

Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

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CZECHOSLOVAK
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of

United States and Canada

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Cover: New Convention Logo
Filip Vlasic, of Bela Star Design



Convention photos: Dusko Pilic

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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, vážít si dědictví těch, ve Spojených státech a v Kanadě, kterým leží na srdci národy, které reprezentujeme.

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Faithfulness

Right before this year's convention, the entire Czech nation observed two important holidays: July 5, to celebrate the coming of Cyril and Methodius, and July 6, to commemorate the burning of Master John Hus.

Cyril (Constantine) and Methodius, brothers from Salonica, are known as the Apostles of the Slavs, or missionaries to the Slavs. During the period of their work in Great Moravia, they developed the Glagolitic alphabet and established Old Sla-



The simple room in which Hus lived

vonian as the religious language. They came to Great Moravia in the spring of 863. 552 years later, Master John Hus laid down his life in the name of evangelizing the Word in the vernacular, Czech. These three individuals, with their influence and teachings, crossed the borders into our country. It is right to consider them God's servants, influencing and forming the spiritual climate of Medieval Europe.

A rich history is hidden within the walls of medieval buildings. They can tell a story of riches, glory, and power, or of simplicity, modesty, and poverty. The house in which Master John Hus was born, no. 36 in Husinec, Southern Bohemia, was a burgher house. The simple room in which Hus lived has been preserved. Not much is known about his family except that they were probably poor and lived in rented apartments. *The Centre of Master John Hus*, which is made up of three townhouses and a barn, had its official opening in May of this year. *The Centre* also includes the Hus memorial (the original birthplace, being his home with the room in which he lived and worked).

We live just 55 kilometres from Hus' birthplace, so we visited the house in which he was born. In the room with a small window is a desk, a chair and a torch-stand. On one wall is a shelf, and on the opposite wall is a vitrine. Across from the window is a simple fireplace with a straight chimney, where the cooking would have been done. It is in these cramped rooms that one of the greatest figures in history grew up.

☞ Continues on page 23



The Centre of Master John Hus

Věrnost

Tešně před letošní konvencí si celý český národ připomínal dvě významná výročí: příchod Cyrila a Metoděje (5. července) a upálení Mistra Jana Husa (6. července).

Cyril (Konstantin) a Metoděj, bratři ze Soluně, jsou známí jako Apoštolové Slovanů nebo také Slovanští věrozvěstové. Během svého působení na Velké Moravě vytvořili písmo hlaholici a prosadili staroslověnštinu jako bohoslužebný jazyk. Na Velkou Moravu přišli na jaře roku 863. O 552 let později položil svůj život Mistr Jan Hus, který rovněž prosazoval hlásání Slova ve srozumitelném jazyce, v češtině. Tyto tři osobnosti svým vlivem a učením překročili hranice naší země. Jsou právem považováni za Boží služebníky ovlivňující a formující duchovní klima středověké Evropy.

Středověké stavby v sobě skrývají bohatou historií. Svědčí o bohatství a slávě, jednoduchosti, skromnosti, chudobě a bídě. Rodný dům Mistra Jana Husa je měšťanský dům č. p. 36 v Husinci v jižních Čechách. Prostá světnička, ve které Hus žil, se dochovala. O jeho rodině se mnoho neví, jen snad to, že byli chudí a bydleli v podnájmu. V květnu letošního roku bylo oficiálně otevřeno *Centrum Mistra Jana Husa*, které je vytvořeno ze tří měšťanských domů a stodoly. *Centrum* zahrnuje i Husův památník (původní rodný domek se světničkou Mistra Jana Husa).

Od Husova rodiště bydlíme 55 km a jeho rodný dům jsme navštívili. Ve světničce s malým okénkem stojí stůl se židli a stojan na louč. Na jedné stěně je polička a na protější straně je vestavěná malá skříňka či vitrínka. Naproti oknu je místo, kde se

☞ Pokračuje na straně 23

From the Executive Secretary

Often we wait for November or December before we write up the year-end summary. However, I'd like to summarize this year a bit early and say it has been a very busy year in the life of the convention.

At our 2014 convention, a suggestion was made to refresh the out-dated convention logo. In January of this year, we held an open contest for the new logo. More than ten new logo designs were submitted, and after an online vote, the winning design was chosen. We would like to congratulate and thank Filip Vlasic, of *Bela Star Design*, www.belastardesign.com, on creating the winning design. Your votes and comments throughout the process were greatly appreciated, as well as your feedback: since the logo was revealed at our annual convention in July, your response has been overwhelmingly positive.

Just as we finished the process of choosing the new logo, it was time for President Stan Mantle and myself to pack for our trip to the Czech and Slovak Republics. The last time the president and executive secretary of our convention visited the Czech and Slovak Baptist Unions was in the summer of 1997. You can read the full report from this trip on pages 6-9. You can also visit our convention website and view the 30-minute visual report from the trip or view the photo album with all the photos.

Over 120 delegates attended the 106th gathering of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, July 9–12, 2015. As in the last few years, it took place at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Several special guests were in attendance at this year's convention. Rev. Dalibor Smolnik and his family from Slovakia were in North America this

summer, and graciously accepted our invitation to attend the convention. Dalibor led our Slovak Bible study as well as Men's Fellowship Hour, and Laura Smolnik shared the Word at the Ladies' Missionary Rally.

Eddy Poling and his family were the guests of our youth, and Eddy shared the Word at the convention picnic on Saturday afternoon. Our own Donald Shoff, Nico Mulder, Robert Dvorak and Stan Mantle led the rest of the services and Bible studies. Video and audio recordings of all services and photo albums are available on our website: www.czskbc.org.

The annual convention was hardly finished when our Missionary Committee was hard at work, making the necessary preparations for the August 2016 Mission Trip to Šumperk, Czech Republic, and Hurbanovo, Slovak Republic. If you're interested in joining one of the two mission teams, please download the application form on our website and email it to the convention Missionary Committee at missions@czskbc.org. If you wish to support one of the missionaries, or for more information on tax receipts for this cause, please contact us by mail or at info@czskbc.org. You can read more about this mission trip on our convention web page.

The Mid-Year Meeting of the General Board has been set for Saturday, November 7th, at the Prague Restaurant, Masaryktown, in Toronto, Ontario. Please pray for the leadership of our convention and all decisions that will be made at this meeting and throughout the year.

The Christmas issue of *Glorious Hope* is scheduled to be mailed in mid-December. If you wish to contribute an article or send any information you would like us to publish, the deadline is October 15th, 2015.

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

From the President / Stránka prezidenta

Why is summer so short and winter so long? I ask as the middle of August has just passed and the fall season is quickly approaching. I ask while pleasant memories of our 106th Annual Convention are still visible in the rear-view mirror. This year's theme, *"Called According to His Good Purpose,"* neatly coincided with highlighting our missionaries and discussion about prospective mission trips to the Czech and Slovak Republics. So quickly our time together passed – just like the summer.

I guess things go quickly or seem to when they are valuable and precious to us. The lesson, then, must be to make the most of what is important – to drink deeply and gratefully from the well of life, to make hay while the sun shines. Jesus sensed this, saying: *"I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."* John 9:4

Ideas and vision are indispensable. They consider and conceive possibilities. They warm up the kettle and set it steaming. Then comes the moment of decision and commitment. With fall approaching, what's on the kettle in your kitchen? What aromas of ministry and service are simmering away? Don't let them stew too long. I almost lost a steak on the barbecue yesterday. But I caught it in time and got it on the plate, where it served its purpose well. But it was a close call.

Plans are under way for mission trips to the Czech and Slovak Republics next summer. See further details and how to apply elsewhere in this issue from the chair of the Mission Committee, Nico Mulder. Please consider and pray about going on one of these teams. You don't know what a difference it might make. Saying yes to God in one thing has a way of leading to Well I better not tell you (too Exciting, too Awesome, too Scary). It is something, though, that when *"summer"* is over you will be grateful and glad not to have missed.

Grace, peace and fruitfulness, brothers and sisters, in the season ahead.

Stan Mantle

P.S. The mid-year meeting has been set for Sat., Nov. 7, in Toronto. Please join us, if you can.



Proč je léto tak krátké a zima tak dlouhá? Ptám se na přelomu srpna, kdy se už rychle blíží podzim. V paměti mám stále živé

vzpomínky na naši 106. konvenci. Letošní téma *„Povolán podle jeho dobrého záměru“* se pěkně doplňovalo s hlavním zaměřením našich misijních pracovníků, kteří projednávali možnost misijní cesty do České republiky a na Slovensko. Naše společné chvíle rychle utekly, právě tak jako léto.

Zdá se mi, že to, na čem nám záleží, co nám je drahé a vzácné, vždycky uteče rychle. Z toho vyplývá poučení, že je nutné se soustředit na to nejdůležitější – pít plnými doušky a vděčně ze studnice života, sušit seno dokud slunce svítí. Ježíš to vystihl těmito slovy: *„Já musím dělat skutky Toho, který mě poslal, dokud je den. Přichází noc, kdy nikdo nebude moci pracovat.“* (Jan 9; 4)

Ideje a vize jsou nepostradatelné. Díky nim zvažujeme nabízené možnosti. Jako kdyby nimi byl uveden hrnec do varu a pára začala stoupat. Potom následuje chvíle rozhodnutí a závazku. Podzim se blíží, co obsahuje hrnec ve vaší kuchyni? Jaký druh vůně se šíří, jaké práce nebo služby? Jen to nenechte dusit příliš dlouho. Včera jsem málem připálil steak. V poslední chvíli jsem ho chytil a dal na talíř, kde dobře posloužil svému účelu. Ale bylo to jen o vlasek.

Přípravy misijních cest na příští léto do Česka a na Slovensko jsou v plném proudu. Další informace, a jak se přihlásit, najdete v tomto čísle v článku předsedy misijní komise Nico Muldera. Pouvažujte, prosím, modlete se a připojte se k jednomu z týmů. Nevíte, jaký to může mít význam. Říci Bohu ano v jednom případě může vést k... Oh, raději vám to neřeknu (může to být příliš vzrušující, nebo hrozivé, ba až děsivé). Je to ale něco, za co, až „léto“ pomine, budete vděční a budete rádi, že jste to nepropásli.

Bratři a sestry, do dalšího období vám přeji milost, pokoj a hojnost ovoce.

Stan Mantle

Translated by *Natasha Laurinc*

P.S. Pololetní setkání bylo určeno na sobotu 7. listopadu v Torontě. Můžete-li, připojte se k nám.

Visit to Czech and Slovak Republics

April 30, 2015 – May 16, 2015

DAY 1: Thursday, Apr. 30 Arrival in Prague

We left Windsor about 5:30 pm on Wednesday, Apr. 29. After stops in Toronto and London we arrived in Prague at 3:30 pm Thursday afternoon. Milan Kern, president of the Czech Baptist Union, met us at the airport and took us to our hotel. We were glad to have a good night's rest.

DAY 2: Friday, May 1 Sightseeing in Historic Prague

Friday morning brother Milan was back to take us on a wonderful tour of historic Prague. Highlights included the famous astrological clock, the Charles Bridge in Prague, whose foundation stone was laid in 1357, and Bethlehem Chapel where Jan Hus preached (1402 – 1410). Hus was burnt at the stake as a heretic on July 6, 1415. His commitment to the authority of Scripture shines a faithful and needed witness 600 years later.

At the end of the day a pedometer showed 15 km walked – a great start for our trip.



With brother Milan Kern at Old Town Square

DAY 3: Saturday, May 2 At the Ladies' Conference

On Saturday we attended the Ladies' Conference at Vinohrady Baptist Church in Prague. The conference was attended by 340 delegates from both the Czech and Slovak Republics. What a blessing it was to see so many women gathered together for worship, training and Christian fellowship. We were delighted to visit with our Glorious Hope editor, Natasha. During the conference a lady came up to me and said "Where do I know you from?" It was Esther Barnes, who was representing the Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec. Years ago her husband Graham had been our



With Natasha Laurinc, Iva & Milan Kern, baptist church in Prague-Vinohrady

area minister, a much loved pastor to pastors. I couldn't help but think what a small world it is.

DAY 4: Sunday, May 3 Visit to Aš Baptist Church

Sunday was a busy day. We were up early to drive about 200 km to Aš, the most westerly city in the Czech Republic. Czech Baptist Union Vice President Jan Jackanič was our driver. The four of us (Darko, Stan, Milan and Jan) arrived in Aš about 8:00 am. Several years ago our Convention financially supported the construction of a children's playground there. The playground is on the property of the Baptist church, and it is open to all the children of the town. We are thankful to the Lord for the opportunity of being a part of this outreach

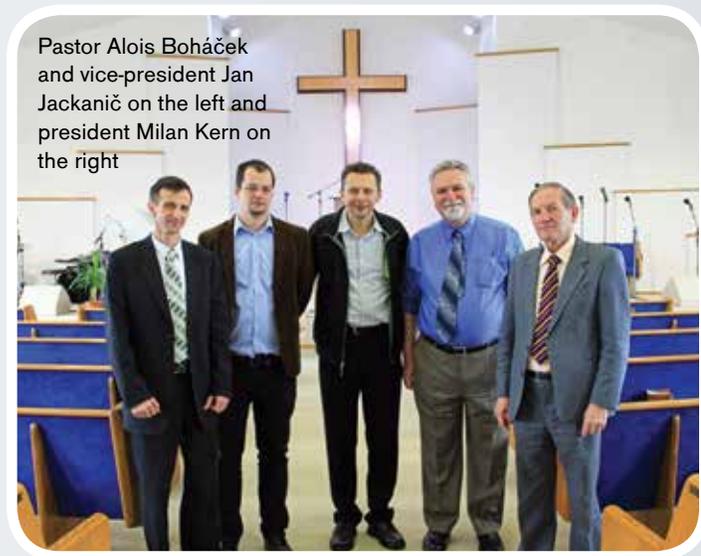
Before the morning service in Aš Baptist Church, we were provided with a wonderful breakfast. During the service Pastor Stan had the privilege of extending greetings from our Convention as well as sharing the Word of God with the local congregation. It was encouraging to see what a big part the youth played in the church service. This church is giving its youth the opportunity to develop their talents and grow in their service to the Lord – a great example for churches everywhere.

After the service we were invited to the home of Pastor Alois Boháček and his family, and enjoyed a marvellous lunch together. During this time Pastor Boháček shared concerning the open door for the gospel they have found in the city of

Aš. Since there is no funeral home there, city officials refer families who have lost a loved one to Pastor Alois. He performs several funerals every week and has the opportunity of sharing a clear gospel message with hundreds of people. We sensed the warm evangelical spirit of brother Alois. Please pray continued strength for him as with compassion and gentleness he comforts the sorrowing and shares the Good News of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

On our way back from Aš to Prague, we had the privilege of visiting the construction site of the church in Konstantinovy Lázně. This new church is being converted from a movie theatre into a place of ministry and worship. We were impressed with the vision and faith of those involved, to start and continue this large project over successive years as the Lord provides the funds.

DAY 5: Monday, May 4 Meeting with Czech Baptist Union Leaders



Pastor Alois Boháček and vice-president Jan Jackanič on the left and president Milan Kern on the right

We met at the offices of the Baptist Union in Prague. Lovely refreshments of pastries and coffee were provided by our thoughtful hosts. We shared with the Czech Baptist leadership our desire as a Convention to continue and strengthen our fellowship and partnership with them in mission. They welcomed us warmly. We spent some time talking about possibilities for cooperation, including future mission trips, shared communication in our magazines and uses of mission support.



With Mark & Gretchen Potma

There was a sweet spirit in the meeting and a happy commitment to future cooperation. After the meeting we had lunch in the beautiful Fort Vyšehrad, overlooking the city of Prague.

Monday evening we enjoyed the warm hospitality of missionaries Mark and Gretchen Potma, watching the Canada vs Czech international hockey game. I am afraid there were divided loyalties in the room.

DAY 6: Tuesday, May 5 Tour of "Cirkev Bratska" churches

On Tuesday Mark Potma took us on a tour showing the fruit of 15 years of church planting. We started with the most recent outreach station at Ladvi, which includes ping-pong among its outreach strategies. We also visited Skalka and shared in a discipling session Mark conducted with two young men. A third site we visited was the new location of South City Church, a former warehouse being wonderfully transformed into a busy centre of worship and ministry. Along the way we stopped for a visit with Tomáš Grulich, a church planter planning to lead a small team in planting a new cell church for the younger generation in Prague's city centre. We also had the privilege of meeting Daniel Turmunkh, elder and leader of the Mongolian fellowship and outreach in Prague. Daniel works full-time at a sushi restaurant, where we enjoyed a delicious lunch. This day of visiting churches and church plants and meeting servant leaders going forward with vision, calling and commitment into fields white unto harvest was exciting and humbling.

DAY 7: Wednesday, May 6 Travel to Brno

On Wednesday we travelled by train with Milan Kern from Prague to Brno, where we enjoyed a supper meeting with members of the Czech Baptist Union Missions Committee. Once again there was a sense of a sweet spirit and vision of reaching out to spread the gospel.

DAY 8: Thursday, May 7 Travel to Kroměříž

On Thursday we travelled by bus to Kroměříž, and visited the home church and mission field area of Anthony and Jamie Valhala. We enjoyed a splendid lunch with their family in their home. Before Anthony took us to the bus station for the trip back to Brno, we paused for pictures beside a beautiful yellow field of canola, a reminder of the precious harvest our missionaries

are working for. Please remember the Valhalas in prayer as they seek God's direction regarding the timing and location of planting a new church in the surrounding area.

When we arrived back in Brno, Milan Kern met us and took us to his home. There, his wife Iva had prepared a lovely Czech dinner for us. Both Milan and Iva are gifted servants of the Lord. What a privilege it was to visit in their home perched on the mountainside overlooking the city. By 7:00 pm we were in Brno Baptist Church for their mid-week meeting. Our president had the opportunity of speaking from God's Word. In addition to us, there were also visitors that night from South Africa, a reminder of the world-wide nature of the Christian fellowship. A good group of young people present spoke to the life and vitality of this beautiful church in the city of Brno.

Day 9: Friday, May 8 Travel to Slovakia

It was time to switch countries and move from the Czech Republic into the Slovak Republic. We did not travel far into Slovakia before reaching our first stop. Just 20 to 30 kilometres inside Slovakia is Hubansky Dvor, an Anabaptist community museum. A group of people from this community emigrated to Manitoba, Canada, so the ancestry of some Czechoslovak families who were part of our convention can be traced to this village in Slovakia. We visited a lovely Slovak Baptist retreat centre on a mountainside. Brother Jan Szöllös showed great skill in driving up the steep mountain road that took us there.



It was still and quiet in the gentle sun of a spring day while we were there, but it was not hard to imagine the hills alive with the sounds of laughter and games and music when youth and other retreats are held here. In the afternoon in Bratislava a short walk over a newly built pedestrian bridge took us briefly into Austria. Remnants of the barbed wire with which the Communist regime sought to keep people from escaping to freedom were still visible. A brief visit to Fort Devine and a most enjoyable dinner atop the TV tower overlooking Bratislava ended the day.

Day 10: Saturday, May 9 Sightseeing in Bratislava

The vice president of the Slovak Baptist Union, Jan Szöllös, was our host as well as tour guide in Bratislava. We enjoyed a lovely walking tour in the old part of the city. The streets and shops and people were a living post card of his-

tory, stately architecture, and vibrant life. A visit to the offices of the Slovak Baptist Union completed our tour. President Darko Kraljik picked us up in the late afternoon to take us to his home in Hurbanovo.

Day 11: Sunday, May 10 Church Services in Hurbanovo & Nové Zámky

We enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of Darko and Zuzka Kraljik. Splendid home-cooked meals, enjoyable conversation and a good night's rest nourished and refreshed body and spirit. We had the privilege of attending worship at Hurbanovo Baptist Church in the morning and the Nové Zámky Mission Station in the afternoon. President Mantle had the opportunity of ministering from the Word of God in each place. What a delight it was to meet the believers at these two churches and experience the sweet fellowship in Christ which unites us across differences of language and culture.

Day 12: Monday, May 11 Travel to Račkova Dolina – Vysoké Tatry

It was time to make our way to the Pastors' Conference at the Christian retreat centre Račkova Dolina. Along the way we made several stops; the first was at the Baptist Church in Tekovské Lužany. This was the home church of Vladimir and Ljubica Canji while they were serving with Canadian Baptist Ministries in Eastern Europe (1992 – 1997).

We came to the city of Lucenec around lunch time where we met with brother Pavel Šinko, who gave us a tour of the 3P Christian Ministry Centre operating there. Here, the Baptist Church, 3P ministry offices and an outreach restaurant are all clustered together serving the surrounding community. A water fountain just outside is an eloquent symbol of the refreshment, physical and spiritual, these gospel ministries offer. Further along we stopped at the Bible School in Banska Bystrica and enjoyed a tour of the facilities as well as the new library. This is the school where Jan Franka, associate pastor at Grace Baptist Church in Windsor, studied. Continuing on to our destination, we made a visit to the Baptist Church in Vavrišovo. This is one of the oldest Baptist congregations in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and later Czechoslovakia as well. Our president had the privilege of sharing the word of God in this church building built in 1882. After the service we were treated to a lovely supper in the home of Pastor Stupka and his wife. A short 20-minute drive after supper brought us to Račkova Dolina.

Day 13: Tuesday, May 12 Lomnický štít – the second highest point in Slovakia

Tuesday brought a memorable experience with the visit to the second-highest mountain peak of the Vysoké Tatry. At a height of 2634 metres, the view was spectacular and unforgettable.

Day 14: Wednesday, May 13 Meetings at Račkova Dolina

We met in the morning with the Slovak Baptist Union leadership. We shared our desire for continued and growing fellowship and cooperation in mission, and were pleased that their



Close to 50 pastors from Czech and Slovak Republics attended the conference

desire and interest coincided with ours. Our visit to Račkova Dolina happened during the gathering of about 50 pastors and mission workers from the Czech and Slovak Republics as well as the Ukraine for a conference. It was encouraging and uplifting to spend two days among them in these wonderful surroundings.

Day 15: Thursday, May 14 Travel to Vienna, Austria

Travel day meant saying good-bye to our gracious hosts and leaving behind the gorgeous, partially snow-covered mountain peaks.

Day 16: Friday, May 15 Sightseeing in Vienna

Our final full day in Europe we enjoyed taking in the sights and sounds of Vienna and purchasing souvenirs.

Day 17: Saturday, May 16 Homecoming

After a great trip how glad we were to return to Canada and rejoin our families. Praise and thanks to the Lord for the wonderful people and places we saw, and for journeying mercies over many miles that brought us safely home again.

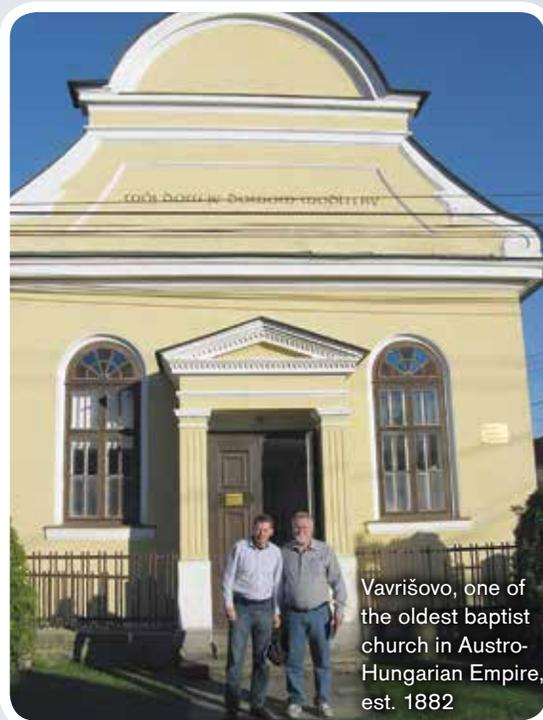
CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS

First is the wonderful welcome and warm hospitality we received on the trip. The presidents of the two Baptist Unions, Milan Kern in the Czech Republic and Darko Kraljik in the Slovak Republic, planned a rich schedule for us which was just what we wanted. We had the opportunity of visiting numerous churches and meeting the people, pastors, and denominational leaders. In every case we were graciously received. We enjoyed wonderful meals. In meetings with the boards of the Czech and Slovak Baptist Unions we shared our desire for connection, cooperation and shared mission with them, and this was warmly received and reciprocated.

to outreach in their neighbourhoods. Ongoing and creative efforts are being made to serve and reach people for Christ. English camps, sports camps, youth work, a community coffee shop, even ping pong in the case of a new church plant the Potmas have been involved with in Prague, are all utilized to engage and meet the community. Church planting is a strategic and active part of the vision to reach people for Christ. At Konstantinovy Lázně a former theatre is being converted into a church. In Prague an old warehouse is undergoing the same transformation, fuelled by great vision, faith and lots of

hard work. In all this our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Czech and Slovak Republics have much to teach us.

As believers in Christ in the United States and Canada we also have a God-given part to play in our churches and communities as well as in the Czech and Slovak Republics, which have a special place in our hearts. We can fulfil our part better as we work together in mutual love and commitment. Our recent trip underlines the wonderful reality of the world-wide Body of Christ. We have family, we have friends, we have partners, who share our mission and call and are open to working together with us. We have a wonderful open door for the work the Lord has called us to. What a great encouragement



Vavrišovo, one of the oldest baptist church in Austro-Hungarian Empire, est. 1882

and blessing this is.

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

Ephesians 4:16

Master John Hus

born circa 1370 in Husinec, South Bohemia
burned at the stake July 6th, 1415, in Constance—600 years ago

John Hus was a Czech Catholic priest, medieval religious philosopher, early Christian reformer, and a master at Charles University in Prague. Hus is considered to be one of the first Church reformers. He was inspired by John Wycliffe's articles, which resulted in his being accused of heresy. At the Church Council of Constance on November 28th, 1414, he was arrested, imprisoned and asked to recant several times. Hus refused, and so was condemned as a heretic and burned at the stake in Constance. At the execution site, he was asked again to recant to save his own life. Hus declined thus:

"God is witness to the fact that I did not preach nor teach what my false witnesses accuse me of; but in all teaching and speaking took care that I led people away from sin; so in this truth which I taught, today I gladly die!"

Afterwards, his ashes were scattered on the Rhine.

Throughout his life, Master John Hus wrote a number of treatises. His teaching is summarized in a tract written in Latin, *De ecclesia* (*The Church*). He continued writing while in the Constance

prison, even sending letters to his loyal friends. He wrote in Latin for the Church, and in Czech for the common people.

Quotes:

"So everyone sent by God may be recognized by whether they seek the glory of God and the salvation of mankind. There is no need to inquire whether someone is sent by a pope or a bishop or whether he has certain papers or confirmations. Instead we should recognize that he is sent by God when he diligently seeks the praise of God and the salvation of mankind." (Czech Feast Sermons)

"The Holy Church of Christ is one, called catholic in Greek, and universal in Latin. It is also called apostolic, because it was established by the words and deeds of the apostles, and founded on Christ the Rock..." (The Church)

"May there be peace upon this house and may sin be blotted out, may there be peace upon this house and may the enemy who persecutes it be banished, may there be peace upon this house and may godless schism be removed, and may there be peace upon this house in glory with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, blessed for ever and ever. Amen." (Sermon on peace)

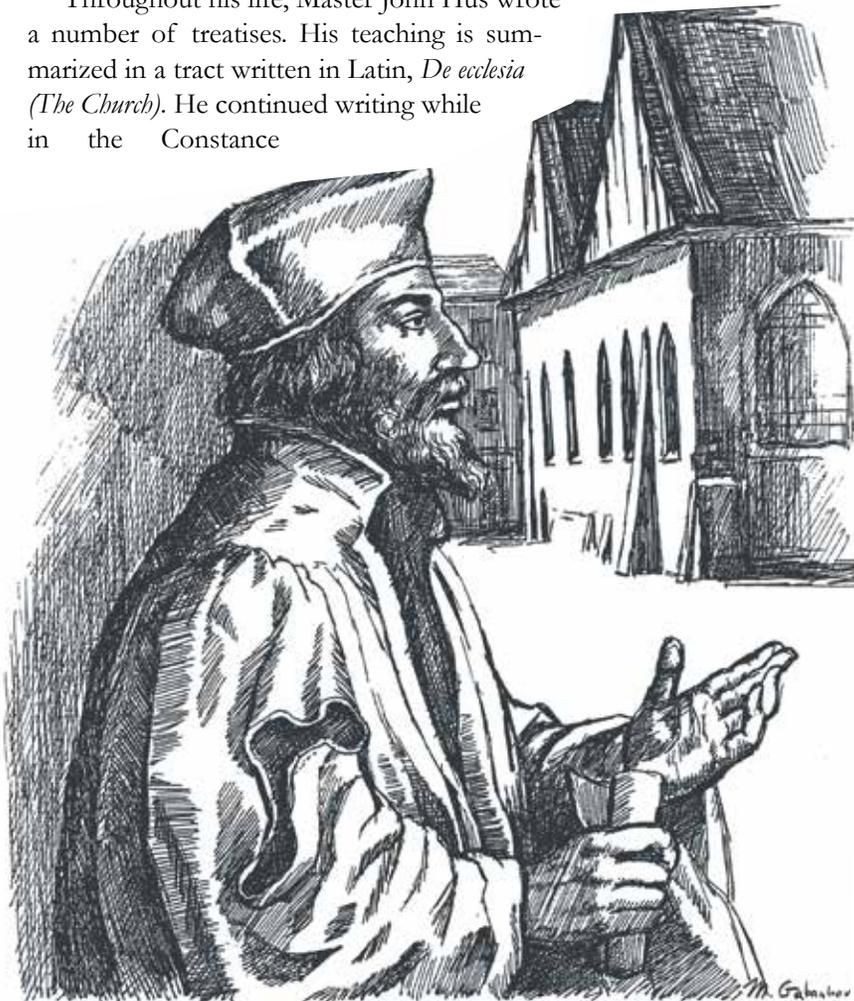
"I, John Hus of Husinec, Master of Arts and Formatus Bachelor of Sacred Theology of the University of Prague, and an appointed priest and preacher of the chapel called Bethlehem, make this appeal to Jesus Christ, the most just Judge, who knows, protects, and judges, declares and rewards without fail every man in justice." (Appeal to Christ)

"Therefore, faithful Christian, seek the truth, bear the truth, learn the truth, love the truth, speak the truth, adhere to the truth, defend the truth to the death; for truth will make you free from sin, the devil, the death of the soul and finally from eternal death." (Exposition of the Faith, 1412)

"Faithful lords and ladies, dear to God, both rich and poor! I beseech and admonish you that you obey the Lord God, extol His Word, and gladly bear and follow it. I pray that you hold to that truth of God which I have drawn from the law of God, and have preached and written about from the teachings of the saints... Also I beseech you that you love one another, do not permit good to be oppressed by violence, and desire that everyone learns the truth." (Letter from Constance)

Natasha Laurinc

Translated by Elizabeth Jane Fields



Mistr Jan Hus

narozen kolem r. 1370 v Husinci v Jižních Čechách
upálen 6. července 1415 v Kostnici—před 600. léty

Mistr Jan Hus byl římskokatolickým knězem, středověkým náboženským myslitelem, rektorem Karlovy univerzity, reformátorem a kazatelem. Hus byl jedním z prvních reformátorů církve. Inspirovaly jej články Johna Wycliffa, za co byl obviněn z kacířství. Na církevním koncilu v Kostnici byl 28. listopadu 1414 zatčen a uvězněn. Několikrát byl koncilem nucen své učení odvolat. Hus neodvolal a jako zatvrzelý kacíř byl odsouzen a upálen na hranici v Kostnici. Na popravišti byl znovu vyzván, aby odvolal a zachránil si život. Hus odmítl se slovy:

„Bůh jest svědek, že jsem tobo, z čeho mne křiví svědkové viní, nikdy nekázal, aniž tomu učil, ale že jsem při všem svém kázání a všem mluvení i činění o to dbal, abych lidí od břichu odváděl, v té pak pravdě, které jsem učil, chci dnes s radostí umřít!“

Jeho popel byl vhozen do řeky Rýn.

Během svého života napsal Mistr Jan Hus řadu spisů. Jeho učení je shrnuto v latinském traktátu *De ecclesia – O církvi*. Psal i ve vězení v Kostnici a posílal dopisy svým věrným. Pro církev psal latinsky, česky pro prostý lid.

Citáty:

„Tak všichni, kteříž jsou od Boha posláni, mají býti poznáni po tom, hlédají-li chvály Božie a spasení lidského. Protož nemnoho se jest o to ptáti, jest-li kto poslán od papeže neb biskupa, má-li které listy neb potvrzení; než po tom máme znamenati, že od Boha poslán jest, když hlédá pilně spasení lidského a chvály Božie.“ (Česká kázání sváteční)

„Jedna je svatá církev Kristova, které se řecky říká katolická, latinsky obecná a apoštolská, protože byla od apoštolů utvrzena slovy i skutky a byla založena na skále Kristu...“ (O církvi)

„Buď mír tomuto domu a zablazen břich, buď mír tomuto domu a oddálen pronásledující nepřítel, buď mír tomuto domu a odstraněn bezbožný rozkol a buď mír tomuto domu v slávě s Bohem Otcem i Synem i Duchem Svatým, požehnaným na věky věků. Amen.“ (Řeč o míru)

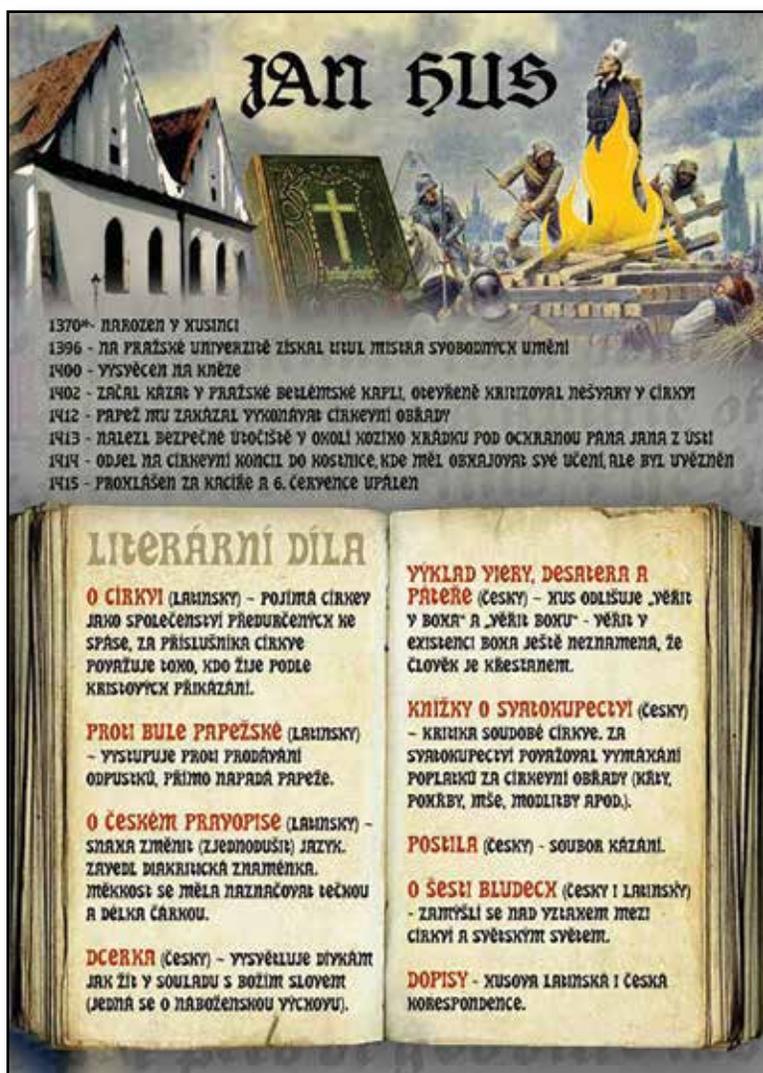
„Já, Jan Hus z Husince, mistr svobodných umění a hotový bakalář svatého bobosloví na vysokém učení pražské univerzity, kněz a kazatel potvrzený při kapli zvané Betlémská, svěřuji toto své odvolání Ježíši Kristu, soudci nejspravedlivějšímu, který spolehlivě zná, obhajuje a soudí, činí zřejmou a odměňuje spravedlivou při každého člověka.“ (Odvolání ke Kristu)

„Protož věrný křesťane, hledaj pravdy, slyš pravdu, uť se

pravdě, miluj pravdu, prav pravdu, drž pravdu, braň pravdy až do smrti: nebť pravda tě vysvobodí od hřícha, od ďábla, od smrti duše a konečně od smrti věčné, jenž jest odlúčení věčné od milosti Božie...“ (Výklad viery 1412)

„Věrní a v Bobu milí páni, panie, bobatí i chudí! Prosim vás a napominám, aby Pána Boha poslouchali, jeho slovo velebili a rádi slyšeli a plnili. Prosim vás, aby pravdu Boží, kterouž jsem z Božího zákona psal a z řeči svatých kázal a psal, aby se té drželi... Také prosím, aby se milovali, dobrých násilím tlačiti nedali a pravdy každému přáli.“ (Dopis z Kostnice)

Nataša Laurincová



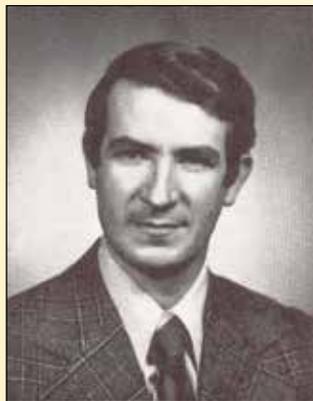
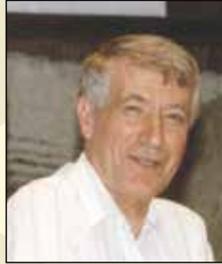


The 106th Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada

July 9 - 12, 2015 - Meadville, Pennsylvania

Rev. Vladimír Canji's Timeline

- born on **July 7, 1935**, as the third son in the family
- After deciding to follow Christ, was baptized on **October 15, 1950**
- preached his first sermon at age 15
- while serving in the church, got more concerned with saving lost souls
- became convinced that God expected him to fulfill the Word from Matthew 28:19,20 and from Ezekiel 3:17–19 (to spread the Good News of salvation to the unsaved)
- read biographies of missionaries and ministers
- desire for full-time service in this work increased
- enjoyed reading Acts
- became motivated by reading about the beginnings of the first church and the first missionaries
- the apostle Paul was his hero
- made a final decision to work in ministry full-time
- registered at the Baptist theological school in Zagreb on **October 15, 1955**
- finished his Bible college education in **June 1961**
- received a gift from God: a loving, beautiful girl who was to be a life-long partner and friend, Ljubica Mrakovic
- got married on **May 19, 1963**

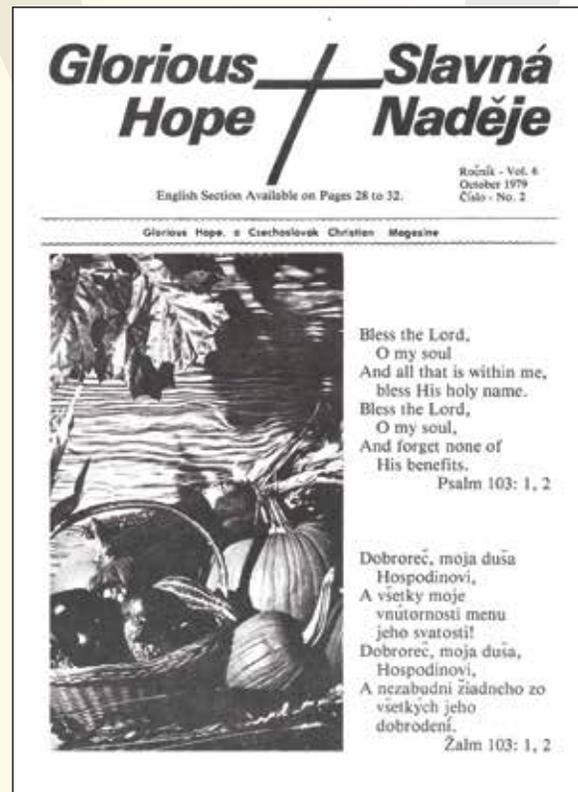


- blessed by three children, Tihomir (Ted), Teofil (Neno) and Tabita (Susie)
- served in three Baptist churches in former Yugoslavia, in Leskovac, Pakrac, and Zagreb, **from 1961 to 1970**
- In **March 1970**, immigrated with Ljubica and their young children to Windsor, Ontario, Canada
- In **July 1971** felt called to be a part-time pastor at Grace Baptist Church, Windsor (until

March)

- In **1972** attended the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention for the first time (in Campbell, Ohio)
- On **October 15, 1974**, was ordained by the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec
- become a full-time associate pastor at Grace in **April 1975**
- In **1974**, published a small newsletter for an invitation and Convention program for the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention held in Windsor, Ontario

- was elected by the Convention to be an editor of *Glorious Hope* — *Slavná naděje*, with Rev. S. Hibbins and Rev. J. Novak
- In **1975**, after Rev. J. Novak resigned as editor of *Glorious Hope*, took over all editorial responsibilities (typing, printing, mailing, etc., 16 pages, four times a year)
- In **1977**, started to print *Glorious Hope* — *Slavná naděje* six times a year
- In **1980**, started to print *Glorious Hope* — *Slavná naděje* in a larger format
- In **1981**, added four more pages to *Glorious Hope* — *Slavná naděje* (12 pages in Czech and Slovak, and 8 pages in English)



- in **1986**, attended the Billy Graham Conference on evangelism in Amsterdam with Ljubica, where both felt God's call to become missionaries
- In **1989**, resigned as editor of *Glorious Hope* — *Slavná naděje*
- In **October 1991**, resigned from being a full-time associate pastor at Grace Baptist Church in Windsor, Ontario
- From **November 1991**, called to the mission field in Slovakia and Yugoslavia with the Canadian Baptist Ministries (Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec)



- In 2013, became a member of the “Over 40 Club” with Canadian Baptist Ministries (during a special luncheon, ministers who have completed 40 years of service in ordained ministry are presented with special pins and certificates honouring their achievement).

- on July 5th, 2015, celebrated his 80th birthday at Grace

Baptist Church in Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Note: Rev. Vladimir Canji preached at Grace Baptist Church in Windsor on July 7th, 1971, for the first time. He never

would have guessed that he’d be standing behind the same pulpit in the same place after 44 years, on the same weekend in July, celebrating his 80th birthday.

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’ “ (Romans 10: 13–14)

We can only say Thank you:

Thank you for your conviction to follow Jesus; thank you for entering the ministry and for doing everything God led you to do without ceasing; thank you for taking over Glorious Hope and involving your whole family in the process of getting it published; thank you for being faithful during the especially hard times; thank you for serving and ministering at the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention!

Happy Birthday, and God bless you always!



From the 80th birthday celebration on July 5, 2015 at Grace Baptist Church

George Legierski

26.6.1950 – 29.5.2015



George Legierski left too soon. None of us expected something like this to happen, shocking us all the more that it did. The apostle Paul was right when he wrote that our understanding of things is just like our speculations of the future: partial and limited. We will never quite make the most of every opportunity tomorrow brings. This is why we are often shocked by the development of affairs. Life is fragile, and all we can do is reconcile ourselves to that fact. This doesn't mean we passively wait to see what happens to us. We need to see life as a gift, as an opportunity that will never repeat itself, as a challenge. To what end? To faith, hope and love, is what the apostle mentions in his letter (1 Corinthians 13:8-13). Faith, hope and love – three foundational virtues, without which any sort of attempt at living would turn out to be empty. As a life-long athlete, George took this challenge seriously.

He was born into a family of pastors, which before the Velvet Revolution wasn't exactly the best career starter. After graduating in machining, he would have liked to pursue a university education, but for political reasons this was denied him. The conviction to leave an unfree country grew steadily stronger and stronger in him. In 1981 he packed up a few suitcases and with his family, under the pretence of a vacation to Yugoslavia, emigrated. In the end George's family found themselves in Canada, where George spent a considerable portion of his life. He worked hard to provide for his family, and it wasn't always easy. There were times when he was working three jobs. But George was an athlete, and so he faced these challenges head on. When the work became too much, as it sometimes did, it was obvious to the other members of the family what was needed: "We need to get Dad back on his bike, and everything will be all right again." George loved his bike, if one can speak thus of a machine. How often, in these past few years, we saw him cruising the local roads! In fact, quite recently he participated in local races and placed very well. Incidentally, at one time in Canada this is how he imagined it, and dreamed: that he would

return to his beloved Central Bohemian Uplands, to the region of his birth, to which in his reminiscing with related emigrants, he always returned. His dream came true in the year 2011. George returned, became part of a new family, and from that time we could meet him not only on the bike, but in church or at work. We will remember not only his good-natured-looking moustache, but above all his friendly smile and unassuming manner. Although he left, he will remain with us in our memories, while we peruse photographs from his Canadian past and even from the time he first left Czech; as we see the empty place at the dinner table or the empty church pew, during camp games or while going through his work notes, written in English with measurements in feet and inches. We will remember his athletically tenacious faith in a better future, hope that he would return to the region of his youth, and love, which in the end gives every beginning its meaning.

We will remember him not only as a good person, but also as a Christian, who tried to walk the path of faith, hope and love his whole life. "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known," writes the apostle Paul. George now knows. He preceded us, or more aptly: he beat us there on his bike. For the rest of us left here, life remains a mystery, reflected by another life that is before us. We can only continue to believe, hope, and love. One thing we know already: that God knows us, all about us, and that He is, despite our less or more fortunate circumstances, with us.

"Good Lord, faced with death we turn our gaze to you, giver of life. For everything good we received from George, and for his life, we thank you. Stand by us even now as we grieve and search for a way to go on. We ask that you fill our store of faith, hope and love, so that we can, in our earthly temporal existence, see sparks of your kingdom of righteousness and peace. Thank you, Lord, that death does not have the last word in this life; that you, who in Christ overcame death, have the last word. We glorify you for that today and rejoice. Amen."

We commend our departed brother into the merciful hands of the eternal God. We do so in the firm hope and expectation of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Mgr. Petr Červinský, Pastor
Translated by Elizabeth Jane Fields*

George Legierski was editor-in-chief of *Glorious Hope*, 1994–1998.

Jiří Legierski

26.6.1950 – 29.5.2015



Jiří Legierski odešel náhle. Nikdo z nás něčím takovým nepočítal a o to víc jsme byli zaskočení. Apoštol Pavel má pravdu, když píše, že naše poznání stejně jako naše odhady budoucnosti jsou jen částečné. Nikdy

nepostihneme všechny možnosti, které zítřek přinese. Proto býváme vývojem událostí zaskočení. Život je křehký a nám nezbyvá nic jiného, než se s tím smířit. Nejde ovšem o to trpně čekat, co nás potká. Máme vzít život jako dar, jako příležitost, která se neopakuje, jako výzvu. K čemu? K víře, naději a lásce, zmiňuje apoštol ve svém listu (1. Korintským 13, 8 – 13). Víra, naděje a láska, tři základní ctnosti, bez nichž by jakýkoli pokus o život nutně vyšel naprázdno. Jiří, jako celoživotní sportovec, vzal tuhle výzvu vážně.

Narodil se do rodiny kazatele, což v době předlistopadové nebyl zrovna nejlepší začátek kariéry. Po maturitě na strojní průmyslovce by byl býval rád pokračoval vysokoškolským studiem, ale z politických důvodů mu to nebylo umožněno. Rostlo v něm stále víc a víc přesvědčení, že nesvobodnou zemi musí opustit. V roce 1981 sbalil pár kufrů a rodinu a pod záminkou dovolené v Jugoslávii emigroval. Nakonec se všichni ocitli v Kanadě, kde Jiří strávil podstatnou část svého života. Pracoval tvrdě, aby zabezpečil rodinu. A nebylo to vždy snadné. V některém období vykonával i tři zaměstnání najednou. Ale Jiří byl sportovec, a tak se k výzvám stavěl čelem. Když už toho na něj přece jen bylo někdy moc, bylo členům rodiny zřejmé, co je v dané chvíli třeba: „Musíme tátu dostat na kolo a bude zase dobře.“ Kolo Jiří miloval, dá-li se to tak říct o stroji. Kolikrát jsme ho v posledních letech vidali jak na svém bicyklu brázdí zdejší silnice! Ještě docela nedávno se účastnil místních závodů a obstál velice dobře. Ostatně, takhle si to už kdysi v Kanadě představoval, takhle o tom snil: že se vrátí do svého milovaného Středohoří, do kraje svého dětství, k němuž se společně se spřízněnou partou emigrantů ve

svých vzpomínkách vždycky znovu vracel. V roce 2011 se sen naplnil. Jiří se vrátil, stal se součástí nové rodiny, a my jsme ho od té doby mohli potkávat nejen na kole, ale i v kostele nebo v práci. Zůstane nám v paměti nejen jeho dobrosrdečný knír, ale zejména jeho přátelský úsměv a nenáročné vystupování. Odešel, nadále však zůstane s námi v našich vzpomínkách, při prohlížení fotografií z kanadské minulosti i z té právě odcházející české přítomnosti, při pohledu na prázdné místo u domácího stolu nebo v kostelní lavici, při táborových hrách nebo při probírání se jeho pracovními poznámkami psanými v angličtině s mírami v palcích a stopách. Zůstane nám v paměti jeho sportovně houževnatá víra v lepší budoucnost, naděje, že se vrátí do kraje svého mládí, a láska, která všemu počínání nakonec dávala smysl.

Zůstane nám v paměti nejen jako dobrý člověk, ale také jako křesťan, který se po cestě víry, naděje a lásky snažil po celý život jít. „Nyní vidíme jako v zrcadle, jen v hádance, potom však uzříme tvář v tvář. Nyní poznávám částečně, ale potom poznám plně, jako Bůh zná mne,“ píše apoštol Pavel. Jiří už ví. Předešel nás, nebo příhodněji: předjel nás na svém kole. Pro nás, co jsme tu zůstali, zatím zůstává život hádankou, odrazem jiného života, který je před námi. Zbývá nám pouze i nadále věřit, mít naději a milovat. Jedno však můžeme vědět už nyní. Že Bůh nás zná, že o nás ví, že je navzdory našim méně či více příznivým okolnostem s námi.

“Dobrý Bože, tvář tvář smrti obracíme svůj zrak k tobě, dárci života. Za všechno dobré, co jsme od Jiřího přijali, za jeho život ti děkujeme. Stůj při nás i ve chvíli, kdy truchlíme a hledáme cestu jak dál. Doplň, prosíme, naše zásohy víry, naděje a lásky, abychom v naší pozemské konečnosti mohli již nyní zahlédnout záblesky tvého království spravedlnosti a pokoje. Díky tobě, náš Bože, že poslední slovo v tomto životě nemá smrt, že poslední slovo máš ty, který jsi v Kristu smrt přemohl. Za to tě i dnes oslavujeme a z tobo se radujeme. Amen.”

Poručíme tohoto našeho zesnulého bratra do milosrdných rukou věčného Boha. Činíme to v pevně a jistě naději, v níž očekáváme vzkříšení k věčnému životu skrze Ježíše Krista, našeho Pána.

Mgr. Petr Červinský, kazatel

Jiří Legierski byl v letech 1994–1998 šéfredaktorem *Slavné naděje*.

Josef Daniel Průša

28.11.1923 – 9.7.2015

Pastor Daniel Průša was born in Budapest. Both parents came from Bohemia, close to a town called Hradec Králové. The Průša family, with three children, moved to Belgrade (former Yugoslavia) in 1926. Daniel's studies at business school were interrupted by World War II. In 1943, Daniel gave his life to Christ and was baptized by Pastor Pinter Šandor. After the war he and his sister Helen returned to Czechoslovakia. They joined the Baptist Church in Ostrava. At an evangelical service in 1946 led by Pastor J.J. Pavelda from the United States, Daniel felt God's calling to the ministry. He went to study at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague and graduated in 1950. He married Marie Blažková in 1951, and they have two sons, Daniel (1952) and John (1954). The political situation in Czechoslovakia delayed Daniel's preaching ministry until 1958. He got his first pastoral position in the town of Vsetín, but after one year, his preaching license was suspended by state authorities. He was able to return to the ministry only after the amnesty in 1969. The preaching ministry took him to Pardubice, where he served until 1971, then in Liberec from 1971 to 1975. From there he accepted an invitation from Ostrava, where he served until 1985. During his retirement he spent about a year and a half ministering in a Baptist Church in Tekovské Lužany. After 1989, he devoted himself to the prison ministry in Ostrava prisons, a task he carried out until 2004.

Pastor Daniel Průša was a pastor with a guitar in his hand. He liked to sing and preach, and often combined the two. The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada published his book, *My Experience with the Lord*, in 2007.

A farewell service for Pastor Josef Daniel Průša was held at the Baptist Church in Ostrava-Zábřeh, July 17, 2015. His wife Maria, his son Jan and wife Katherine, grandson Daniel, granddaughter Michaela, great-grandchildren Eliáš, Samuel, Noah, Isaac, Nora and Olivia; his sister Helena, his niece Marija Sommerová and her husband George, along with the whole family of nephew Jovan and his wife Zvezdana, will never forget Jeremiah's words with which pastor Průša identified:

"... and thy words were unto me a joy and the rejoicing of my heart..." (Jeremiah 15:16)

Note: the book *My Experience with the Lord* is available for purchase at the convention library.



Bratr kazatel Daniel Průša se narodil v Budapešti. Rodiče pocházeli z Čech, z okolí Hradce Králové. Do Budapešti odešli za prací. V roce 1926 se Průšovi se svými třemi dětmi přestěhovali do Bělehradu. Studium Daniele na obchodní škole přerušila druhá světová válka. V roce

1943 Daniel uvěřil a byl pokřtěn kazatelem Pinterem Šandorem. Po válce se se svou sestrou Helenou vrátili do Československa, kde navštěvovali baptistický sbor v Ostravě. V roce 1946 se Daniel při evangelizaci kazatele J. J. Paveldy z USA rozhodl pro kazatelskou službu. Nastoupil na baptistický teologický seminář v Praze, který absolvoval v roce 1950. V roce 1951 se oženil s Marií Blažkovou a narodili se jim dva synové Daniel (1952) a Jan (1954). Vzhledem k politické situaci v Československu mohl Daniel nastoupit do kazatelské služby až v roce 1958. Nastoupil ve Vsetíně, ale již po roce mu byl státní souhlas odebrán. Do služby se vrátil až po amnestii v roce 1969. Ve sboru v Pardubicích sloužil do roku 1971 a v Liberci v letech 1971-1975. Po té byl zvolen kazatelem v Ostravě, kde setrval do roku 1985. Již jako důchodce se ujal na necelý rok a půl kazatelské služby ve sboru BJB v Tekovských Lužanech. Po roce 1989 se zapojil do duchovenské práce ve věznicích v Ostravě, kterou vykonával až do roku 2004.

Bratr kazatel Daniel Průša byl kazatel s kytarou v ruce. Zpíval rád a svá kázání prokládal písněmi. V roce 2007 vydala Československá konvence baptistů USA a Kanady jeho knížku *Mé zkušenosti s Pánem*.

Rozloučení s Josefem Danielem Průšou proběhlo v modlitebně Bratrské jednoty baptistů v Ostravě - Zábřehu 17. července 2015. Manželka Marie, syn Jan s manželkou Kateřinou, vnuk Daniel, vnučka Michaela, pravnoučata Eliáš, Samuel, Noah, Izák, Nora a Olivie, setra Helena, neteř Marije Sommerová s manželem Jířím a rodina synovce Jovana s manželkou Zvezdanou nikdy nezapomenou na slova z Jeremiáše 15;16, která si bratr kazatel Průša přivlastnil:

"...měl jsem slovo tvé za radost a potěšení srdce svého..."
(Jeremiáš 15;16)

Poznámka: Zmíněná kniha *Mé zkušenosti s Pánem* je k dispozici v knihovně konvence.

Mabel Mantle

July 24, 1925 – June 30, 2015



Mabel Mantle was the second of two daughters born to Tom and Elizabeth Rice. She and her sister, Sadie, were mischievous youngsters who got in trouble occasionally. A close friendship between them and their families has

continued all their lives. When Mabel was 12, the family moved to Northern Ireland, a return for her parents to their country of birth. This was a formative experience for Mabel, instilling in her a lifelong love for Ireland and establishing connections and friendships she never forgot. Two years later, in the summer of 1939, the family returned to Canada, booking passage on the *Ascenia*, which would get the girls back in time for the start of school. The next boat after theirs, the *Athenia*, was torpedoed by the Germans on Sept. 3, 1939, as the Second World War began.

Mabel and Bill met the next year. At some point he asked her to go to the movies with him, to which she responded, “No, but you can take me to church.” A few years later they were both baptized at Glad Tidings Tabernacle. A couple of years later, on November 10, 1945, they were married at Grace Chapel on Jones Avenue in Toronto by Pastor Henry Good.

Before long the family grew to include four lively children, Stan, David, Marilyn and Wes.

Mom loved music, playing the piano and the accordion by ear. She loved coming to the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. A wonderfully sweet memory is of playing “Are You Washed in the Blood?” together at the Convention—mom at the piano, her son (Stan) and grandson (Andrew) on trombones and Gustav Sijanta on the banjo. Mom was the pianist for many years at O’Connor Hills Missionary Church. She loved family times gathered around the piano, singing hymns.

She was a great fan at ballgames, cheering enthusiastically and letting blind umpires know of her disapproval in unmistakable terms. You were glad to have her on your side in all of life.

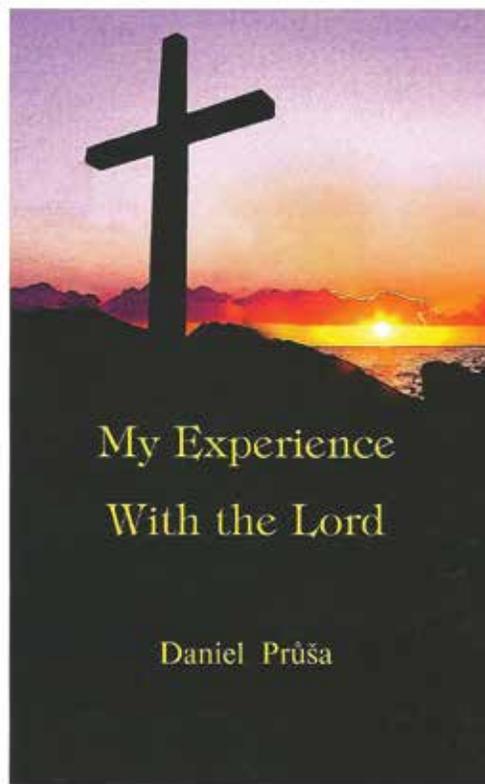
Mom was a loving and dedicated wife. She fully

supported and stood with Dad. They had a complimentary division of labour and were an amazing example of the two becoming one.

Mabel loved her children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren and was never happier than when the house was full. An extra guest or three for dinner was never a problem. She also loved dogs, horses and filling our contest ballots. And she had the luck of the Irish, often winning various prizes.

Mom said prayers with us, made school lunches (peanut butter and banana was a favorite), believed in education, and encouraged us all throughout life. Her lemon pie was scrumptious.

About five years ago, Mom and Dad moved to Parkview Suites in Stouffville, Ontario, and more recently to Parkview Nursing Home. Declining health and some dementia made the last little while very difficult. Mom would often say she wanted to go home. On Tuesday, June 30, 2015, just about noon, very peacefully, she did just that. We thank God for a wonderful, godly mom, who is watching all her family now from heaven’s grandstand – encouraging and cheering us on to run our race and finish our course. We hear you, Mom, and know you will be there at the finish line waiting for us with open arms. All praise and thanks to God.



The book *My Experience with the Lord* is available at the Convention library.
Kniha *Mé zkušenosti s Pánem* je k dispozici v knihovně konvence

Reflections

from the 2015 Convention

Judy Shoff

The 2015 Czechoslovak Baptist Convention is over and we are back home in California. We stayed over on Sunday evening so we would not have to hurry to the airport in Pittsburgh. But then, our plane was delayed because of bad weather in Chicago, so we were allowed to disembark for one hour before taking off. But it is always worth the trip!!!!

Thinking about our time at the convention, we look back at the blessing of fellowship and spiritual encouragement we received. How blessed to spend these few days together with folks who have a common heritage (though some now, quite diverse) and hold a common passion to see the Gospel of Jesus Christ carried into the land of our forefathers.

It truly is thrilling to see the number of folks who are returning to the homeland, planting churches, and faithfully sharing their faith with the Czech and Slovak people. The Vahalas, who were with us just two years ago, are now working in the Czech Republic and with us for the first time were the Adamses, who will be leaving soon.

How blessed we are to have Darko & Maja Siracki and Stan & Heather Mantle at the helm directing the operations and planning of the Convention each year.

Those speaking and leading the Bible studies this year were a blessing and inspiration to all. Thank you. I will try to recall their names; Bob Dvorak (Bradenton, FL), Stan Mantle (Windsor, Ontario), Nico Mulder (Cannifton, Ontario), Eddy Polling (Philippi, WV), who also spoke with the youth, Don Shoff (Los Angeles, CA), and Dalibor Smolnik (Slovakia), who led the Slovak Bible study and was here with his family.

Tim Racinsky (Georgetown, Ontario) and Filip Vlasic (Scotts Depot, WV) led in worship and singing. Dottie Kvasnica (Manhattan, KS) led us in a hymn sing with organ at the Ford Chapel. I purposely included the hometowns so that you could see how near and far our folks travel to be a part of this great fellowship. Ruby Mikulencak (San Jose, CA, and a missionary with SIM) shared at the Women's Meeting that she has been asked to return to Africa for the coming year, so please remember her in prayer as she ventures overseas again.

For the second year in a row, we had an exciting time with Anna Cookova from Chicago, Illinois, who led a seminar, "Introduction to Czech Language & Culture."

It was good for all of us to refresh and learn. Anna's friend Lenka Misickova came with pictures of Kamienka, the hometown of my father (Mike Sivulka), which was a great delight and blessing to me personally.

Mrs. Pickles (formerly Miss Pickles) led the children's program in singing special numbers for the adults. Mrs. Pickles and her husband announced to all of us that next year there will be a little Baby Pickle in their home, and we look forward to meeting the little one. Of course, Grandpa & Granma Jovan & Zvezdana Vlasic are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their first grandbaby!!!

We enjoyed the singing of the Lamos Girls and their friends who accompanied them. We look forward to hearing from them every year.

As tradition would have it, we had our annual "The Ice Cream Is Melting" evening remembering our dear, precious George & Marija Sommers, who had been planning to be with us, only to have George take a fall just before leaving for the Convention.

On Friday evening after the service, our own fantastic piano player, Bob Dvorak, led us in our "Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing." Blessings and fun all mixed together made it a great evening. Dottie Dvorak was unable to be with us this year and we did miss her, too.

I write all this to the best of my recall (and hope I did not overlook anyone) in hopes that it will motivate you who have not yet ventured to be with us to mark your calendar NOW that, the Lord willing, you will plan to be with us next year. We LOVE first-timers and you will be loved and accepted as one of the family. See you there next July 7-10, 2016. Allegheny College, Meadville, PA, is approximately 2 hours North of Pittsburgh, and in close vicinity to Eastern Canada.

Sooooo, looking forward to seeing you there. God bless you all.

2016 CZECH & SLOVAK REPUBLICS MISSION TRIPS



Šumperk, CZ - Hurbanovo, SK

July-August 2016



Hurbanovo English Camp 2014

The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention (CZSKBC) will be sending two missionary teams to the Slovak and Czech Republics in July-August 2016.

We are going to assist two Baptist congregations in reaching out to their local communities with English teaching camps. We would like to encourage all Convention members to join us.

Application forms can be downloaded on the convention website: www.czskbc.org

The Convention Missions Committee will provide donation forms for approved team members to be used in fundraising for the trip expenses. Donations should be made to "The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention" with MEMO: Mission Trip 2016.

You can choose one of two outreaches:

1. Hurbanovo, Slovakia: We will work with Pastor Darko Kraljik and his Baptist congregation

in Hurbanovo, Slovak Republic. We will collaborate with the congregation to hold an English teaching camp for about 50 children between 6 and 15 years old. We need 8-10 English first-language speakers to divide into three groups.

Time: July 21 to August 4, 2016

Cost: About \$2500.00

2. Šumperk, Czech Republic: Together with Pastor Pavel Mrázek and his Baptist congregation of Šumperk, we will reach out to the community with an English camp for adults. We need about 6-8 English first-language-speaking adults to reach out to about 20-30 Czech-speaking Šumperk adults to teach them English in 3-4 small groups of different levels of English.

Time: August 13 – August 23, 2016 (approximate dates)

Cost: About \$2500.00

Applications can be downloaded on our website: www.czskbc.org

Please send your application to become an outreach member to:

CZSKBC Missions Committee
Box 22, Cannifton, ON
K0K 1K0
Canada

missions@czskbc.org

As soon as your application is accepted, we will send you a donation form on your request. The closing date for applications is January 31, 2016.

In His Service
Convention Missions Committee



English Camp Šumperk 2015

Letter from God



I still remember it like it was yesterday: unpacking that heavy suitcase my first night in the United States, July 28, 1993, at what would be my home for the next year, Uncle George and Aunt Marija's house in Philippi, WV (I'm sure you remember fondly the fellowships which occurred in that place). About halfway through the suitcase, I came upon an envelope addressed to me, and inside this envelope a letter. It didn't take a lot to figure out the letter was from my parents – the "Dear Son" heading gave it away, and so did the signature stating "Mom and Dad" – but it DID take a lot to not tear up reading what I would best describe as poetry typed by my father. Out of this one-page note flowed my parents' love for me. And yes, there were instructions too! "Listen to your uncle and aunt" – I'll let them speak of my compliance – was one. The other was encouragement to be involved as much as I could in the church so my soul could be fed and I could grow and learn to depend upon our Lord who has given and continues to give us so much. I have read and re-read it numerous times over the past 22 years, and each time it brings back the same emotions and memories of my parents' love, sacrifice, and

too: love God and love one another. And there are numerous encouragements to continually grow in Him so we can fully experience the salvation He gives us. Sooo... the question is: have we opened our Father's letter lately, or is it collecting dust on our bookshelf? I pray that we listen and let His written words guide our life daily so we can reap the full joy and power found within that most precious of all letters!

Speaking of precious things: how good this summer together in Meadville PA was! As always, it came and left too quickly, but again we are left with celebrations of great fellowship, strengthened friendships, and lessons that challenge us to live as such a witness that allows non-believers to see God's love run through us and encourages and strengthens believers who need to experience more of the power of love. From the youth picnic at Pymatuning State Park to closing down the Cold Stone Creamery, from early morning get-togethers to late night walks, from devotionals to late night discussions, the youth and young adults had a great time together those short few days. As you might have read in the previous issue of *Glorious Hope*, Eddy Poling of Philippi joined us this year to share into our lives and challenged us all to make sure Jesus is the Lord of our life, to ensure that our life shows the love of Jesus to others, to have a sense of urgency for our friends and family who haven't experienced our Savior's love, and to stand

up for Truth in today's society, which challenges many of the principles God had so carefully, intentionally, and eloquently shared with us in his love letter to us.

So I finish off by encouraging you to read your Father's letter to you. Read it, re-read it, and listen to all the rich goodness contained within it! It will make your life an experience you could never imagine in your wildest dreams!

Petar Vlasic



Youth picnic
at Pymatuning State Park

wisdom. Now, a few years later, reminiscing on how life has gone, I can't help but be grateful to have parents who loved me enough to do what they could to raise me to love God.

But you know what, that's not the only such letter that I have read, nor am I the only one who has gotten one for, you see, we have all received one, and its sender is our Heavenly Father. From every page of that Holy letter His love for us pours out. Of course there are instructions on how to live



Eddy Poling of Philippi, WV

... the love of the Lord. Hosea 3:1 KJV

Dear believer, look back over your life experience. Think of the way the Lord your God has led you through the wilderness and how He has fed and clothed you every day. Think of how He has put up with your bad manners, all your complaints, and your longings for the "pots of meat" (Ex. 16:3) back in Egypt. Think of how He has opened the rock to supply you with water and how He has fed you with manna that came down from heaven. Think of how His grace "is sufficient for you" (2 Cor. 12:9) in all your troubles, how His blood pardoned you for all your sins, and how His rod and His staff have comforted you (see Ps. 23:4).

Now that you have looked at "the love of the Lord" in your past, allow faith to survey His love in the future, for remember, Christ's covenant and His blood affect more than just your past. He who has loved you in the past will never cease to love and forgive you into the future as well. He is the "Alpha and the Omega" (Rev. 1:8); He is the first, and He will be the last.

Therefore remember, "Even though [you] walk through the valley of the shadow of death, [you should] fear no evil" (Ps. 23:4), for He will be with you. When you find yourself standing in the cold, flooding water of the Jordan River, you need not fear, for death cannot separate you from His love. And when you finally find yourself standing before the mysteries of eternity, you need not tremble, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord," (Rom. 8:38–39).

Dear soul, after reflecting on this, isn't your love refreshed? Doesn't this increase your love for Jesus? Doesn't a flight through the limitless heavens of His love rekindle your heart and compel you to "find your joy in the LORD" (Isa. 58:14)? Surely as we meditate on "the love of the Lord" we will feel "our hearts burning within us" (Luke 24:32) and we will long to love Him more.

Editorial... Continues from page 3

Behind the John Hus Centre stands a large building, the chapel of the Church of the Brethren, with this sign on the front of the building: "Love one another, be truthful to one another". The same inscription can be found on Hus' monument in the Old Town Square in Prague. What an appeal to the nation!

"It is better to die well than to live badly... He who fears death loses the joy of life. Truth is victorious over everything. He who is martyred is victorious," (from the letters of Hus to Prachatic).

In these words, resoluteness resounds to remain faithful even at the cost of one's life. These words motivated, encouraged, and helped countless individuals fighting for their convictions to endure. Hus' struggle was to remain faithful to Christ's legacy: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets..." (Matthew 22:37–40). It is not about preserving formal and ritualistic religious requirements, but about understanding the substance of this statement: "God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him," (1 John 4:16b).

During this, the 600-year anniversary of the burning of John Hus, we are presenting a number of quotes in *Glorious Hope* that illustrate his convictions. Although these words were addressed to Christians in the 15th Century, they will no doubt speak to and impact Christians of the 21st Century.

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

Editorial... Pokračování ze strany 3

vařilo, s ohništěm ústícím přímo do komínu. V těchto malinkých prostorách vyrůstala jedna z největších osobností v dějinách lidstva.

Za *Centrem Mistra Jana Husa* stojí velký dům – modlitebna Církve Bratrské s tímto nápisem v průčelí: „*Milujte se, pravdy každému přejte.*“ Stejný nápis nese i Husův pomník na Staroměstském náměstí v Praze. Jaká to výzva národu!

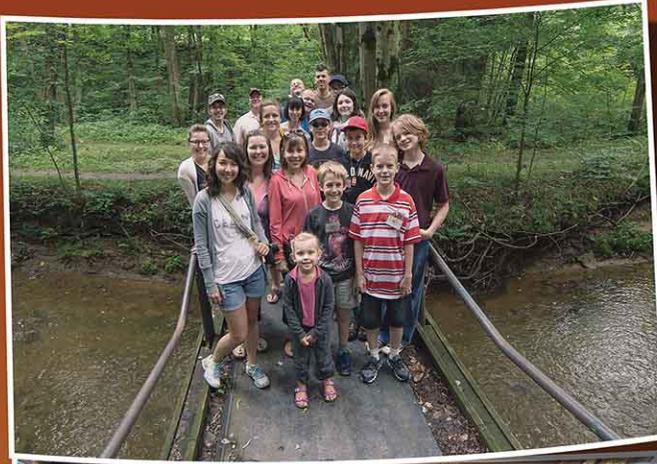
„Lépe jest dobře zemřítí, nežli zle živu býti... Kdo smrti se bojí, ztrácí radosti života. Nade vším vítězí pravda. Vítězí, kdo jest usmrcován.“ (z Husova dopisu křesťanům do Prachatic)

Z těchto slov zaznívá odhodlání zůstat věrný i za cenu života. Tato slova motivovala, povzbuzovala a k vytrvání utvrzovala bezpočet jedinců, kteří bojovali za své přesvědčení. Husův boj spočíval ve věrnosti Kristovu odkazu: „*Miluj Hospodina, svého Boha, celým svým srdcem, celou svou duší a celou svou myslí... Miluj svého bližního jako sám sebe. V těchto dvou přikázáních spočívá celý Zákon...*“ (Matouš 22; 37 a 39–40) Nejedná se o zachovávání formálních a rituálních náboženských požadavků, ale o pochopení toho, co obsahuje toto konstatování: "Bůh láska je. Kdo v lásce přebývá, v Bohu přebývá a Bůh v něm." (1. Ep. Jana, 4;16b)

U příležitosti 600. výročí upálení Mistra Jana Husa uvádíme ve *Slavné naději* několik citátů, které svědčí o jeho smýšlení. Ačkoliv byla slova adresována křesťanům v 15. století, oslovují i křesťany v 21. století.

Nataša Laurincová, šéfredaktorka

The 106th Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, July 9 -12, 2015



Allegheny College — Meadville, Pennsylvania