect God could do in a difficult situation does not happen. Since our cultural values tell us that success comes through hard work and initiative, we do these spiritual activities and therefore we feel God owes us a good life because we have performed what we were supposed to do. Our cultural values tell us that if we do certain things in life well—if we perform—then we will get what we want.

Sometimes in our desire to please God by doing the right things, we get spiritually exhausted. We feel fatigue and a lack of energy and enthusiasm for life and for loving God. Because we so want to please God by what we do, we serve the Lord out of our own supply of energy and power, and finally we become exhausted. We lose the source of our power, the Holy Spirit working in our life, because we are performing and striving to

become like Jesus through our own efforts, instead of being in relationship with Jesus and relying on His power to help us.

Spiritual exhaustion can lead to emotional and mental exhaustion too. Remember John the Baptist, who had worked hard to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah. Because He spoke truth to Herod, he was put into prison. Can you imagine what it must have been like for John to be so confined to walls and prison? Do you remember how much of an outdoor person John was? He lived in the desert and ate locusts and honey. Now he was confined to a small area and I am sure his diet changed too.

In this situation, remember the question he asked his disciples to ask of Jesus: Are you the promised one, or should we look for another? Jesus said, *“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”* (Matt 11:4-6)

Jesus cautioned John not to fall away when his expectations did not match God's plan. The Bible clearly teaches we cannot separate the glory of knowing Jesus from the privilege of suffering with Him. By suffering I do not mean only persecution but the pain and hurts of life as well. Hard times are tests that come to all. When suffering and trouble come you may think, why does God let this happen to me? Is the Gospel true or have I made a mistake? When you are confused, will you choose to

follow John's example and take your questions directly to Jesus? And will you not be offended, hurt or upset by the way God is working in your life?

We know we should not doubt God's goodness. We know we should not be angry or bitter, but sometimes we are. When we are unhappy about our behavior, we tend to punish our-



# Reflections from the 2014 Convention

Judy (Sivulka) Shoff



How blessed it always is for folks to gather together in the name of the Lord, and there we all were, celebrating another time of fellowship, feasting and inspiration. We came together for the 105<sup>th</sup> Czechoslovak Convention, held again at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Although many of us arrived on Wednesday, the conference actually

began on Thursday morning, with meetings of the General Board and various committees.

That evening after the dinner hour, we gathered together in praise and worship with Tim Racinsky leading the worship time, assisted by the Vlastic brothers. Nico Mulder brought the message from the book of Luke and, of course, afterwards in true Convention tradition, we celebrated with the usual ice cream fellowship outdoors, reminiscing over George Sommer's famous quote, "The ice cream is melting." We are sorry George and Maria were not able to be with us, due to health problems.

The youth gatherings were led by Peter and Filip Vlastic, beginning with a picnic at the state park. William B. Lane was the keynote speaker for the youth meetings, coming to

vibrant love for the Lord and for people. How blessed we all were to have them among us.

Miss Pickles led the children's programs and as always, did an excellent job. It was such an inspiration to have the children share with us what they have learned during the convention, in both word and song.

With great joy, Darko gave the announcement that Miss Pickles (Kristina Vlastic) will become Mrs. Pickles in late August of this year. The future Mr. Pickles was with us for some of the time, and we are all excited to see this godly young couple serving the Lord together. Congratulations!

Ruby Mikulencak, serving with SIM for over 30 years in Ethiopia and Ghana, was with us to share in the missionary work now being done all over the world through SIM (formerly Sudan International Mission). Ruby had quite a day on Friday, sharing in the Ladies' Missionary Rally, bringing a report to the entire convention and sharing the Scripture message with us on Friday evening. Ruby's father and mother (Tony and Helen Mikulencak) had been a vital part of the Convention in days gone by. Her Uncle Hank and Aunt Mabel Boubelik took on the leadership role in the Convention during the 70s and 80s. How blessed we are now to have Ruby and her sisters Rebecca and Ruth serving our convention.



General Board meeting

us with his vibrant wife Shae from the Dallas, Texas, where he serves as a pastor. Everyone who had the privilege to talk with this couple was immediately drawn to them and their

What a great time was had by those who attended the Introduction to Czech Language and Culture seminar, led by a young, vibrant gal who spent part of her growing-up years in the Czech Republic and who now teaches Czech language and culture in Czech-American communities. Anna Cookova also teaches the language over Skype, using curriculum and CDs she has been developing. Recently, she was awarded a grant by the Czech government to assist teachers who are teaching Czech in expatriate communities. Anna Cookova also first came to the Convention last year after having taught the Vahala children Czech over Skype. All who were present last year were truly blessed by hearing those beautiful children singing praise songs in the Czech language. As of April this year, the Vahalas are in the Czech Republic, beginning to lay a foundation for the work of the gospel in unreached communities.

Anna promised to be back next year to continue our lessons. Anna brought along a precious friend from Slovakia who is

visiting America for the first time. And guess what: she sent a text to her father, who lives near Kamienka, where my father was born, and her dad was familiar with the name Sivulka!

The morning Bible studies were led by Vlado Canji (Slovak) and Donald Shoff (English), guiding us through a greater understanding of the Word of God, and inviting us to share from our own experiences what God has taught us along our journey.

Another highlight of this year was our Convention barbeque picnic out in the picnic area of the college's athletic complex. Wow! What a blessed time together, enjoying a delicious meal with an especially prepared barbequed WHOLE ROASTED PIG! You will be seeing pictures of it on the web site, I am sure. Thanks to Dusko, our Convention photographer.

William Lane led us in the message of that evening with a unique way of illustrating one of his most important points. That, too will have to wait for future pictures and explanation! Come back next year and see more.

campus, and through the quaint downtown area of Meadville. Our flight home to California did not leave Pittsburgh until Monday afternoon, so we had time to drive up to Erie and



the Slovak Folk Craft Store, off Highway 79, east on Highway 208 toward Grove City. We were so blessed to meet the owner, who led us through their own spiritual journey and why they opened this store. Dave Dayton and his wife have led work crews from their church in Grove City to Slovakia to help renovate struggling churches. We are hoping they will be with us next year to tell about their love for the land of Slovakia.

So, here we are, again, with precious memories of our time together and looking forward with anticipation to what the Lord will do among us, those with a Czechoslovak heritage, and those who are related through the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, as together we serve Him through the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention.

God bless you all, and the Lord willing, we will see you all next year!

In His love,  
Judy (Sivulka) Shoff



Convention President Stan Mantle brought the closing message on Sunday. Tim and the Vlasic brothers led the worship time, which was followed by the memorial service, remembering those among us who have gone on to their greater rewards, followed by our communion service, led by Stan Mantle.

After lunch it was time to say goodbye until next year, and we wished each other safe and blessed journey mercies.

Thanks so very much to Darko and his lovely wife, Maja, for all their hard work making this convention possible. They did not have time to rest but were on the job 24/7. They deserve our appreciation, prayers, and love for a job well done. Thank you, Darko and Maja!

Don and I love just wandering around this most beautiful



The youth gatherings were led by Peter and Filip Vlasic



*The 105<sup>th</sup> Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada*

*July 10-13, 2014 - Meadville, Pennsylvania*



One hundred and five years is an extremely long time, and when you think back to the time of the very first convention, an awful lot has changed in our world! Change—it's a word that scares some, but energizes others. It's something over which we often have no control, but other times have sole control. Whether negative and positive, we wait for it to happen because inevitably it does. Change is what I experienced at this year's convention—and it was GREAT! Sometimes subtle, sometimes overt, but with these changes I sensed that there is a new atmosphere, a new energy, younger and older generations coming together and seeking God's leading and His purpose for our Convention—and it's EXCITING.

As always, the teaching was meaningful, practical and applicable to our lives. Those who spoke and shared God's word were earnest and sincere; each of us could leave that place challenged and renewed. Thank you! New and fresh ideas were implemented: a Czech culture and language class where the

participants were introduced, by Anna Cook, to basic Czech phrases and a great overview of all things Czech; Saturday night's BBQ with delicious food—even a pig roast —and a spot-on message by Will Lane about changing our perception in understanding God; a strategic planning meeting (attended by a whole spectrum of generations!); a rejuvenated mission committee. But we're just beginning and, Lord willing, gathering momentum. Change doesn't happen immediately and it certainly doesn't occur without bumps, but there is an exciting, anticipated renewal and a feeling of ownership amongst the delegates because this is our convention and, truly, what we put into it is what we will get out of it. There was a sense of relationships developing and growing and a gratitude for the bond that we all share beyond our Slavic roots, the bond that we all share in Christ. I encourage you to join us, if you have not done so. I encourage you to seek an opportunity to participate. I encourage you to pray for the leadership of the convention as they continue to plan their vision for our Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. There are exciting times ahead—s pomocí Boží (with God's help).

*Deborah Lev Mulder*

## Czechoslovak Baptist Women's Missionary Union Meeting



The annual Ladies' Missionary Rally met on Friday morning of the convention. As always, it was a special time to gather and fellowship with each other. There was singing, reporting of our finances, and then a wonderful message given by Ruby Mikulencak. Staying with the theme of the convention, Gospel Transformations, Ruby spoke about the transformation in our own lives. She asked us, "Are you aware of God's presence when difficult things happen in your life, or in moments of doubt and unbelief?" Ruby further explained that worry is a choice, and it is better to praise and exalt our Lord for Who He is. She directed us to Joshua 1:9, and encouraged us not to allow fear to paralyze us. God is in control; even when we think it is not good, He is controlling the situation for our good.

We each left with a beautiful bookmark of a poem by author Andrew Murray. We also received an Italian chocolate bar each (I confess I had two!), compliments of our president, Deb Lev-Mulder. Thanks for a great meeting and time of fellowship with the ladies!

*Rebecca Skeeter Habeck*



# Now I better Understand...

I never quite understood why my parents, Tony and Helene Mikulencak, came away from the Czechoslovak Convention extremely inspired and blessed. However, after three years of coming to the convention, I certainly know and understand their enthusiasm!



we can be assured God will bring order out of chaos, and He will work through us to overcome rebellion, unfaithfulness and other unwanted characteristics we struggle with. We also heard my sister, Ruby, who preached on Friday evening regarding the blind man being healed. She reminded us that humility is what makes us important in God's eyes, and is the greatest characteristic of a follower of Jesus. Lastly, we were privileged to have special guest speakers from Dallas, Texas. William and Shay Lane were an amazing add-on to the convention. I treasured their passion and love for everyone. William's message after the picnic Saturday was uniquely delivered. He gave a charge for all to answer God's call and to change in perception, perspective, predicament and position with God.

The messages were a reassurance. The morning Bible study was great! I listened to Don Shoff's teaching and was truly stimulated by his words from James 1, speaking about the pressure and trials of temptations. I took away real truths to deal with real problems.

My first time attending the convention was an incredible experience. I felt as if my mom and dad were there because I could feel their presence with me throughout the three days. I could almost hear my mom saying, "it's about time, Bec." I was in awe of the love that people from all over the world shared. Even when the language was not always understood, the binding love of Jesus communicated what had to be said.

My second year became even more exciting as I stepped up my participation at the convention. I had the marvelous opportunity to sing with my sister and cousin at the Friday night singalong, and also to sing with the worship team during the Sunday morning service. A highlight of my second convention year was the honor bestowed on me to be the American treasurer of the Women's Missionary Union, following in the footsteps of Marija Sommer, who had served faithfully in this position.

This brings me to my third convention, with the theme of Gospel Transformations. I was once again blessed with my Czechoslovak faith family. I believe acquaintanceships are becoming friendships. In addition, the messages set forth by each of the speakers were uplifting and encouraging. From Nico's message about the transformation of Zaccheus, to Stan's closing message of Ezekiel's faithfulness to God, I gained promising thoughts to take home. In the crazy mixed-up world we all live in,

There were so many other moments that I enjoyed, but I wanted to share these highlights with you. If you missed the 105<sup>th</sup> convention, you missed a great time. Most importantly, I want to encourage all who can to continue their participation with the Czechoslovak Convention. Beyond providing an opportunity to connect with your background or ancestry, it is an amazing time of fellowship with other believers.

Thank you, Mom and Dad!

*Rebecca Skeeter Habeck*



# Glorious Hope

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

## Interview with Vlado Canji

**F**orty years ago you became the editor of *Glorious Hope*. How did you get involved with the magazine?

The first time Ljubica and I visited the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention in Campbell, Ohio, in 1972, we were received with kindness and friendship. We felt at home, like we were a part of a big family. At the conference, a letter from Rev. J.P. Piroch was discussed. He had written that he would be publishing *Pravda a Slavná naděje* for one more year. The Convention was looking for a new editor, but nobody was willing



Vlado a Ljubica Canji with the Mantles and the Sirackis

to take on that responsibility. The next year the Convention was held in Cleveland, Ohio. Rev. H. Boubelik spoke about the Convention needing a new vision for the future and how it should publish a magazine. In another letter Rev. Piroch warned that he would keep all his materials and documents for only a certain time. The Convention then appointed Rev. J. Novak to be editor for the magazine. After the Convention, I prayed that God would show me how I could help. In 1974 the Convention was invited to Grace Baptist Church in Windsor, Ontario. I wrote a pamphlet as an invitation, including an article in Czech and English, which I sent to 50 to 60 different people. During the Convention there was much discussion about assigning two to three editors for the magazine. Rev. Boubelik suggested that Rev. Novak continue to be editor but

that Rev. S. Hibbins and I join him, stating that if they had something like the pamphlet for the first issue, it would be a good start. At that time I truly felt that God was calling me to this new ministry. I was grateful that the Convention trusted me for the job.

*Rev. J. P. Piroch was the editor of Pravda a Slavná naděje (The Truth and Glorious Hope) from 1950 to 1973. With the position of editor vacant, publication was interrupted for a year.*

**Were you aware of the difficulties of beginning a new magazine?**

Every job or ministry has its own responsibilities, duties, and requests. Sometimes denials and sacrifices are necessary. Beginning a magazine is a huge responsibility; the message must be correct and clear so that readers want to keep reading. I understood the requirements because I had started up a magazine in the former Yugoslavia in 1960 called *Novi Rod*. I knew it would not be easy in the beginning, but I am proud of the time and sacrifices we made. I know that Rev. Novak and Rev. Hibbins would agree with me.

What kinds of difficulties did you have to overcome?

It would take me forever to mention them all, so I will only share a few.

a. ADDRESSES. For a few years we handwrote addresses on about 800 envelopes. My whole family, Ljubica and the three children, were involved. Later we bought a used copy machine and tried to print labels, but the machine printed only half an address.

b. TYPEWRITER. In the beginning we used a typewriter with only English letters, which meant I had to handwrite the symbols used in the Czech or Slovak language. Brother George Sommer finally found me an IBM typewriter with Czech and Slovak letters. What a big help!

c. POST OFFICE. To receive an office discount from Canada Post, we had to fill out a lot of paperwork. They also requested that every state be separated.

d. FINANCES. For the first few years I did not receive any money to cover expenses, and I had to pay up front for postage, out of my own pocket. It was only when the issue was sent that the Convention sent me money. When I bought the copy machine, I was informed that I could not spend money without approval from the Executive Board.

e. CORRECTIONS. Editing in English was done by Rev. Stan

☞ Continues on page 18

# Slavná naděje

“Celým svým srdcem důvěřuj Hospodinu, nespolehej se na vlastní rozumnost. Na každém kroku snaž se jej poznávat, on sám tvé stezky urovná.” (Příslaví 3;5-6)

## Rozhovor s bratrem kazatelem Vladom Čanjim

**Před čtyřiceti lety jste převzal místo editora Slavné naděje. Vzpomenete si jaké pocity Vás provázely?**

Poprvé jsme se s Ljubicí zúčastnili Československé baptistické konvence v roce 1972 v Cambellu, v Ohiu. Byli jsme přijati vlídně a přátelsky. Cítili jsme se jako doma mezi svými. Během konference se hovořilo o dopise, který poslal kazatel J. P. Piroch. Psal, že bude vydávat časopis *Pravda a Slavná naděje* ještě jeden rok. Konvence hledala nového redaktora, ale nenašel se nikdo, kdo by se této zodpovědné práce ujal. Za rok byla konvence v Clevelandě, v Ohiu. Kazatel H. Boubelík hovořil o potřebě vlastního konvenčního časopisu. V dalším dopise kazatel Piroch upozornil na skutečnost, že může všechny materiály a spisy ohledně časopisu uskladnit jen na nějakou dobu. Konvence tedy zvolila redaktorem časopisu kaz. J. Nováka. Modlil jsem se, aby mi Pán ukázal, jak bych mohl pomoci. V roce 1974 se konvence konala v baptistickém sboru ve Windsoru, v Ontariu. Připravil jsem letáčky v češtině i angličtině a rozeslal jsem je 50 – 60 lidem. Během konvence se hovořilo o možnosti zapojení 2–3 redaktorů do časopisu. Kazatel Boubelík navrhl, aby se ke kaz. Novákovi připojil kaz. S. Hibbins s tím, že něco jako ten letáček by bylo dobrým začátkem. V tu chvíli jsem pocítil Boží volání do nového způsobu služby. Byl jsem vděčný, že mi konvence tuto práci svěřila.

*Po dlouhém období mezi roky 1950–1973, kdy byl editorem Pravdy a Slavné naděje Rev. J. P. Piroch, přestal časopis vycházet. Následovalo období jednoho roku, které obrozilo existenci tohoto periodika.*

**Byl jste si vědom obtížnosti úkolu, který spočíval ve znovuzkřížení časopisu?**

Každá práce nebo služba se vyznačuje určitými povinnostmi, úkoly a požadavky. To si vyžaduje sebezapření a oběti. Takový časopis je nesmírná odpovědnost; poselství musí být korektní a jasné, aby čtenáři chtěli časopis číst. S těmito požadavky jsem byl srozuměn – v bývalé Jugoslávii jsem v roce 1960 založil časopis *Novi rod*. Věděl jsem, že začátek nebude snadný, ale všichni ten čas a oběti stály za to. Víím, že kaz. Novák a kaz. Hibbins by se mnou souhlasili.

**Jaké překážky jste musel překonávat?**

Těch bylo mnoho, zmíním pouze některé.

a. ADRESY. Léta jsme psali adresy přibližně na 800 obálek ručně. Ljubica i naše tři děti, celá rodina byla zapojena. Poz-

ději jsme koupili použitou kopírovací mašinu a zkoušeli jsme tisknout adresy na štítky, ale ta vytiskla jen půlku adresy.

b. PSACÍ STROJ. Z počátku jsme měli psací stroj jenom s anglickou abecedou, a to znamenalo dopisování diakritiky v češtině a slovenštině ručně. Až mi bratr Jiří Sommer konečně sehnal psací stroj IBM s českou a slovenskou abecedou. To byla velká pomoc!

c. POŠTA. Abychom získali slevu pro úřední zásilky u kanadské pošty, museli jsme vyplnit spoustu papírů. Každý stát se musel vyplňovat odděleně.

d. FINANCE. Po několik let jsem musel poštovné hradit nejprve ze svého. Konvence mi proplatila náklady až po odeslání čísla. Až po zakoupení kopírovací mašiny jsem se dozvěděl, že musím mít povolení výkonného výboru konvence.

e. KOREKTURY. Redigování anglických textů prováděl nejprve



kaz. Stan Hibbins, později kaz. G. Allan a potom kaz. Stan Mantle. Na opravách českých a slovenských textů se dobrovolně podíleli Jozef Hodul, Tonka Vlčková a Ruth Pístecká. Bylo to komplikované. V tiskárně neznali česky ani slovensky, tak jsem tam musel asistovat.

**Jaké myšlenky Vás napadají při ohlédnutí se zpět?**

Jsem Pánu Bohu vděčný za Jeho vedení a pomoc po celých

☞ Pokračuje na straně 18

## Interview... Continues from page 16

Hibbins, later by Rev. G. Allen and then Rev. Stan Mantle. On a voluntary basis, the Czech and Slovak corrections were done by Joseph Hodul, T. Vlcek, and Ruth Pistecky.

It was complicated. The printing office did not know Czech or Slovak so I had to be there to assist.

### What kinds of thoughts do you have looking back on your 15 years as editor?

I am thankful to God for His guidance and help for all those 15 years. My experience is that when God calls someone to ministry, He gives him endurance, strength, and good coworkers. I am thankful that so many people prayed for my family and me. I am also thankful to everyone who wrote articles and sent in news from the churches. When I look back on those 15 years of heavy and hard work, I know I would not have been



Vlado and Ljubica Canji

able to do it without the support and help of my wife Ljubica and my three children. I will say to the present editors: *it is always worth it to do ministry for God; never give up.*

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.”* This verse was guidance for my ministry.

### Did you see new hope for the future and the continued publishing of the magazine for a new generation?

During the Convention in Windsor there was much discussion about a new title for the magazine. The final decision was GLORIOUS HOPE – SLAVNÁ NADĚJE.

To me, that means that we must have glorious hope for the future and for the new generation.

### What would you like to say to readers of Glorious Hope today?

When WWII was over, I was 10 years old. At that time my family had only one Bible and absolutely no Christian books. When I was 12 years old, I got a New Testament, and when I was 14, my first Bible. I thought I was the richest boy on earth. Today I have many Bibles in many languages and translations, and so many, many books. My question is this: are we thankful for all that what we have? Somebody once said that we do not know the value of what we have until it is lost. I would like to encourage readers to pray for the editors of *Glorious Hope* and to be thankful for each new issue.

*The community of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada are grateful to our Lord for you, for your work and for many blessings we received through your service. We wish you God's peace, and thank you for this interview.*

For the editorial staff, *Natasha Laurinc*

## Rozhovor... Pokračování ze strany 17

15 let. Jestliže Pán někoho povolá do služby, dá mu sílu, vytrvalost a dobré spolupracovníky, to je moje zkušenost. Jsem vděčný za všechny, kteří se za mou rodinu i za mne modlili. Jsem také vděčný všem, kdo psali články a zasílali zprávy ze sborů. Pohlédnu-li zpět na 15 let těžké a tvrdé práce, uvědomuji si, že bych to nedokázal bez podpory a pomoci mé manželky Ljubice a našich tří dětí. Chtěl bych vzkázat současným redaktorům: *služba Bohu má vždy cenu; nikdy se nevzdávejte.*

*“Celým svým srdcem důvěřuj Hospodinu, nespolehej se na vlastní rozumnost. Na každém kroku snaž se jej poznávat, on sám tvé stezky urovná.”* Tento verš mne ve službě provázel.

### Viděl jste v tom také novou naději pro zachování časopisu dalším generacím?

Během konvence ve Windsoru se mnoho diskutovalo o novém názvu časopisu. Nakonec bylo rozhodnuto GLORIOUS HOPE – SLAVNÁ NADĚJE.

Porozuměl jsem, že musíme mít slavnou naději do budoucnosti pro novou generaci.

### Co by jste rád řekl současným čtenářům?

Když skončila 2. světová válka, bylo mi 10 let. Měli jsme doma jenom jednu Bibli a žádné křesťanské knihy. Když mi bylo 12 let, dostal jsem Nový zákon a ve 14-ti první Bibli. Myslel jsem, že jsem ten nejbohatší chlapec na světě. Dnes mám mnoho Biblí v různých jazycích a překladech a mnoho, mnoho knih. Ptám se: jsme za to všechno, co máme, vděční? Kdysi někdo řekl, že hodnotu toho, co máme, nepoznáme, dokud to neztratíme. Chtěl bych čtenáře povzbudit k tomu, aby se za redaktory *Slavné naděje* modlili a za každé nové číslo byli vděční.

*S vděčností našemu Pánu za Vás, Vaši práci a nesmírná požehnání skrze Vaši službu celé komunitě Československé konvence baptistů v USA a v Kanadě Vám za rozhovor děkujeme a přejeme Boží pokoj.*

Za redakci *Natasha Laurincová*

selves by withdrawing from God, and then we think the distance we feel is due to His displeasure. This is where we are wrong, for God's love for us is perfect with no variations; he loves us whether or not we are performing the right things—whether or not our expectations of having a life without hurt and pain causes us to doubt him when our life is difficult. He still loves us! What does fluctuate is our awareness of his living Presence. For when it comes to becoming Christ-like, it is not about our activity—about performing—but about a relationship! We want to please the Father; therefore, we do those things that please Him. And one of those things is believing that God is good. God loves us with all our warts and blemishes, and He does not stop loving us when we do not perform according to His will. My sisters, I ask each of you: believest thou this? Jesus fully accepts us with our flaws and failures, but He also desires to make us more like Himself. That is why He uses circumstances and the difficulties of life to help us realize our utter need of Him, and to bring about change in our lives through His Spirit and grace.

We need to understand that God is not concerned about our plans. He allows things for his own purpose. When we understand that God wants us to believe that He has our best interests at heart because He is our Father, we will accept His will and not doubt or become mean or cynical.

Maybe you are thinking, but Ruby it hurts so much—I am struggling to believe what you are saying.

For now, all you can see is the problem, not God! Do you think God doesn't know this struggle? You can cry out to the Lord like the man who said, "Lord I believe, help my unbelief." All we can do at times is say, Lord I don't understand the "whys" of life but I do know that no matter what, you love me. It is at these times that we need to take our perspective off the problem and ourselves, and turn it to God.

God is good, sovereign and all wise. God is all powerful – Jeremiah 32:17—*"Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you."* God can deliver us out of the circumstances or He can take us through the circumstances, because His grace is sufficient.

Sometimes we get confused about God being all powerful. We think God is powerful enough to change our circumstances, and He is. But because of what is inside of us, God gives us trials to help us become like Christ. He does not often deliver us from the hurt, problem or difficulty. But He gives us the grace to endure and go through it.

Oswald Chambers, author of the devotional *My Utmost for His Highest*, puts it like this: *"The tiniest detail in which I obey has all the omnipotent power of the grace of God behind it. If I do my duty, not for duty's sake, but because I believe God is engineering my circumstances, then the whole superb grace of God is mine through the Atonement. You cannot stop the clock and change things to the way you want them. But you can turn and cling to God and ask for belief and grace to help you with life and its difficulties and complications."*

It is a comfort to know the Father is working according to His own wisdom. Do you believe this? I don't mean in your head, because I am sure you all believe it in your heads. It is knowledge we all have, but wisdom takes that knowledge and puts it into our inner being and makes us more like Christ.

Since following Jesus is a relationship and not a performance, what does God want from us? We always put forward what we want from God. But what does He want from us? He wants us to trust Him, believe Him, and draw close to Him. What would that look like if we did it every day? There are many things to show what it would look like to trust, believe and draw close to God, but I want to name two:

- **Refuse to worry.** Did you know, worry is a choice. Instead, exalt and praise the Lord for who He is. Philippians 4:6–7 says, *"Do not be anxious about anything, 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 understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*
- **Move forward boldly and do not let fear paralyze you.** Fear of decline, fear of losing a loved one, fear of living alone, fear of not having enough of material needs. Joshua 1:9 says, *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

Listen to these words from the book *Joy and Strength*, by Andrew Murray: *"God is Love! God's love is just His delight to impart Himself and His blessedness to His children. Come, and however feeble you feel, just wait in His presence. As a feeble invalid is brought out into the sunshine for warmth, come with all that is dark and cold in you into the sunshine of God's holy, omnipotent love, and sit and wait there, with the one thought: Here I am, in the sunshine of His love. As the sun does its work in the weak one who seeks its rays, God will do His work in you."*

Being born again means we have an eternal beginning and a continual process of growth. How did the Lord Jesus avoid resentment? He accepted the situation that the Father had given him as a way to love and serve Him. Come, do the impossible: trust Jesus!

It is easy to get discouraged when things are going badly. But we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering.

Even though we cannot understand or comprehend all that is happening in our world and in our lives, it is good to remember that God still has a plan for us. It may not be as we thought it would be. But even when we think it is not good, God is there controlling the situation for our good! He invites us, you and me, to be involved, but it should be as He determines, not as we think it should be. Think about the hindrances in walking with Jesus that you wrote down in the beginning. Do you think that by God's grace they can be removed and you can become more like Christ in this next year? Think and pray about this, and talk to God about being changed to be more like Him!

# Sommers' Celebration of 50 Years

# Marija a Jiří Sommerovi – 50. výročí svatby

**O**n July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Marija and George Sommer had their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

A celebration of this special occasion took place on Saturday, August 23, 2014, at the Vlastic home in Scott Depot, WV. It was a surprise party in conjunction with Kristina Vlastic's wedding. The party was hosted by Carrie and Filip Vlastic. About 40 people were present. Filip had made copies of Marija and George's wedding photos, which were signed by all attending, and framed. May God bless you all the way towards another decade of your life. Congratulations!

**S**vě 50. výročí svatby si Marija a Jiří Sommerovi připoměli 4. července 2014.

Tuto vzácnou událost oslavili v sobotu 23. srpna 2014 u Vlastičů v Scott Depotu, v Západní Virginii. Oslava byla překvapením v souvislosti se svatbou Kristiny Vlastičové. Zorganizovali ji Carrie a Filip Vlastičovi. Šešlo se 40 lidí. Filip připravil kopie jejich svatebních fotografií a s podpisy všech přítomných zarámoval. Necht' vám Bůh žehná na cestě v další dekádě vašeho života. Gratulujeme!



# Miss Pickles' Wedding



I have the privilege of sharing with you some glimpses of Miss Pickles' wedding. Kristina has been a good friend of mine since we were young girls. We have spent a lot of time together at the Czechoslovak conventions as well as the South Slavic Evangelical conferences over the years.

Friday night a rehearsal dinner was hosted, by Ethan's family, the Petersons. We had a lovely dinner followed by a boat ride down the Kanawha River. It stopped right in front of the gorgeous West Virginia State Capitol in Charleston. It was very beautiful scenery and great fellowship.

The wedding took place at the Good Shepherd Baptist Church in Scott Depot, WV. My sisters and I had the privilege of singing at the wedding ceremony. We sang a song about God's faithfulness. We believe this is especially for Kristina;

she has been faithful to God and He has been faithful to her. He has provided a wonderful man, Ethan, to be her husband. Ethan loves the Lord!

It was nice to see Maria and George Sommer, since it has been a few years since they have been able to attend the convention. There were many present and past members of the convention in attendance. It was great to see some familiar faces from Philippi, Jud Bracey and his family, the Cottrill and Prusa families, as well as many others!

Overall, it was a wonderful time, and we wish Ethan and Kristina Peterson God's richest blessings on their marriage. Can't wait to see Kristina next convention, no longer as MISS Pickles but... MRS. Pickles.

Much love, *Andrea Turner*



# In Memory

## Vera Dors

January 20, 1939 – July 15, 2014



Vera Dors, age 75, after a courageous battle, went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Tuesday, July 15, 2014.

Beloved wife of 40 years of Emil. Loving mother of Brian (Tamara). Cherished grandmother of Madison and Michael. Dear

sister of Walter Madjar.

Funeral service was held Saturday, July 19, 2014, at Tomon and Sons Funeral Homes Middleburg Heights, Ohio.

Interment Brooklyn Heights Cemetery

### *In Memory of Vera Dors*

Vera was such a faithful servant at Scranton Road Baptist Church, for so many years. She kept the financial records with discretion and integrity. And I will always remember her faithful attendance of the Sunday school and her ministry of music with the choir.

*Janice Shearer*

### *Remembering Vera Dors*

Vera Dors! A kind woman, a faithful woman, a blessed woman. Sometimes a very protective mom to her dear son Brian. But it was evidence that she cared. Brian straddled the fence between the tradition of his upbringing and the cultural explosion that many young kids are challenged with. Was it always easy? Absolutely not! But the house was filled with love, respect and honoring, as the Lord commanded in His word. Vera died at the age of 74 after a short but tenuous battle with cancer. Debbie (my wife) and I had a chance to see her about 10 days before she left to meet Jesus. The decision she faced: should she try another round of chemotherapy? She decided yes! She fought to the end. In the end, she didn't have to

receive any more treatments. She died peacefully at home on July 15. Many people honored Vera and her family, both at the wake on July 18 and at the memorial service on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Vera and Emil



Vera Dors at the convention 2008

Dors, along with Brian, have been a part of our lives since we first came to Scranton Road in 1988. What does Vera Dors mean to us? First, she epitomized the word "care." She cared for her son, she was caretaker to her brother Vlad, and was a submissive and loving wife to Emil. Faithfulness? You could always count on her at SRBC, not to mention her reliable service as financial secretary to the Czech Convention that she loved. She followed in the footsteps of her dear parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Madjar, who were faithful teachers and congregants at the Czech Baptist Church on Cleveland's near-west side. Vera also served on the church advisory board for many years. Elder Jack Shearer knew Vera for many years more than me. He states that Vera was soft spoken and faithful. "Vera had a deep, distinct voice that blended in with the SRBC choir when we first arrived. They continued to sing for several years in both Czech and English.

Vera Dors. Soft-spoken, but a twinkle in her eye that always communicated love and respect, even when we may have wrestled together with change, both at church and with Brian. Like any loyal mom, it was hard to surrender her Brian to Miss Tammy Dysert. Hard! But over the years, we watched the Lord slowly knit hearts to Tammy, her new daughter-in-law, and her grandchildren, Madison and Michael. God worked because God was honored.

*Rev. Joe Abraham*

Scranton Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH



## Shirley Evers Mobley

January 14, 1932 – June 10, 2014

MOBLEY, Shirley E., 82, of Richmond, widow of Rev. Dr. Robert L. Mobley, went to be with the Lord and her husband on June 10, 2014. She was a retired executive secretary for the Virginia Baptist Foundation and former receptionist at the Woody Funeral Home. She was preceded in death by her brother, Emmett Evers; and two sisters, Louise Rozier and Emily Phelps. She is survived by her two daughters, Robbin M. Bailey and her husband, Thomas, and Melanie M. Fuller and her husband, Scott; two sisters, Barbara West and Myrtle Jones; three grandchildren, Katy Noell Bailey, Jordan Nicole and Matthew Scott Fuller; also several nieces and nephews. Shirley was a member of Lakeside Baptist Church. She will be missed by her family and all of those whose lives she touched.



*“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” (Hebrews 13:7)*

## Tomáš Kriška

August 5, 1962 – May 18, 2014



Tomáš Kriška was born on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1962, in Bratislava, in the pastor's family of Ján Kriška and Jaroslava Jandušíkova, as a second child. At a young age he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

He finished his theological studies in 1986 and was married to Ester Betkova. They were blessed with three children: a son Ján (1986), daughter Noemi (1989)

and son Jakub (1990).

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1989, Tomáš became pastor of the Baptist church in Lučenec, and the following year he was officially ordained as Reverend of the Baptist Union (BJB). The same year, 1990, he took over the position of spiritual leader of the Czechoslovak Youth Baptist Choir, Jas, and from 1993 to 1999 he was spiritual leader of the Slovak choir, Jas, as well.

Tomáš was elected vice president of the Slovak Baptist Union in 1996, and from 1997 to 2010 he held the post of president of the Slovak Baptist Union. He was involved with the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia from 2004 (and vice president from 2007 – 2009). Tomáš and his wife Ester were invited as special guests to the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada in 2007.

After 16 years of ministry in Lučenec church, Tomáš became pastor of Viera Church (Baptist Union) in Bratislava in 2005, and he remained in that service until the end of his life.

Tomáš and his wife Ester are also founders of the ministry to married couples within the Slovak Baptist Union. This ministry outgrew the borders of denominations and Slovakia as well. Tomáš was planning to devote himself full time to this work.

In spite of malicious illness, Tomáš never quit his ministry, and served the Lord to the last minute. The Lord of life and death called him to His eternal home in heaven on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

A memorial service was held in BJB Viera Church in Bratislava. Along with family and relatives, many friends, neighbors and members of other churches remembered Tomáš with grateful hearts for all the blessings they had been able to receive during his lifelong ministry. He was

predeceased by his father Ján. He is survived by his wife Ester, sons Ján and Jakub (Kristína) and grandson Lemuel Tomáš, daughter Noemi (Michal), mother Jaroslava and sister Marcela.

„For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.“ (John 3, 16)

*Tomáš Kriška's credo:*

- *“Relationships are most important, all the rest are just details.”*
- *“Such precious people I cannot take for granted when they are here.”*
- *“If I want to encourage and appreciate someone, I have to do it right away if possible...”*
- *“A person's health is determined by the condition of his relationships.”*



*“Pamätajte na svojich vodcov, ktorí vám hovorili slovo Božie, a pozorujúc, aký bol ich východ, to jest koniec ich obcovania, nasledujte takú vieru.” (Židom 13, 7)*

## Tomáš Kriška

5. 8. 1962 – 18. 5. 2014

Tomáš Kriška sa narodil 5. augusta 1962 v Bratislave v rodine kazateľa Jána Krišku a Jaroslavy, rodenej Jandušíkovej, ako ich druhé dieťa. Už v mladom veku uveril v Pána Ježiša Krista ako svojho osobného Spasiteľa.



Štúdium teológie ukončil v roku 1986. V tom istom roku sa oženil s Ester, rodenou Betkovou. V manželstve im Pán Boh požehnal tri deti: syna Jána v roku 1986, dcéru Noemi v roku 1989

a o rok neskôr syna Jakuba.

Dňa 2. apríla 1989 nastúpil na kazateľské miesto v Lučenci a roku 1990 bol Tomáš ordinovaný za kazateľa BJB. V tom istom roku prevzal aj úlohu duchovného vedúceho celoštátneho československého spevokolu JAS a od roku 1993 až do roku 1999 bol aj duchovným vedúcim slovenského JASu.

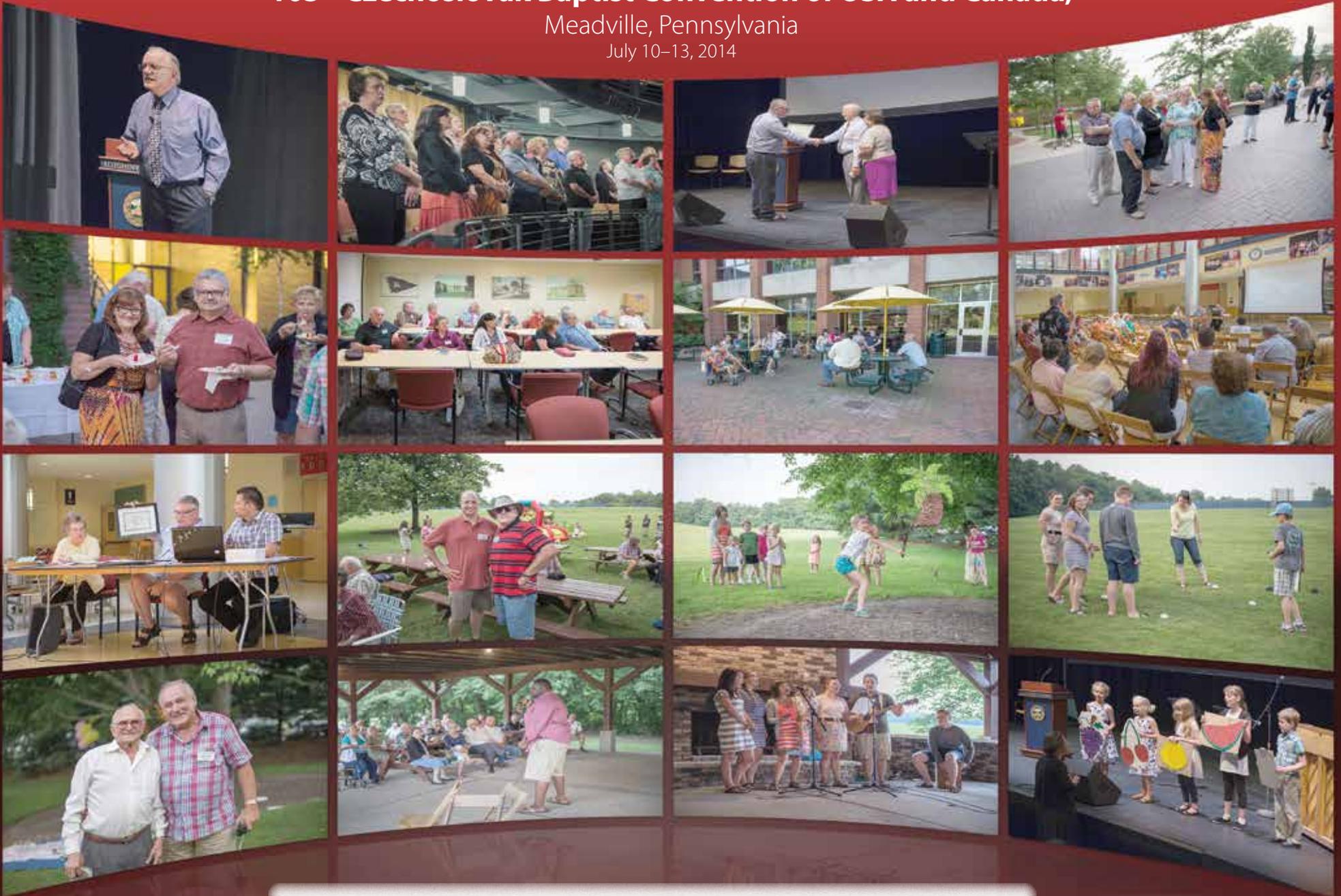
V roku 1996 bol zvolený za podpredsedu Rady BJB v SR a v rokoch 1997 – 2000 zastával post predsedu Rady BJB v SR. Svoju službu vo funkcii predsedu Rady BJB v SR vykonával ešte ďalšie dve funkčné obdobia v rokoch 2004 – 2010. Od roku 2004 zastupoval Bratskú jednotu baptistov aj v Riadiacom výbore ERC (Ekumenické rady cirkvi). V rokoch 2007 – 2009 bol podpredsedom ERC. Roku 2007 bol so svojou manželkou Ester častným hosťom na Československej konvencii baptistov USA a Kanady.

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# 105<sup>th</sup> Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada,

Meadville, Pennsylvania

July 10–13, 2014



## New Convention Logo

- Send your ideas or logo submissions to our email [info@czskbc.org](mailto:info@czskbc.org)
- Logo will be chosen thru the vote on the website and facebook
- Logos must be submitted by December 31, 2014
- Cast your vote January 15-31, 2015
- New logo will be revealed at 106<sup>th</sup> convention.