

Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

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Spiritual Wisdom

The fear of the Lord is
the beginning of
wisdom; And the
knowledge of the
Holy One is insight.

Proverbs 9:10

99th Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention

Počátek
moudrosti
jest bázeň
Hospodinova,
a umění
svatých
rozumnost.

Prísloví 9,10

Počiatkom
múdrosti je bázeň
Hospodinova, a
známosť
Najsvätejšieho je
rozumnosťou.

Príslovia 9,10

99th Annual Baptist Convention, Philippi, W.Va. July 10-13, 2008

Spiritual Wisdom
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom Proverbs 9:10

Convention Mission Statement

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

Misijsní poslání konvence

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

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Editor-in-Chief: Natasha Legierski-Laurinc
email: natasha.legierski@sympatico.ca
You may send articles to above address
Desktop publishing and art: Vit Malek
Assistant Editors: Janice Cermak, Ján Banko
Production Manager: George Sommer
Editorial Staff: George Sommer,
Joseph Novak
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Publication Office:
Glorious Hope / Slavná naděje
Rt. 4, Box 58D, Philippi, WV 26416-9717 USA
email: george.sommer@ab.edu
http://czslbaptconv.ab.edu

Editorial



Every thing that was ever created serves a purpose. That is why people are constantly thinking up new inventions. New things replace the old. Different, more effective ways of building human relations are sought after. Archaic systems are replaced with modernized, more efficient technology. This is all done in an effort to simplify life, or make it a little

easier. These tendencies are absolutely justified and have gained global proportions. Whether or not they are actually effective is a matter of opinion and approach.

To express it in a nutshell, everything was made (whether the object, the whole system or only the theory) with the purpose of serving something or someone, in some way, shape or form. The CN Tower in Toronto, for example, was built to be immediately used for a number of purposes. It is at once a lookout tower, a transmitting and receiving station, and a revolving restaurant with a panoramic view of the metropolis, in which 70 different cultures and even more nationalities amalgamate. Apart from these, the tower fulfills its purpose as the dominant feature in the beautiful panorama of Toronto, especially if you are driving in from the west. Likewise, every building surrounding the CN Tower serves some kind of purpose. We could continue from

Continues on page 19

Vše, co kdy bylo vytvořeno, slouží svému účelu. Proto také lidé stále něco vymýšlejí. Staré věci jsou vyměňovány za nové. Hledají se jiné, efektivnější způsoby v budování mezilidských vztahů. Zastaralé systémy jsou nahrazovány modernější a výkonnější technikou. Děje se tak ve snaze ulehčit či zjednodušit život člověka. Tyto tendence jsou naprosto opodstatněné a nabyly globálních rozměrů. Jsou-li skutečně efektivní, je otázka názoru a přístupu.

Stručně vyjádřeno, vše bylo vytvořeno (předmět, celý systém nebo jen teorie) za účelem nějakým způsobem někomu či něčemu sloužit. Torontská věž byla například postavena proto, aby sloužila hned několika účelům. Ať už jako rozhledna, nebo vysílací a přijímací stanice, či otáčecí vyhlídková restaurace nad metropolí, ve které je sloučeno téměř sedmdesát kultur a ještě více národností. Kromě toho tato věž doplňuje svou dominanci krásné panorama Toronta, zvláště přijíždíte-li od západní strany. Rovněž každá budova okolo věže slouží k nějakému účelu. Mohli bychom pokračovat od jedné věci k druhé, stejně jako od jednoho zákona k dalšímu, či se zabývat smyslem jednotlivých organizací.

S blížícím se velkým výročím naší konvence se mnozí zamýšlí nad účelem i posláním této organizace. Skutečnost, že uplynulo

Pokračování na straně 18



Pictures: Dusko Pilic, Maja & Darko Siracki,
George Sommer





A highlight of our first summer at Alderson-Broadbudd College was the opportunity for Sheila and me to attend the 2008 Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. What a joy to meet convention participants who shared their warm greetings, joyous singing, and fervent faith in Jesus Christ! Our campus was blessed by the presence of this wonderful gathering.

It was a privilege to meet and converse with Convention President Robert Dvorak. His message and greetings conveyed the graciousness of a cherished spiritual leader. We hope that he will visit the campus between conventions and whenever his travel brings him our way.

Sheila and I were greatly impressed with the young people attending the Convention. You can understand why I invited all of them to become Alderson-Broadbudd College students. Their commitment and positive spirit were evident throughout the Convention.

I will always treasure the opportunity I had to talk with Convention attendees who shared "their story" of God's blessing and deliverance in their lives. I will never forget how God has proven His faithfulness in their families.

Alderson-Broadbudd College is fortunate to be the meeting place of the Convention. We are most blessed by the work of George and Marija Sommer, who have invested the greater part of their lives in Alderson-Broadbudd College. Their story is evidence of God's planning and purpose in the lives of devoted followers.

Next year should be a year of jubilee for the Convention. The 100th meeting will surely be a highlight experience for all who attend. The doors of Alderson-Broadbudd College will be wide open for this great celebration in 2009.

My request to this year's Convention remains in effect. Please continue to remember the trustees, faculty, staff, and students of Alderson-Broadbudd College in your prayers.

We join you in praise to the God who assures our glorious hope.

J. Michael Clyburn, President
Alderson-Broadbudd College
Philippi, West Virginia

Spiritual Wisdom

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom:
And the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.**

Proverbs 9:10

The Ninety-ninth (or 100th minus 1) Annual Convention was held on July 10–13, 2008, on the Campus of Alderson-Broadbush College, Philippi, West Virginia, and now we are getting ready for the next big one: Centennial Convention, which will be held at the same place on July 9–12, 2009. **Please, mark your calendars!!!!**

There are a lot of things to be prepared before convention starts. Our registrar, Helen Pojman, became ill during the



Bob Dvorak and George Sommer

year. We've found good helpers: Maja and Darko Siracki and Petra Simackova. They were a great help with all preparations: registration packages, banners, direction signs, chapel preparation, checking the sound system, video projection, preparing power point messages, signs and other things.

And on Wednesday some delegates were already arriving.

On the first day of convention, as you know, there is a General Board meeting scheduled. Let's go to that meeting now:

The meeting was opened by our president, Dr. Robert Dvorak, reading the much loved Psalm 23. He reminded us that the Lord, who keeps you, never slumbers nor sleeps. He is always on the alert. For a lot of years we have been doing the work of the Lord, but God **never** slumbers nor sleeps.

Robert commented that Jerry Andrs has good news regarding his health, and Bill and Esther Widlicka will be coming later in the week. As they do in the Czech and Slovak

Republics, the members were asked to stand as Robert led in prayer. Members were reminded to be vocal and vote with enthusiasm on all motions.

The following reports were received by the Board members: Vera Dors, financial secretary for the US, reported that giving is much decreased for the current year. Henry Pojman was unable to attend the meeting this year.

The Treasurer's Report for the US was given by George Gregor. Otilia Alac reported also for Canada.

Joseph Novak reported for the Czechoslovak Evangelical Mission. He was happy and excited to give his report. He commented that in Isaiah it says that God's word will not return to Him empty and that there are many ways in which to proclaim the gospel. Joe, however, is sold on tract ministry. Tracts can be read and reread. He has letters confirming that tracts are used over and over. The Novak family supports the tract ministry also with their finances. Since July 2007, they have mailed over 88,130 tracts.

Joe gave a summary of several letters he has received with thanks from recipients of tracts, Bibles, pens, pencils and other supplies. He asked for prayers. When asked who does



Darko Siracki, Marija Sommer, Oti Alac, and Natasha Legierski-Laurinc

the translating of his tracts, he replied that teachers, pastors, and seminary students offer to translate.

The *Glorious Hope* report was given by Natasha Legierski-



Gloria Andrs

Laurinc. She brought greetings from Vit Malek, who is a desk-top publishing expert. She said that we are not on schedule with publishing of the magazine, but after the convention will try to catch up. The Publishing Committee will meet after the Board meeting.

George Gregor gave a report on the Boubelik Trust Fund that is invested with New York Life Annuity and is accessible if we choose or need to withdraw it.

The report on the Boubelik and Michael Funds handled by Bill Rotar was given by Robert Dvorak. The market decline has been 20% plus this year. With a decline of over 11%, our current investment funds are above the market decline. Bill's report indicated that he would monitor other investment funds to compare averages that are beneficial to the convention.

Marija Sommer suggested putting some of the money into an annuity and out of the stock market. Even 3% interest would be better than an 11% decline. Robert indicated that at present one-third of our investment is in an annuity and two-thirds in the stock market.

Marija suggested that we have two-thirds in an annuity and one-third in the stock market. Darko Siracki said that professional investors will advise you to put the majority of



Oti Alac

your investments in a safe place. Stan Mantle suggested asking Bill Rotar for his opinion.

Joe Novak mentioned that government bonds in Canada are a good investment. Jerry Andrs also thought we should talk with Bill Rotar regarding the feasibility of transferring funds from Smith Barney to Franklin Templeton.

The Budget Finance

Committee has the power to act regarding moving investments to a safer place. It would be good to have regular reports on our investments sent to Secretary George Sommer on a quarterly basis.

George Gregor asked about destroying old reports and records that he has.

Joe Novak, chairman of the Nominating Committee, asked that the name of Larry Rucker be added to the Auditing Committee. It had been omitted in error. He directed

members to the Committee Report on the list of the General Board Report.

Marija Sommer raised a question about the names of people listed on our General Board who do not attend. Should they be

continued as members of the Board? Ministers are automatically members of the Nominating Committee.

Joe Novak reported that most ballots had been returned for election of members of the General Board.

The President's Report was given by President Dvorak. After the mid-year meeting the Centennial Committee met and good planning took place. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance for our 100th meeting. Funding will be needed for this



George Gregor and Vera Dors



Joe Novak



Natasha Legierski-Laurinc



Philippi Baptist Church Choir

event, and he suggested that money from the Orville Forman Fund be used.

The Board was asked if they would be agreeable to using some of these funds for extra expenses such as travel for Czech and Slovak Republic representatives. Robert Struharik made a motion that we take up to \$30,000 from the Foreman Fund to use for this event. Motion seconded by Marija Sommer and passed. The Centennial Committee will meet July 11, 2008 at 12:00.

The President reported that George Sommer plans to retire after the 2009 convention as executive secretary. This will be discussed much more in the near future.

Also it was announced that there is only a limited time ahead for the Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Toronto.

Our convention is now much more Canadian than US. We have a lot of questions for the future. How much longer will we meet in West Virginia? There are about 90 people registered for the convention this year. There was much discussion about the future of the Convention. We must remember that there are changes ahead. We have to face that fact, and we must be ready.

George Sommer, executive secretary, reported that we have new web pages: <http://czskbc.org>, <http://czskbc100.info>, and <http://glorioushope.info>

Many improvements have been made to the chapel at the College. There is a new sound system, an 18-foot video screen, and a 9,000-lumen video projector.

The mid-year meeting will be held in Christ Community Church, Campbell, Ohio, on Saturday, October 25, 2008.



Convention Delegates

They will be having their Centennial celebration on October 26, 2008.

George said that guests for our Centennial celebration include Dr. Denton Lotz; Dr. Barry Moore; President and General Secretaries of the Czech and Slovak Republics—Vladislav Donat and Jan Titera; Tomas Kriska, Tomas Valchar, and Milos Solc. Our Convention would pay all their expenses—air transportation, room and board. Although spouses are invited, we would not pay their air transportation.

We now have new Convention and Centennial logos, and possibly we will have coffee mugs, pencils and other memorabilia available to celebrate our 100th meeting.

The proposal for the Slovak Union for next year will be dealt with at the mid-year meeting.

Members were encouraged to bring names of those deceased to the president so that they may be included in the memorial service to be held on Sunday morning.

Darko Siracki reported that the date for the 100th anniversary meeting of the convention will be July 9–12, 2009. Serious planning will begin for this meeting once our present convention is over.

The president asked that names of people or churches that have been active before be given to him or Darko so they can be contacted.



The first business session of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention was held Thursday, July 11, 2008. The president opened the meeting with the reading of Joshua 1: 1–9. We have the reassurance of God's faithfulness to us. As he was faithful to Moses, He is with us, and will not forsake us. All things change, some drastically, but God will not leave us or

forsake us. This message does not change. Robert Dvorak led in prayer.

The minutes of the meetings of 2007 were included in the delegates' package, and a motion was made to accept the minutes as printed.

The same was with the financial secretaries, Vera Dors and Henry Pojman.

George Gregor, treasurer for USA, and Oti Alac, treasurer for Canada, had their reports.

The Trust Fund, managed by George Gregor, was discussed, and the report of Bill Rotar was given by Robert Dvorak. It was announced that the General Board had taken action to

allow the Budget Committee, along with George Gregor and Bill Rotar, to take a look at the possibility of rearranging investments.

The last issue of *Glorious Hope* was four issues combined into one. Currently we are up to date and hope that now we will be on a bi-monthly schedule. Please continue to read and support the magazine.

Joe Novak, chair of the Nominating Committee, stated that ballots are posted in the lobby recommending officers and board members. A vote will be taken on Saturday.

Joe Novak, reporting for the Tract Ministry, stated that the ministry is still growing and he is still excited. Joe thanked members for their prayers and support and gave a very brief summary of his work.

The President's Report stated that George Sommer, executive secretary, plans to retire after the next convention. At the mid-year meeting this will be a major part of the agenda. Robert thanked George for his work.

Many changes are happening. We are losing members, and Robert requested names and dates of those to be used in the memorial service. Some churches are celebrating anniversaries, the Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Toronto is closing, and that will take place in the near future.

At the present we have much more participation by Canadians than the US. We need to think and pray about these changes, including where the meetings will take place.

Next year will be our centennial, and it should be a special one. Darko Siracki and Brian Dors are co-chairs of the Centennial Committee. We will have many special speakers and a very interesting program.

George Sommer, executive secretary, pointed out the additions to the chapel. The mid-year meeting will be October 25, 2008, in Campbell, Ohio. We will learn more about the 100th meeting through *Glorious Hope*.

When new business was called for, the question was asked what type of advertisement we have regarding the scholarship available. The scholarship is only available in the Czech or Slovak Republics. Older pastors there know of this possible scholarship. But we can use only the interest on our investment in the Michael Fund.

Greetings were extended from Fred and Anne Opocen-



Praise Team

sky, Doreen and John Gazo, members of the Alac family, the Czechoslovak Church in Toronto, Helen and Henry Pojman, Debbie and Niko Mulder, Ruby Mikulencak's father, Goodrich Community Church, which is celebrating their 95th anniversary, Robert and Martha Karhan, John and Margie Jeren, Christ Community Church in Campbell, Ohio, Elizabeth and Johnny Fields, Katherine and Ben Nelson, and David Legierski. We sent greetings to Helen and Henry Pojman and Andy and Alice Kmetko.

The Centennial Committee was reminded of their meeting at lunch time and the Budget Committee and ladies' meetings will be held at 1:00.



The second business session was held on Saturday, July 12, 2008. The meeting was opened by President Robert Dvorak. According to our by-laws each business session is to open with scripture. He read Psalm 139 followed by prayer.

At the first business session, Joe Novak made the presentation for the Nominating Committee, and the ballot has

been posted. There was no discussion. The members were encouraged to vote with enthusiasm. They did.

The Auditing Committee chair, Jerry Andrs, recognized members of his committee. He stated that the treasurers and financial secretaries worked all year doing a fantastic job and the committee was pleased to approve the books.

The budget of \$66,260 was presented. We were encouraged to be more intentional in giving. We are hopeful to be back on track with six issues per year of *Glorious Hope*. In the past we made an agreement that when our budget could not meet our commitment to Czech and Slovak Unions we would use the interest from our investments. This is a US\$15,000 per



A-B President Dr. Michael Clyburn Greeting Convention Delegates



VP Joza Novak at Communion Table

year commitment.

Bill Rotar's report on investments of the Boubelik and Michael Funds was distributed.

Next year's Convention will be expensive. Therefore General Board approved up to \$30,000 to be taken from the Forman Fund for these expenses if needed. At our 100th anniversary we will be looking toward the future.

Members were reminded of the Memorial Service and Lord's Supper to be held on Sunday morning.

Faith Anderson of Washington State, granddaughter of



Jodi Nesvadba at the Piano

Mrs. Hudacek, who was very active in the Convention, wrote asking for contacts from the New Covenant Church in the North Side of Chicago.

This was the business part of the annual convention. Now let's talk about the program itself.

Even though the number of delegates was smaller than in other years, we felt real blessing during our gathering.

On Thursday night, we were pleased to hear the choir of Philippi Baptist Church under the direction of Dr. Jud Bracey and accompanied by Marija Sommer. Both of them then worked with the convention choir for the reminder of the convention.

Darko Siracki and his wife Maja were leaders of the young people. Every morning they had Bible studies, and afternoon



President Bob Dvorak

sports and other activities. Saturday morning they went to Blackwater Falls for a picnic, sightseeing and Bible study. Friday evening as always was Youth Evening with a guest speaker, Rev. Ruston Seaman from a local church. Darko led the evening service with other young people participating. Brian Dors led Recognition of the Nations.

Also the new President of Alderson-Broadbudd College, Dr. Michael Clyburn, welcomed our annual convention. You can read his remarks elsewhere in this issue of *Glorious Hope*.

After two video presentations about Slovak Baptist Union work and a Grace Baptist Church mission trip to Czech Republic, and the famous *Old Fashioned Hymn Singing* with Bob Dvorak at the Piano," we cooled down with a lot of ice-cream and enjoyed a lot of obecenstvi. (And ice-cream was still melting.)

On Saturday morning, our ladies had their meeting with a very rich program with Ruby Mikulencak as the main speaker. More about her message can be found on the Ladies' Page.

Saturday night after evening service, our usual "Saturday Evening Concert" was held. We heard many young and also "older" talents. It is always a special time enjoyed by everyone.

On Sunday morning, following the communion and memorial service, Sunday school, and the service, the conven-



Young People at the Dinner

tion picture was taken. At the banquet we certainly enjoyed a typical Czechoslovak meal—pork roast, dumplings and sauerkraut. What more could we ask for?

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

Also duets piano-organ by Michele Moore and Dorothy Kvasnica were real blessings.

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

We should not forget the countless hours Maja Siracki and Petra Simackova put into registering, and taking care of all participants.

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

The committee planning the Centennial meeting of Convention in 2009 met and made good progress. The Centennial Annual Convention will be held on July 9–12, 2009. Guest speaker will be the former General Secretary of BWA, Dr. Denton Lotz, a very good friend of Czech and Slovak Baptists, and Dr. Barry Moore, a very well known evangelist in North America and also in Europe.

If you have some suggestions or ideas, please share them with us ASAP. Also if you have any pictures which we could use, send them to:

Czechoslovak Baptist Convention
Rt. 4, Box 58D, Philippi, WV 26416.

We want the Centennial Celebration to be a memorable one for everyone. Start planning now to attend. We hope that ladies will be available and willing to bake some GOOD Czech and Slovak kolacky and cukrovi (cookies) and bring them to the convention. They could be made ahead of time, frozen and brought in coolers. The College cafeteria has big refrigerators to keep them fresh for days.

Above all, we need your prayers. There is a lot of work to be done and a few workers that are getting older with each passing day. If you can help and are willing—welcome aboard.

God willing, see you next year, July 9–12, 2009, in Philippi.

For those who were not able to attend the Annual Convention, here is the program. Also pictures can be seen on the convention web page: <http://czskcb.org>

Program for 99th Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention **Thursday, July 10, 2008**

12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. General Board Meeting -Crim
Publishing Committee Meeting
5:00 p.m. Dinner
5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, *Dr. Jud Bracey*
7:00 p.m. Opening Service
Worship Leader *Robert Dvorak*
Song Leader *Rev. Dan Widlicka*
Special Music, Philippi Baptist Church Choir,
Dr. Jud Bracey, conducting, Marija Sommer
accompanist
Sermon: "The Beginning of Wisdom"
Job 28:20, 23-28, *Rev. Stan Mantle*

Friday, July 11, 2008

9:00 a.m. Prayer Time *Jan Cizmanski*
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
English: *Ruby Mikulencak*
Slovak: *Jan Franka*
10:15 a.m. Hymn Singing *Rev. Dan Widlicka*
10:20 a.m. Missionary Report
10:45 a.m. First Business Session
12:15 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Budget Committee Meeting- Crim
Ladies' Meeting- Cafeteria
1:15 p.m. Activity Recess
(Swimming, Tennis, Golf, Racquetball, Soccer)
5:00 p.m. Dinner
5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, *Dr. Jud Bracey*
7:00 p.m. Youth and Ethnic Night
Recognition of Nations *Brian Dors*
Song leader *Tim Racinsky*
Worship Leader *Darko Siracki*
Convention Welcome: *Dr. Dennis Stall, Provost, introducing Dr. Michael Clyburn, the New President of A-B College*
Combined Choir
Sermon: "Firmly Founded" Matt. 7:24–25,
Rev. Ruston Seaman
Old Fashioned Hymn Singing with Robert
Dvorak at the piano
Ice-cream Social

Saturday, July 12, 2008

9:00 a.m. Prayer Time *Jan Vlcek*
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:15 a.m. Hymn Singing, *Rev. Dan Widlicka*
10:20 a.m. Convention Reports
10:50 a.m. Ladies' Missionary Rally: *Esther Tarr- president;*
Speaker- Ruby Mikulencak



Part 1

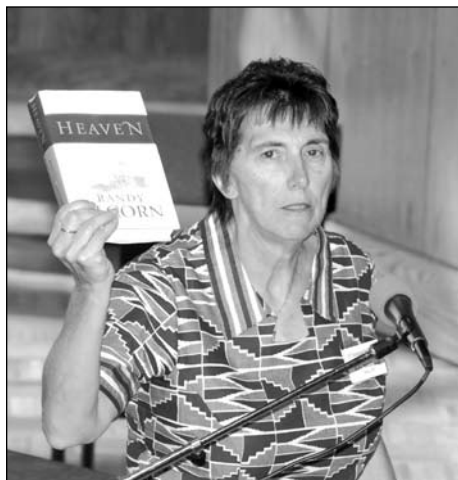
Over the past four to five years, because of my parents aging, I have done quite a bit of reflection on heaven. My mom always said she was ready to go, but Dad was a bit more reluctant. Why many Christians are afraid to die really intrigued me—my dad is not the only one who has this fear.

When I returned to Ghana in 2005, I continued to think on these things. The readings and Bible study I was doing encouraged me in my thinking about being with Jesus forever, living in heaven and the struggle of waiting to get to heaven. As I read, the Spirit ministered to my spirit with comfort and encouragement that I would share in letters to my parents. Since my mom's death in March, my thoughts have centered even more on this topic of heaven. Often my mind would go to what she might be experiencing and what she knows if anything of our life now on earth.

When we went to Mom's graveside two weeks after she passed away, my sister Ruth introduced me to Randy Alcorn's book *Heaven*, and shared some thoughts from it. I was encouraged by what he said and thought it might be interesting to study it more. A few days later George called me and asked if I would be willing to take the three English Bible studies at the Convention. I thought, "Wow, what am I going to talk about, what should I talk about?" and thought, here was a good chance to study and to do a Bible study series on heaven. So this is why we are on the topic of heaven in the

Bible Study on Heaven

Ruby Mikulencak



three studies we will have together.

Alcorn's book is one of the main books I am using for this study, but it is not the only one. I do, however, highly recommend it to you all. I also have studied commentaries and other books by Christian authors like John Eldridge, Dallas Willard and Charles Spurgeon. Lastly I have used David Jeremiah's sermons on heaven to help me better understand this topic of heaven so I could present it to you.

I want to say from the outset that I am not an expert on this topic of heaven. You may not agree with all that I say, but that is all right. I will try to remain true to scripture but also to use a bit of imagination to try and give a better understanding of what heaven is and will be like. Believe it or not, there are many verses on heaven, but unfortunately it appears that we often avoid the subject or are really very ignorant of what scripture tells us about our future home. Heaven, you know, is our future home

How many of you have immigrated to Canada or the US?

Let's say you are now going to

move to New Zealand. Today with internet access and other ways of getting information, would you not try to find out what your new place of residence would be like? If you are like most people, you would try to get as much information as you could.

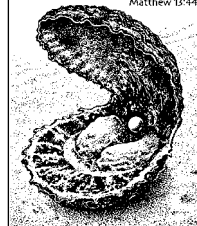
When we have new people coming to Ghana for the first time, they ask all sorts of questions about Ghana and what it is like. What's the weather like? What kind of clothes should I bring? What food is available? What kind of house will we be living in? On and on the questions come, about their future home in Ghana. They want to know as much as possible about their new home before they even arrive. Heaven is our future residence. Should we not make the same inquiries about heaven as we do about a new earthly home?

We are going to look at various reasons that we may not be so interested in our new home in heaven. I know for myself that, until I started to write to Mom and Dad, I too had not been inquisitive enough to learn more about heaven. I trust that as we go through these next few days, your heart will be stirred and challenged to do further study on your own about this important topic. There is no way we can cover it all in our time together, so it is my prayer that when you return home you will continue to do more study on your own. The purchase of Alcorn's book is a good place to start.

Why is it we think so little of heaven or have such hazy notions about heaven?

Perhaps the biggest reason we don't study heaven is because of our own cultural values, based on a world view that often influences our inter-

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden.
Matthew 13:44



pretation of scripture. Being a missionary for over 30 years has made me very sensitive to how much culture influences our thinking on scriptural passages. As a missionary you must learn and study the culture and language in order to understand what people believe so that you can present to them the truths of scripture in a way that will touch their hearts.

Studying different cultural patterns of thinking has helped me to understand my own thinking and belief system and the way it has influenced how I read and interpret scripture. Our physical surroundings and our belief system based on our world view affect how we read the Bible. Our world view also shapes our understanding of scripture and how we interpret it.

A world view is a person's fundamental "world outlook," or life perspective. It refers to their perceptions of deity, humanity and the rest of the universe. Understanding one's personal world view is important, because it is the main source of our moral code, ethics and many other beliefs. Understanding their own world view helps people make sense of their world and the choices they make for living their lives.

A simple illustration of this is the difference between what North Americans and Africans believe concerning the physical, material aspects of our world. Because of our scientific, rational thinking, we have to be able to see things and prove that they are real. Many Africans, on the other hand, are very much aware of the unseen spiritual aspect of their world. They do not have to see or prove that there are spirits all around. They believe that we are spiritual beings despite the fact that we cannot prove that we have a spirit or that God or other spirits are there. This physical versus spiritual view of the world will definitely affect how you interpret scripture. I would like

to share a personal example that shows the difference between two cultures in viewing the seen, material, physical world and the unseen, immaterial, spiritual world.

When I first went to Ghana, I took a young boy with classical signs of tetanus to the hospital. Unfortunately the boy died. Following the custom of the culture I went to meet with the family, to sympathize with them over the loss of their son. I also was hoping for a chance to do some teaching on how to prevent tetanus, the disease that had killed the boy.

When I finished the customary greetings, I asked the grandfather if he knew why the boy had died. He



replied, "Yes, his great-great grandfather killed him because we have not performed his final funeral rites." I was stunned. We both had reasons for the boy's death. One was physical and the other was spiritual, and it all depended on our cultural perspective and issues about life.

It's hard enough to figure out if a passage is literal or figurative, much less have our world view confuse us in our interpretation of scripture. For example SIM entered southern Ethiopia just before World War II started, but had

to leave suddenly when the Italians invaded the country. They left behind a very young and untaught group of believers. These new believers had read, "Beware of dogs..." in Philippians 3:2. They took it to mean literal dogs, and wondered why the newly returned missionaries would own dogs.

In Ghana, a young person would ask, "Is it right to catch the chicken that my father has told me to catch, when I know he will sacrifice it? Is this a sin?" I never had to deal with that issue as a North American Christian. So you see our context and environment affects the way we think about scripture. I share this to show you how much our culture, environment and world view actually do affect our understanding of scripture.

Our North American world view is heavily influenced by an enlightenment approach, scientific and rational, to understanding our world. We can find the root of this view in Greek philosophers like Plato, whose teaching gave rise to false assumptions about physical matter, particularly the body, as being bad, and only the spirit being good. Philo and Origen, early church fathers within the 1st century A.D., were influenced by Plato's thinking that all physical matter is evil.

These men in turn influenced the church as to how it viewed heaven. In order to deal with the fact that the body was evil and therefore could not enter heaven, they used an allegorical approach to interpreting scripture. They felt that resurrected bodies living in a resurrected city on a new earth could not be taken literally because those things were evil. Another assumption that has influenced us is that spiritual people should shun pleasures like eating and drinking, since these issues are earthy and thus evil. How could they be in heaven? So many of the references of heaven that speak of these things were made into allegories or used as figurative language.

 Continues on page 15

Convention Interviews



Postřehy z konvence

V průběhu konvence jsme se zeptali některých účastníků na dojmy z letošního setkání. A jaká je jejich odpověď?

Convention impressions

During the Convention we asked some participants what impression the Convention has on them. Their response?



Tim Racinsky

So far this Convention was intimate and challenging as well, and had a great spirit of fellowship.

Doposud probíhala konvence v užším kruhu. Je podnětná v duchu úžasného obecenství.



Milan Lev

Dobré ráno. Smutné je, že nás je čím dál méně. Nevíme, co máme dělat. Co se týče programu, prožíváme požehnané chvíle. Máme také starosti, kdo vymění Jiřího Sommera. To je další problém.

Good morning. It is sad to see that less and less people come each year. We don't know what to do. With regards to the program here, we experience very blessed times. Another concern is finding a replacement for George Sommer when the time comes. That is another problem.



Ruby Mikulencak

It's really a privilege to be involved with this Convention. I entered a little late because of my work overseas, but I'm thrilled to see good people who still love the Lord and want to serve Him. I'm saddened by the lack of numbers this time but

I think we really need to reach out more to the youth. I know that they are working on it but they need to do it more. I'm very thankful to the Lord for the heritage I have, the Czech background and what it means to me and for my Mom and Dad and my uncle Henry Boubelik.

Mít s konvencí v kontakt, je pro mne opravdu výsadou. Vzhledem k mé práci za oceánem, připojila jsem se trochu později. Těším se, když vidím dost lidí, kteří stále milují Pána a chtějí Mu sloužit. Jsem smutná, že tentokrát je počet nižší. Myslím si, že opravdu potřebujeme více oslovit mládež. Vím, že se na tom pracuje, ale musí se ještě víc. Jsem Pánu vděčná

za dědictví, které mám, za české pozadí, a co to pro mne znamená, jakož i znamenalo pro maminku, tatínka a strýce Henryho Boubelíka.



Bob Struharik

It's just nice to get away and come down, like we always say, "on the top of the mountain." And to fellowship with one another down here.... A lot of old friends to meet, a lot of new ones...and to think about the ones who were here years before that passed away...just that...wonderful

feeling to come down to fellowship and eat over in the cafeteria...when we were younger to go to the pool with the young kids and stuff....

Je to prostě krásné sebrat se a přijet sem, jak říkáme „na vrch hory“, a všichni se setkat zde, v tomto obecenství. Setkat se s mnohými starými přáteli, seznámit se s novými a vzpomenout si na ty, kteří sem léta jezdily, ale už nejsou mezi námi. Je to nádherný pocit připojit se k obecenství, stravovat se v jídelně... Když jsme byli mladší, chodívali jsme se také koupat spolu s dětmi a tak...



Jud Bracey

I have enjoyed working with this convention for many years now. I think the greatest impact that it has on me is the witness of all these wonderful people... I made friends that I really love to see every year... I could just come in here as a professional and leave all my concerns at the door...

come in and wave my arms and just treat it as any other professional gig. But you folks don't let me do that. You just put your arms around me and you have witnessed to me and I look forward to this every year. It does grieve me to see it shrink every year. But I understand why that happens. Because we know that the younger generation is being assimilated into American and Canadian culture. They lose a little bit of their identity perhaps, but I hope this Convention has a place for centuries. The Lord's house has many, many rooms, and this is

one of the special ones I got to enter because of the friendship of the people. I love to make music with you, we love to laugh, we love to eat, and it really warms my heart to be here.

Po mnoho let jsem s potěšením mohl pracovat v této konvenci. Myslím, že na mne nejvíce vždy působí samo setkání se všemi těmito nádhernými lidmi. Mám tu přátele, se kterými se velmi rád každý rok setkávám. Mohl bych sem prostě jen přijít jako profesionál, všechny své starosti nechat přede dveřmi a odvést práci dirigenta jako při každém profesionálním vystoupení. Vy mi to však jednoduše nedovolíte. Objímáte mne, jste mi svědectvím, a na to se těším každý rok. Co mne rmoutí je, že je tady stále méně lidí. Každým rokem. Rozumím však tomu. Chápeme, že mladší generace se asimuluje s americkou a kanadskou kulturou. Ztrácí snad trošičku ze své identity, věřím však, že tato konvence vydrží staletí. Dům Páně má mnoho, přemnoho pokojů, a tento je jedním z těch speciálních, do kterého mohu vstoupit díky přátelství s lidmi zde. Moc mne těší s vámi dělat muziku, rádi se zasmějeme, rádi si pochutnáme na něčem dobrém, a mne skutečně hřeje u srdce, že mohu zde být.



Marija Sommer

Při každé konvenci mám pocit, že je lepší, než ta předchozí. Myslím, že vždy načerpáme nové podněty a poučíme se. Při přípravě konvence se nám zdá, že všechno nezvládneme. Ale Pán nám dává takovou sílu, že se to všechno zvládne.

Vždy ta nová je krásná a nevyrovná se těm předchozím. A to nás opět motivuje, že se zase těšíme na tu budoucí. To, že můžeme být spolu, nám způsobuje radost a posiluje nás. Můžeme se vzájemně potěšit a sdílet o to, co se přihodilo v našich životech v průběhu uplynulého roku. Jsou to radostné nebo také smutné zkušenosti. Například při ztrátě někoho blízkého. Tak jako nám odešla tetička Lenka. To byla taková smutná událost mezi předchozí a touto konvencí. Ale co se týče této konvence, krásné je to, že můžeme pokrčovat a plánovat již další. Můžeme se již nyní radovat. Osobně ve mně každá konvence vzbuzuje takový pocit očekávání—co má Pán pro nás připravené na tu příští? To nevíme. Je to opravdu zvláštní pocit. Těším se na každou konvenci. Tato je také nádherná, sice menší co do počtu, ale to naprosto neubírá na kráse. Můžeme spolu oslavovat našeho milovaného Pána a děkovat Mu za všechno, co jsme dostali a co dostáváme každý den.

I feel, that each year I attend this Convention is better than the preceding one. I think we always absorb new stimulating ideas and learn something. While preparing for the Convention, it seemed as though we wouldn't be able to get everything done

in time. But the Lord gave us such strength, that everything did get done. The present convention is beautiful and cannot be compared to preceding years. And that is what motivates us time and time again; that we look forward to the next one. The fact that we can be together gives us joy and strengthens us. We can comfort and encourage one another, and share the new things that have happened during the course of the past year. Those are joyful and sometimes sad experiences. One example is the loss of a loved one. Our dear Lenka left us. That was one such sad occurrence between last convention and this. But as far as this convention is concerned, it is fantastic that we may continue and plan another one. We can rejoice. Personally, each convention produces such a feeling of expectation—what has the Lord prepared for us for the next one? We do not know. It is a truly peculiar feeling. I look forward to each convention. This convention has been great, admittedly lower in number, but that does not take away from its beauty. Together we can praise our beloved Lord and thank him for everything he has given to us and for all he gives us every day.



Amber Mc Ewen

I have been coming for five years with my grandparents. I really enjoy it. I get to see all the Czechs and Slovaks, their talking and singing. I like playing with the children...it is a lot of fun.

Jezdím sem se svou babičkou a dědečkem každým rokem. Toto je již pátý rok a opravdu se mi tu líbí. Mohu se tu setkat se všemi Čechy i Slovaky, naslouchat jejich debatám a zpěvu. Ráda si hraji s dětmi...velmi mne to baví.



Petra Šimáčková

Jsem na této konferenci poprvé, přijela jsem jako dobrovolník pomáhat s registrací. Mohu říci, že jsem očekávala, že to bude skvělé, protože jsem o tom slyšela už v Čechách. Vlastně až tady jsem zjistila, že tu je velmi málo mládežníků, asi jenom patnáct. Přesto se mi konvence velmi líbí. Ze strany starší generace cítím, že nejsou *zkostnatělí*. Mne, jako mladého člověka, ta jejich víra obohacuje a mohu od nich čerpat během osobních rozhovorů. Inspiruje mne jak chválí Boha zpěvem, jak se k sobě navzájem chovají. I když účastníci patří do starší věkové kategorie, utvrzuje mne to v tom, že jsme rodina. Můžeme mít společenství bez ohledu na věk, nejen mladý s mladými nebo starší se staršími. Opravdu jsem si uvědomila, že nezáleží na tom, kolik nám je a odkud jsme a jakou řečí mluvíme, ale na tom, že vyznáváme a chválíme jednoho Boha.

A pokud člověk neumí tak dobře řeč, tu angličtinu, tak je o to víc vnímavější, jak se k němu lidé zde chovají. Ke mně se chovali opravdu hezky, všimali si mne a povídali si se mnou. Byli trpěliví vzhledem k mé angličtině. Cítím se být velice povzbuzená a dá-li Pán, již se moc těším na příští rok—stoleté výročí konvence.

This is my first time attending this convention, and I came as a volunteer to help with the registration. I can say that I expected it to be great, because I had already heard about it in the Czech Republic. It wasn't until I got here that I found out that there are not very many young people; maybe only about 15. I really enjoyed this convention in spite of that. Concerning the older generation, I feel that they are not traditionally old-fashioned. As a young person, their faith enriches me and I drew a lot from them during the personal conversations we had. Both the way they praise God through song and treat one another inspires me. Even though most participants belong in the higher age category, this all serves to convince more firmly that we are family. We can fellowship with one another without regards to our age – not only the young with young, and the elderly with elderly. I truly realized that it doesn't depend on how many of us there are, where we're from, or what language we speak, but on the fact that we are all praising one God. And when a person does not know how to speak the language very well (that is, English), the way people treat that person becomes all the more noticeable. People here have been truly kind to me, noticing me and conversing with me. They were also patient where my English was concerned. I feel very encouraged, and am really excited for next year, God willing—the 100th Convention.



Donna Nesvadba

I love coming here to see all my old friends and meet new ones from the Czech Republic, from the United States and Canada and have fellowship together with them.

Jezdívám sem ráda, abych se zde mohla setkat se starými přáteli a seznámit se s novými z České republiky, z USA, Kanady a sdílet se s nimi obecenství.



David Dudok

The convention is always a great time to come and spend with friends, family and people you haven't seen in many years. It has been a couple of years since I have been back in the beautiful settings here in Philippi, the mountains and the fresh air.

It is really amazing, a great place to experience fellowship with everyone else, so I really appreciate just the time we all get to spend reflecting on the environment, reflecting on the oneness, reflecting on the time with one another and it is just wonderful to see that always people want to experience what the Lord has prepared for us here.

Konvence pro mne vždy znamená krásné chvíle s přáteli, s rodinou a lidmi, které jsem mnoho let neviděl. Naposledy jsem tady byl před dvěma lety—uprostřed nádherné scenérie Philippi, v kopcích a na svěžím vzduchu. Je to skutečně okouzující, krásné místo k obecenství se všemi lidmi tady. Skutečně si nesmírně cením čas, který společně můžeme strávit ve vzájemné shodě. Je prostě krásné vidět, že lidé chtějí spolu okoušet to, co Pán pro nás tady připravil.



Esther Tarr

I just want to say that as a family we have been coming for a number of years. Each year we have tried to bring one of our grandchildren, if not more than one, and encourage the other young folks to come as often as they can. We always look forward

to it and plan far ahead to come and to find good fellowship with everyone and to study God's word and be with the family once again. So it's just a blessed time.

Chtěla bych jen říct, že má rodina sem jezdí již mnoho let. Každý rok se snažíme přivést s sebou alespoň jednoho z našich vnuků a povzbudit jiné mladé lidi, aby sem jezdili tak často, jak jen můžou. Vždycky se na to těšíme a plánujeme to dlouho dopředu. Chceme zde najít hezké obecenství se všemi, studovat Boží slovo a být zase s rodinou. Jsou to požehnané chvíle.



Ján Aláč

Cítím se velmi dobre na tejto konvencii, ako napokon každej, pretože stretávam starých známych bratov a sestry. Je to pre mňa vždy požehnaním a bolo by dobre a tešilo by nás všetkých, keby na túto konvenciu prišlo viac ľudí. Dúfam, že na budúci rok sa tu stretnem so všetkými

starými známymi.

I am enjoying myself at this Convention, as I ultimately do every one, because I am once again with brothers and sisters I have known for a long time. This is always a blessing for me. It would be good and a delight for everyone here, if more people came. I hope that we will get together with all of our old friends next year.



Joe Novak

My impression of this year: Convention is very good. I was wonderfully surprised because we didn't think we would have good attendance but we were surprised by so many young people that came. The music and everything...the preaching and the teaching was excellent. So there is

hope. We pray for the future and we believe that God will undertake that we'll be continuing on for many more years.

Mám velmi dobrý dojem z letošní konvence. Byl jsem nádherně překvapen, protože jsme nečekali velkou účast, překvapilo nás však, že přišlo tolik mladých lidí. Hudba, kázání a vyučování—a vůbec všechno bylo skvělé. V naději se modlíme za budoucnost a věříme, že Bůh dá, abychom mohli takto pokračovat ještě mnoho let.



Robert Dvorak

It's always good to be here in the place where we meet once again people we know and love, and work in common with, regarding the mission of the convention. It has been a very good convention in terms of spirit and cooperation and we are look-

ing forward very much to next year and centennial, hopeful that lots and lots of people will be joining us once again for that occasion.

Vždy je hezké být tady, na tomto místě, kde se znovu setkáváme s lidmi, které známe a milujeme, a se kterými pracujeme na společném poslání této konvence. Z hlediska duchovního i z hlediska vzájemné spolupráce to byla velmi dobrá konvence a všichni se moc těšíme na tu další - stou. Věřím, že se při této příležitosti k nám opět připojí mnoho, mnoho lidí.

Spiritual Wisdom... Continues from page 9

12:30 p.m. Lunch
 1:15 p.m. Activity Recess
 5:00 p.m. Dinner
 5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal *Dr. Jud Bracey*
 7:00 p.m. **Evening Service**
 Worship Leader *Milko Lamos*
 Song Leader *Tim Racinsky*
 Combined Choir
Sermon: "What You Will Say to the World"
Lk. 21:12b-15 Rev. Joza Novak
Saturday Night Concert
Robert Dvorak & Marija Sommer

Sunday, July 13, 2008

8:30 a.m. Communion, Memorial Service, Prayer Time
 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (Sunday School)
 10:45 a.m. **Morning Worship Service**
 Worship Leader *Joe Novak*
 Song Leader *Jud Bracey*
 Combined Choir
Sermon: "Setting a Straight Course"
Isaiah 30:21;48:17 Rev. Robert Dvorak
 Convention Picture and Banquet

May our Lord be with you and take care of all of your needs.

In His service *George Sommer and Gloria Andrs*



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Bible Study... Continues from page 11

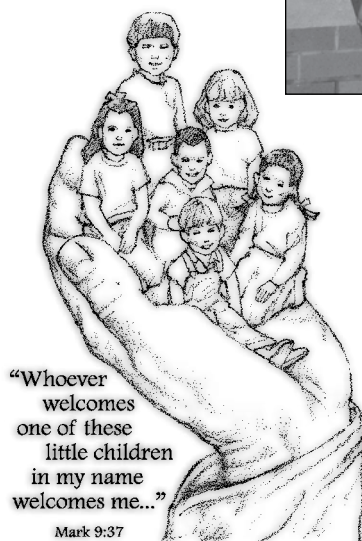
Other people that influenced Christian thinking about heaven were the 12th and 13th century theologians like Thomas Aquinas. These theologians took more of a philosophical approach to interpreting scripture. They viewed heaven from a more scientific approach, making it impersonal and cold. They felt there would not be active life in heaven and all we would do was sit around and think about and worship God. This unfortunately replaced the older, more literal understanding of heaven as a garden and a beautiful city. We will get into all of this later, but I am spending some time on this because we often don't

think about heaven. We have been conditioned not to think about it because of some of these cultural values handed down to us through the centuries.

Why am I saying all this? I want to get you thinking about why it may be difficult for you to comprehend heaven as a literal place. Or to think of the saints who have died as being aware of what is happening on earth. Let's go on to other, less complicated reasons why we may struggle to have a good, biblical view of heaven.



Jesus said:
 "Let the little children
 come to me,
 and do not hinder them,
 for the kingdom of God
 belongs to such as these.
 I tell you the truth, anyone
 who will not receive the
 kingdom
 of God like a little child will
 never enter it."
 (Mark 10; 10-14 NIV)



Ježíš řekl:

„Nechte děti
 přicházet ke mně a
 nebraňte jim,
 protože takovým
 patří Boží království.
 Amen, říkám vám,
 že kdokoli nepřijme
 Boží Království jako
 dítě, nikdy do něho
 nevejde.“
 (Marek 10;14-15
 NBK)



Donations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

USA:

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

Canada:

Henry Pojman
 1270 Monks Passage
 Oakville, ON L6M 1R4



Comments from the Youth

What would I say about the 99th Convention?

An amazing time with friends and the church family.

- I haven't been here for a while, but I really enjoyed it, from the people, to the soccer game, and to the songs. Thank you for making the weekend enjoyable.

- It was my first time to the convention and I had a blast. AB is a beautiful place. Can't wait till next year.

- Keep working with the youth because when that day comes, we will be the leaders.

- I had a good time.

- Good time spent with youth. Bonding with everyone.

- It was awesome getting to spend time with all the youth. The trip to the falls was phenomenal, and I look forward to seeing all next year.

- It was my first time at convention and I truly enjoyed. It was great to meet people,



listen to the messages and spend time with youth on the trip to the Backwater Falls. I was impressed with the sound of organs and piano which created solemn and dignified atmosphere of the convention.

□



It was a wonderful time of convention gathering this past July 10–13 at Alderson-Broadbush College in West Virginia. High spirits, good attendance, challenging messages, and an excellent warm-up for 2009 when we go back to Philippi, West Virginia, for our centennial convention. Are we ever looking forward to that gathering next year, July 9–12. We will have special guests coming from Baptist Unions in both the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Outstanding speakers from the World Baptist Alliance and an internationally known evangelistic association in Canada have agreed to speak in our services. There will be plenty of time for remembering and rejoicing, and for recommitting ourselves to the heritage and calling we have loved through a century of following Christ in the convention. Now is the time to get the dates on your 2009 calendar. Would you think about doing that? We already know of a number of folk who will be coming to experience with families and friends their roots connection. It will be, if not the mother of all reunions, at least a second or third cousin.

Let me comment for a moment on a new and younger generation of leadership emerging within our ranks. That is so encouraging as we look beyond centennial celebrations and anticipate emergence into a second century of convention ministry. You'll want to meet some of these leaders for the future next July and catch their enthusiasm and vision for what lies ahead. God has been good to us, raising up persons of skill and energy for our mission, who understand well the record of the past ten decades.

At this most recent convention we heard from George Sommer his plan to retire from the office of executive secretary after the 2009 convention. George has been such a great friend to us all and a devoted leader among us, giving always 1000 percent of body and soul for our work. But the time has apparently now come for him to get some change from the nearly nonstop work



he has carried on for years. We know we'll not be able to clone George, but we are trusting God to send us the right people to take on George's portfolio. And the best news is that the Sommers (including Marija who has been our chief musician and a real life of the party) are not in any way separating away from the convention. We'll still have their presence and participation at our conventions.

On another note, the last Sunday in August I had the privilege of a trip to Goodrich, Wisconsin, and its Community Church, which has supported the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention ever since its founding early in the twentieth century. Set in beautiful, rural northern Wisconsin, the church is characterized by deep attachment to the gospel of Jesus, to the discipling of its members, and to a vigorous support for world mission outreach. (Goodrich Community Church is the home congregation of Ruby Mikulencak, missionary to Ghana, Africa.) Rev. and Mrs. David Elleman lead the congregation through loving pastoral care. Thanks, Goodrich Community Church, for all you have meant to the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, and for the interest and support you continue to express in so many ways.

Next issue I will be able to tell you about the 100th anniversary of Christ Community Church, Campbell, Ohio. Observances will take place October 25–26, 2008 (including the midyear meeting of our General Board). Formerly known as First Baptist Church of Campbell, Christ Community has long been a convention anchor.

To you and yours, a safe and rewarding fall season. God bless all that you do. Greetings from all your convention friends.

Robert Dvorak

Robert Dvorak

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Editorial... Pokračování ze strany 2

dlouhých devadesátdevět let od jejího založení, svědčí o mnohém. Co všechno je zahrnuto do tohoto pojmu, nelze vyjádřit několika větami. Zakladatelům konvence se jistě podařilo to, co zamýšleli: spojit v jeden celek české a slovenské emigranty, vyznávající víru v jediného Boha Stvořitele a Spasitele, Ježíše Krista. Mysleli tím také na budoucí generace. Záměr se opravdu podařil. Dnes společenství konvence zahrnuje desítky jedinců nejen slovenského a českého původu, ale i z mnoha dalších národů. Historie konvence svědčí o misijním zaměření. Víme, že minulost podmiňuje budoucnost a mostem (mezi nimi) je přítomnost.

Během roku budeme mít více příležitostí se seznámit s historií konvence. V přítomnosti se snadno orientujeme na základě vlastních poznatků. Na formování budoucnosti se bude podílet každý, kdo

vnímá misijní poslání a účel konvence.

Torontská věž se vypíná na břehu Ontarijského jezera již přes třicet let. Má svou minulost, přítomnost i budoucnost. Své poslání plní. Pravděpodobně jinou formou dnes než na počátku. Postupem času se její využití bude jistě měnit. Podle potřeb společnosti.

Rovněž Československá konvence baptistů USA a Kanady přetrvala dlouhá léta. Stále plní své poslání. Její budoucnost je také ovlivňována potřebami společnosti. Společnosti 21. století.

„Proto, moji milovaní bratři, buďte pevní a nepohnutelní, stále se rozhovíjíte v Pánově díle a vězte, že vaše práce není v Pánu marná.“ (1. Kor. 15: 58 NBK)

Šéfredaktorka Nataša Legierská-Laurinc

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Dates to Remember

- Centennial Annual Convention will be held on July 9–12, 2009. Guest speakers will be former General Secretary of Baptist World Alliance, Dr. Denton Lotz, and evangelist Dr. Barry Moore from Chatham, Ontario.
- Midyear meeting of General Board will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in Christ Community

Church, Campbell, Ohio.

- More information will be published in next issue of Glorious Hope
- Check the convention web page for pictures from 2008 Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada:

<http://czskbc.org>

George Sommer

Centennial Celebration

The Centennial Celebration of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada will be held July 9–12, 2009, in Philippi, W. Va. In order to prepare a good program about the life of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada from 1909 to 2009, we are asking our readers to send pictures and other convention material to the convention address below, with a caption or description of each photo (who, where, and when). All photos and other material will be returned to you.

Czechoslovak Baptist Convention

Rt. 4, Box 58D

Philippi, WV 26416-9717

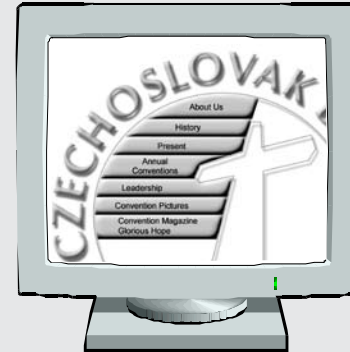
You may also send it to: george.sommer@ab.edu in MS Word or WordPerfect format, pictures in JPEG or TIFF format.

Thank you

George Sommer, Executive Secretary

Check our NEW Convention Web pages:

**<http://CZSKBC.ORG>
<http://GLORIOUSHOPE.INFO>
<http://CZSKBC100.INFO>**



Ladies' Page... Continues from page 20

is to find ten youth who will commit to the one-year program.

Ruby reminded us that God relies on human partners to spread His Word. Ruby brought alive to us her love of working in Ghana to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Marija thanked Ruby for sharing her message with us and presented a picture of Wilcox Chapel at Alderson-Broadbudd College.

The final hymn selection was *To God Be the Glory* and Margaret Springle closed the rally in prayer.

Margaret Springle

Editorial... Continues from page 2

one thing to another, one law to another, or concern ourselves with the meaning of particular organizations.

With the upcoming centennial anniversary of our convention, many are contemplating its purpose and mission. The fact that ninety-nine long years have passed by since the convention's founding year, says *a lot*. It is impossible to express everything this idea contains in just a few words. The founders of this convention certainly succeeded in accomplishing their intended goal: to join Czech and Slovak emigrants of the same faith in one God the Creator, and Saviour Jesus Christ. They also intended this for future generations. Their intention truly became a reality. Today, the convention community includes not only dozens of individuals with Czech and Slovak heritage, but also people from many different backgrounds. Historically, the convention has been mission-focused. We know that the past determines the future and that the bridge joining the two is the present.

During the course of this year, we will have more opportunities to familiarize ourselves with this convention's history. It

is simple to orient ourselves in the present, with the pieces of knowledge we possess. Every person aware of the convention's missionary calling and purpose will have a part to play in the development of its future.

For over thirty years, the CN Tower has overlooked Lake Ontario's shore. It has its own past, present, and future. It is fulfilling its purpose, which is most likely a little different from when it was first built. As more time passes, its uses will also surely change, all according to society's needs.

Similarly, the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada has lasted many long years. It continues to serve its purpose. Its future is likewise influenced by the current society's needs: the society of the 21st century.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58)

Editor-in-Chief *Natasha Legierski-Laurinc*

85th Annual Meeting of the Czechoslovak Baptist Women's Missionary Union

Saturday, July 7, 2008



Esther Tarr

As part of the 99th Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, President Esther Tarr warmly welcomed those present at the 85th Annual Meeting of the Czechoslovak Baptist Women's Missionary Union. She then introduced the opening hymn, *There Shall be Showers of Blessing* and offered a prayer of thanks. Marija Sommer on piano and Dotty Kvasnica on organ

thanked the people of Convention in general for our support and as we participate in "partnering with God." Ruby incorporated an historical perspective of mission work in Ghana and described how it is changing very quickly as financial support for mission work is decreased and there are fewer North American missionaries. The churches that are sending missionaries want a more hands-on experience and are bypassing the Mission Board. This creates problems, as the short-term missionaries are not usually familiar with local cultural norms.

Thus there is now in progress a review of the role of the ministries in Ghana. Is there a role for the Mission Board? Absolutely, but the way things are done must change. Islam is on the move in Africa. Ruby stated that Christianity is "a mile wide, but only an inch deep." The Muslims have access to money and can offer free education and other necessities, and more and more people are turning to Islam.

The Mission Board is developing two new programs:

The book *"The Way of Righteousness"* will be presented in 15-minute radio broadcasts—it explains the gospel of Christ using the book of Islam, starting with Genesis and chronologically telling the story of God's plan for salvation through Jesus Christ. It is being translated into four local languages.

The second program is the *Short Term Missions Program*. As people are now more interested in the short term, this program will encourage people to check out mission work. Youth from North America are encouraged to make a one-year commitment to come and learn and then "hang out" with the youth of the community as part of their witnessing. The present goal

Continues on page 19

played for the service as well as a beautiful duet selection for the offertory. The scripture reading was taken from Psalm 18:30-36, Oti Alac reading in Slovak and Jane Widlicka in English.

The next congregational hymn was *He Hideth My Soul*. The business portion of the meeting included approval of the 2007 meeting minutes as printed in the bulletin as well as the Treasurers' Reports by Donna Nesvadba and Marija Sommer, also as printed in the bulletin. Esther informed us of the missions trip that her granddaughter Courtney Tarr participated in. This was especially poignant as Esther's father, Courtney's great-grandfather, Joseph Zajicek, came from Czechoslovakia to pastor in Canada.

Joe Novak reported on the activities of his tract mission work.

Natasha Laurinc (Legierski) requested that the women present submit articles for the *Glorious Hope* publication as we can all share our individual faith journeys to encourage one another.

Donna Nesvadba offered a prayer before the offering.

The special music was two songs sung by the Toronto Ladies. *Vzývám a ctím tvoje méno* (*I call upon and glorify your name*) and *Pan Ježíš, on ma je spása* (*Lord Jesus, my salvation*).

Esther introduced and welcomed our speaker, Ruby Mikulencak, who is well known to the people of the Convention. Ruby has served in the mission field for over 35 years, most of that time in Ghana where she serves in a pastoral role and as encourager. She showed a short clip that pictorially represented her work there. Ruby



Oti Alac



Jane Widlicka



Marija Sommer and Natasha Legierski-Laurinc



Donna Nesvadba



Natasha Legierski-Laurinc

Memorial Service at the 99th Annual Convention

Sunday, July 13, 2008

Andrew Dudok	June 5, 2008	Grace Baptist Church, Windsor Ontario
Clifford Kubick		Cleveland, Ohio
Rev. Joseph Madjar	June 8, 2008	Redeemer Baptist Church, Parma, Ohio
Helen Mikulencak	March 26, 2008	Goodrich Community Church, Goodrich, Wisconsin
Hilda Schmitz	November 16, 2007	Grace Baptist Church, Windsor Ontario
Sue Senak	April 26, 2008	Port Richey, Florida
Marie Sury	November 16, 2007	Burlington, Ontario
Lenka Wetrowetz	February 3, 2008	Czechoslovak Baptist Church, Toronto, Ontario

Dr. Rev. Andrew Kmetko

May 8, 1917 – August 19, 2008



Reverend Andrew Kmetko, 91, died Tuesday, August 19th. He was born May 8, 1917, in Medina, Ohio; married Alice Newman on October 18, 1937; graduated from Davis College in Binghamton New York. Rev. Kmetko served as a minister of several American Baptist Convention churches, in Union City, PA; Cleveland,

OH; and Chicago, IL; and was pastor of the Montrose Avenue Baptist church at the time of his retirement. He continued to be an active member of the First Baptist Church of Park Ridge for many years. Rev. Kmetko was also affiliated with the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, serving in several leadership positions, including as its president. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Alderson-Broadbent College in Philippi, WV. Rev. Kmetko is survived by his wife, Alice, of Arlington Heights; children Thomas, of Chicago; Judith (Jay) Christensen, of St. Louis Park, MN; and Stephen, of Los Angeles. He was preceded in death by his daughters Phyllis and Rebecca. He leaves behind grandchildren Dawn, Ronald and Tamra Lukes, Petra (Mike) Anderson, and Deirdre (Chris) Boomershine, and nine great-grandchildren.

A memorial service to commemorate Rev. Kmetko's life and ministry will be held on Sunday, October 12th, at the First Baptist Church of Park Ridge at 3:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Park Ridge.

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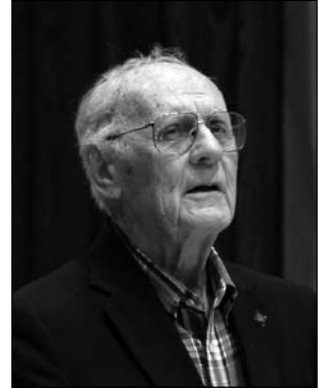
Music 2008 at the Convention



Toronto Ladies



Toronto Trio



Dan Widlicka



Michele Moore and Marija Sommer



Jodi Nesvadba



Bob Dvorak at the Piano



Tim Racinsky Leads Hymn Singing



Praise Team Sings



Dorothy Kvasnica at the Organ



Donna Nesvadba



Jodi Nesvadba and Dusko Pilic



Jodi Nesvadba and Marija Sommer

Convention Echoes in Pictures Part I



General Board Meeting



Executive Secretary George Sommer



President Robert Dvorak



Stan Mantle



Convention Delegates



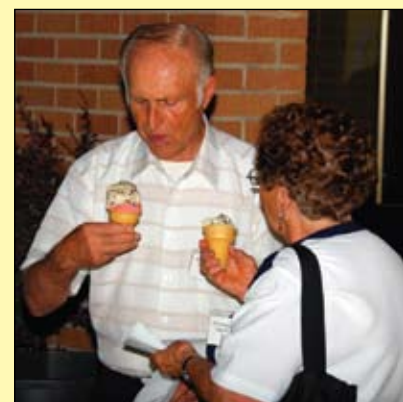
Old Fashioned Hymn Singing



Jan Cizmanski



Young People Worship



The Novaks Enjoy an Ice-cream



Praise Team



Dr. Dennis Stull, VP



A-B President, Dr. J. Michael Clyburn



Darko Siracki



99. Czechoslovak Baptist
Convention
of USA and Canada
Philippi, WV July 10-13, 2008