

# Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

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**I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God  
has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus Philip.3:14**



**Ženu se k cíli, k vítězné odměně Božího  
nebeského povolání v Kristu Ježíši Filip.3,14**

**...cieľ mám vždy pred očami a bežím za odmenou  
nebeského povolania Božieho v Kristovi Ježišovi  
Filip.3,14**



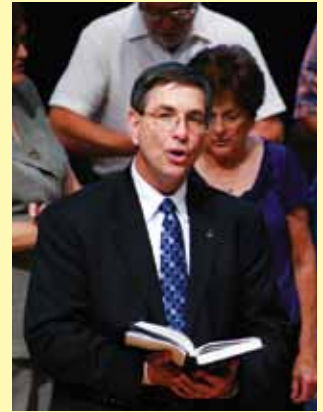
# *Music at the 2010 Convention*



Philippi Baptist Church choir



Dottie Kvasnica at the organ



Dr. J. Michael Clyburn



Convention choir



Lamos sisters



Bob Dvorak at the piano



Jane Widlicka



Robert Dvorak and Marija Sommer



Marija Sommer and Kristina Lomen



Daniel Widlicka



Tim Racinsky



George and Ken Pospisil

## Convention Mission Statement

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

## Misijní posláni konvence

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

### Contents:

Music at the 2010 Convention .....	2
Editorial–Natasha Laurinc.....	3
From the Executive Secretary–Darko Siracki .....	4
Bible Study, Part 1–Donald Shoff .....	6
Interviews at Convention .....	8
Let George Do It!... And He Did It!–Natasha Laurinc.....	12
Af to dělá Jiří!... a on to dělá!–Nataša Laurincová .....	13
BWA News .....	14
News from the Mission Field .....	15
In Memory–Memorial Service at the 101 <sup>st</sup> Annual Convention....	16
In Memory–Paul Jonathan Shereda.....	16
Children's Corner–Interviews .....	18
Youth Scene–Interviews .....	19
Ladies' Page: Interview–Deborah Mulder .....	20
Convention Banquet–pictures .....	21
From the President–Robert Dvorak.....	22
Convention Echoes in Pictures–part 1.....	23
2010 Convention Picture .....	24

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Editor-in-Chief: Natasha Laurinc  
email: natasha.laurinc@sympatico.ca  
You may send articles to above address.

Desktop publishing and art: Vit Malek

Assistant Editors: Janice Cermak, Ondrej Laurinc, PhD

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  
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# Editorial



## 101<sup>st</sup> Convention

The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention has entered its second century of existence. There is a historically significant quality about that statement.

Beyond that, it also carries the idea and intrinsic importance of the ending of one stage and the beginning of something new. Time periods flow into one another; they have similarities, yet are never identical. They may be compared to individual laps of a relay race in the olympics. Although each lap of the race is essentially the same, every participating runner determines how his lap will look with his own personality, style, and physical prowess. A runner with baton in hand will put everything into his own stretch of the race. His degree of preparation quickly becomes evident, as do his tactics and ability to concentrate on the goal. Each runner, sprinting at full speed until passing the baton on to the next runner, may be faced with obstacles, such as sudden nausea, slipping, or even falling for a moment. Despite the obstacles, the runner does not

Continues on page 11

## 101. konvence

Československá baptistická konvence vstoupila do druhého století. Zní to docela důstojně a historicky. Začátek druhého století.

Za tímto slovním spojením lze vycítit ukončení jednoho časového období a začátek dalšího. Období na sebe navazují, v něčem se podobají, ale nejsou identická. Podobně jako jednotlivé etapy štafety na olympiádě. Mají určitou podobu, avšak jsou charakterizovány zúčastněnými běžci. Jejich osobnost, styl a tělesná zdatnost poznačuje průběh etapy. Běžec, držící v ruce štafetu, vloží do daného úseku naprosto všechno. Tam se projeví jeho připravenost, taktika a koncentrace na cíl. Běží naplno až do předání štafety dalšímu běžci. Mnohdy také čelí různým překážkám jako například náhlá nevolnost, pád na trati či uvolnění tretry a pod. Přesto se nevzdá a napne všechny síly, aby štafetu předal.

K podobnému předávání štafety dochází i v rámci naší konvence. S každou etapou se mění tvář, navazují se nové kontakty, používají se jiné motivační metody. Štafeta běží dál, směrem k cíli, v další etapě. Účastníci předchozí etapy se zájmem sledují její začátek a průběh. Uvědomují si důležitost spolupráce celého týmu spolu s organizátory. Vše s nimi

Pokračování na straně 11



Cover: Collage Vit Malek  
Photography: Dusko Pilic, Donald Shoff,  
George Sommer







I would like to use this opportunity to thank the delegates of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. It is an honor and a great responsibility to be trusted with the position of Executive Secretary. I also deeply appreciate your prayers as well as the encouragement shown to both Maja and me in the last twelve months.

It has been very helpful to assist Brother George Sommer in the last few conventions, and I would like to thank George for his guidance, encouragement and help.

I am looking forward to all the challenges as Executive Secretary, not only during the annual convention, but throughout the entire year.

One great advantage that the convention will miss upon the retirement of George Sommer is the personal relationship we've enjoyed with Alderson-Broadus College. We greatly appreciate the hospitality of the college, and we have no reason to think that our relationship will suffer or change in any way. However, George and Marija Sommer have been employed by the college and have in many ways been a great part of it. It has been a great advantage to be able to prepare and negotiate many details prior to the start of the annual convention.

In the future many of these details will need to be taken care of in just a few days prior to the convention. This will require well-organized teamwork. I would like to take this moment to thank the support team that has been a great part of our Centennial Celebration as well as the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention. I hope that we can count on your help and support in the future, and I would like to encourage everyone who is willing to help in any way to please contact us. I am hoping to expand this support team and create a core group that will in future be able to manage all the details required to organize a successful convention. I hope that you will consider becoming part of the team. And for those of you that may have missed the last few conventions for one reason or another, consider giving the convention one more chance. We will do our best to make sure that you are pleasantly surprised.

I would like to use this opportunity to formally introduce myself to the readers of *Glorious Hope*.

My name is Darko Siracki. I was born in Novi Sad, Serbia (part of former Yugoslavia). In the part

of Serbia where I used to live, the most common nationality is Serbian, followed by Hungarian and by Slovak. There are a few towns and villages where the majority of the population is Slovak, and the Slovak language is officially recognized.

My parents were both born in such Slovak towns. My father Vladimir was born in Ilok, Croatia, and my mother Marija is from Bačky Petrovac, Serbia. After they were married they moved to Novi Sad, where my sister and I were born. My sister, Mirjana Lamos, became our connection with Canada. She married Milko Lamos from Kingsville, Ontario, and has been living in Canada since 1984. My parents and I were visiting Mirjana and Milko in the summer of 1991. While we were visiting them, the war started in Yugoslavia, and as a family we were able to stay in Canada and claim refugee status.

Both of my parents were born-again believers, and I remember going to church my entire life. I am thankful to God for my godly parents. I strongly believe that sentence can never become a cliché. Through God's wisdom and guidance our parents shaped us into what we are, and I cannot thank them enough.

It wasn't until I was 14 that the Lord opened my eyes and everything I had heard over the years finally "sank in." As it was a great practice, and still is in Serbia, our local church organized an evangelistic outreach with services every evening of the week. The Lord led one of the brothers to talk to me after one such service.

I remember, as a young boy, thinking and dreaming of the day that I would finally surrender my life to Christ. I prayed for my salvation for many years and I understood the consequences of not living for Christ.

And there I was, after all those years of anticipation... that moment finally became a reality. I'm sure that the brother who prayed with me saw a little bit of confusion and anticipation in my eyes. Like many others, I was not sure what to expect. But I know I was expecting to feel different than I did. After a prayer and a short conversation, the brother read one single verse, John 6:37: "*Whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*" After I heard the verse, heaven did not open, I did not hear a choir of angels singing, and actually not a single thing was different from a minute prior. But one thing that did change for me was that in an instant, I knew that the Lord had my name in mind when He said "*whoever comes to me.*"

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of February, 1984 (yes, it was a leap year), my life changed. One single verse changed a question mark into an exclamation point. I am extremely grateful to my Lord that He showed mercy and kept me close to Him all these years. This one verse, John 6:37, secured my faith.

Another verse that means a lot to me is Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV): *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* This verse helped me to wait patiently through many tests and trials. It also helped me to pray patiently and wait for a godly wife. In October 2005 my prayers were answered. I met Maja Jakonic in Windsor, Ontario. That fall, Maja was visiting her aunt, Marija Sommer, in West Virginia, and at that time they were visiting Canada together. I traveled to Serbia that winter and we became engaged soon after. We were married in Windsor, Ontario, in 2006.

As I mentioned previously, the verse in Jeremiah 29:11: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future,"* has been a great encouragement over the years. And I hope it will be an encouragement not only to you, but to the entire Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. The Lord had a plan for our Convention, and it is clear to many of us that this plan is not fully completed. The Lord blessed the Convention and He made it prosper in many ways, and only He knows the future of the Convention. I encourage you to be part of it!

In His service,  
Darko Siracki

*"Your talk talks, and your walk talks, but your walk talks louder than your talk talks."*

*I therefore... beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called. Ephesians 4:1*



## Dates to Remember

- Midyear meeting of General Board will be held on Friday, November 5, 2010, in Toronto area, Ontario.
- Check the convention web page for pictures from the 2010 Czechoslovak Baptist Convention [www.czskbc.org](http://www.czskbc.org).
- 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention will be held on July 14–17, 2011, in Philippi, West Virginia. Dr. John Upton, President of Baptist World Alliance, will be our guest speaker.

Darko Siracki

New Convention Address  
as of August 1, 2010:

**Czechoslovak Baptist Convention**  
P. O. Box 441516  
Detroit, MI 48244  
USA

Executive Secretary Address  
as of August 1, 2010:

**Darko Siracki**  
1268 Katella Ave.  
Windsor, Ontario, N8P 1R4  
Canada

Email: [darkosiracki@czskbc.org](mailto:darkosiracki@czskbc.org)

☎ 519-962-5144

## 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  
1305 Inglehart Dr  
Burlington, ON L7M 4X6





# Our Call in a Troubled World

Rev. Donald Shoff

## Part 1

That we are facing a world crisis of unprecedented proportions seems to be an underlying theme in the secular media these days. Given recent newspaper headlines, it doesn't take much to convince us: Katrina Devastates New Orleans, Fierce Quake Devastates Haitian Capital, Catastrophic Gulf Oil Spill. So it goes almost daily. And behind the daily newspaper hype, there is the ever-increasing disintegration of the national character and a growing lawlessness that more laws and more law enforcement personnel cannot curtail.

The letters of the apostle Paul to the small, struggling church at Thessalonica were addressed to people who were living in a world much like ours. Within twenty years of the writing of the first epistle, the ancient Middle East would be aflame with war. The Roman general, Titus, would eventually march into Jerusalem, slaughter most of its inhabitants, and destroy the Temple. For those followers of Jesus Christ living outside Jerusalem, there was the persecution by the Jews as well as a growing awareness of Rome's intolerance of their faith.

Not long after Paul planted the church in Thessalonica, he wrote his first letter to them. Most Bible scholars believe that First Thessalonians was one of the earliest of Paul's epistles, if not the earliest. He begins by praising God for the transformation in their lives. He then sets forth two primary things for believers in troubled times, as seen in the following verses:

...our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with



the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. (1 Thess 1:5–10 NIV)

The apostle makes it clear that believers are not just to survive in a world tottering on the brink, but rather they are to transform it. This message to the Thessalonians is addressed to us as well. It is twofold.

### Serve Faithfully

The first is to serve faithfully. Scripture indicates that there are three characteristics of people who do this.

#### Faithful Service Is a Mark of Transformed People

Notice their response to the gospel: *"You turned to God from idols."* (1 Thess. 1:9b) This is the essence of saving faith—repentance and trust. There cannot be genuine faith without repentance and there will no genuine repentance apart from faith.

This was the message that Paul preached wherever he went. When he was giving his defense before King Agrippa, speaking of his past activity, he said, *"I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds."* (Acts 26:20) In response to repentance and faith, then and today, God performs that wonderful miracle called the new birth. It is at that moment when Jesus Christ, through the indwelling Holy Spirit, takes up His residence in us that we are transformed.

One of the problems in churches today is that there are many who give intellectual assent to Christian doctrine but have not experienced true transformation. They think they are children of God, but tragically they are not.

#### Faithful Service Is a Characteristic of Enslaved People

The second characteristic of those who serve faithfully is enslavement. Note that the outflow of repentance and faith was *"to serve the living and true God."* (1 Thess 1:9) The word used here for serve is the root word for slave. They turned to God from idols, to



enslavement to the living God. Without doubt, those who heard this letter read for the first time were impacted by that word far more than we are. Many in that assembly were themselves slaves. Even though they still served a human master, they were experiencing the glorious freedom of enslavement to Jesus Christ.

Another New Testament expression often used to express this concept is death to self. To die to self is to surrender control of one's life to Jesus Christ. The opposite is what Henley expressed in "Invictus":

I am the master of my fate:

I am the captain of my soul.

One enslaved to Jesus Christ could never use that language.

There may be some who understand full surrender at the moment of salvation. If so, they are few. Most of us have stumbled into this experience in a crisis of brokenness. In the darkest hour of our greatest defeat we gave Him control. And it became our hour of greatest victory.

### Faithful Service Is a Quality of Engaged People

Paul praised God that not only had these Thessalonian Christians been transformed, not only were they now enslaved to Jesus Christ. But also he says they were engaged: *"The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere."* (1 Thess 1:8) The phrase rang out was a Greek word that was sometimes used to describe a trumpet blast. However you translate the word, one thing is sure: these Thessalonian believers were not bashful about Jesus; their faith in God had become known everywhere.

The area where most of us struggle is right here—in sharing our faith. During the Middle Ages, monasticism swept Europe. Society was degraded and corrupt. It was the feeling of many who were serious about their faith that in order to live a truly godly life one had to withdraw from society to a monastery. There one could give full attention

to attaining holiness and thereby earn salvation. Unfortunately, some churches today have unwittingly drifted into monasticism. Not that they are seeking to earn salvation by their good works, but they have increasingly disengaged from society and from those who need the gospel of Jesus Christ. Instead of churches being centers where believers are equipped to serve God by going out to impact their world, they go inside the four walls of their church building for all their Christian service. Not so the believers at Thessalonica. They were engaged people. They served God by serving others.

### Wait Expectantly

In addition to serving faithfully, the apostle Paul admonishes them to *"wait for His son from heaven."* (1 Thess 1:10) What does it mean to wait, and why is it so important?

Let's first try to understand this word, *wait*. This word is used ten times in the New Testament. Each time it expresses the idea of waiting expectantly. It is not an indolent, whiling-away-time kind of waiting. For example Philippians 3:20 states *"...our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly*

called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: *"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."* (Luke 2:25–32)

We can only surmise what Joseph and Mary's reaction must have been on that day when they brought their infant son to the Temple for the ritual of dedication. A total stranger comes running across the crowded temple courts, rushes up to them, takes their six-week-old child in his arms, and begins to loudly praise God and announces that Israel's long wait for the Savior is over.

That was something of the same attitude of those early Christians. They fully expected Christ to come in their lifetime—and it shaped their daily walk. All of life was lived with the conviction, perhaps today! Scripture says that same attitude of expectation should shape our lives as well. But why?

### Waiting Expectantly is an Antidote to Spiritual Lethargy

We all fight the spiritual blight called lukewarmness. Too often our prayer becomes a monologue and the reading of God's Word becomes a hurried ritual of our eyes racing over dead words on a page. Living expectantly, in the New Testament sense, turns empty spiritual rituals into vital encounters with the living Christ.

### Waiting Expectantly Gives Life Focus

Most of us live very busy lives, even



Encourage  
one another  
and build up  
each other....

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

*await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."* We look forward to the Second Coming of Christ with the eager anticipation of a child waiting for Christmas morning. Or of a wife eagerly awaiting her husband's return from Afghanistan.

Simeon's waiting for the first coming of our Savior is an apt illustration of what our attitude must be as we wait for His Second Coming:

Now there was a man in Jerusalem

☞ Continues on page 17

# Interviews at Convention



## **Maja Siracki-Darko's wife**

*How many times have you attended the convention?*

This is my third time.

*Now you find yourself in a new position as wife of the general secretary. How does that make you feel?*

I need more time just to get used to the idea. We are excited, it is overwhelming and it will take us a couple

of days to see what happened here.

*Do you think it will change anything in your life as a couple?*

Just slightly, because Darko was already involved with the convention before but not so officially, it was more behind the scenes so... it is challenging and we'll see what will change. I don't expect big, big change. We are also involved with the South Slavic Convention, with the registration, with the organization and everything, so we have some kind of experience and since I came here to Canada, I've been in conventions.



## **Robert Dvorak-president**

*As president, how do you feel about the 101<sup>st</sup> Convention?*

I feel great about it. We were smaller in numbers this year than we were last year, certainly, but it was a fantastic spirit here and a really good set of speakers. I think people enjoyed themselves enormously here and that the Spirit of God was present with us

and in us, specially starting making the transition in the executive secretary's office.



## **Eric Shereda**

*For how many years have you been coming to the convention and what is your impression about this 101<sup>st</sup> Convention?*

This is my second convention. I was fortunate enough to come to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

I'm so disappointed this one is smaller but still it is good to be here.

I'm also disappointed that I'm the only Shereda here this year; I was really hoping that some others of the family would be able to come but it's good to be here. It is good to have the Shereda name here and as far as impressions, I met more people this year because I'm the only one here. I had to meet new people and I met a lot of new friends and I remembered ones that I met last year. It's very encouraging to see how friendly everyone is.



## **Robert Karhan**

*What is unique about this 101<sup>st</sup> Convention?*

It is entirely different. I enjoyed the convention very much. I attended the convention for the first time in 1941. I drove our pastor and his wife and another lady and a young man about sixteen years old. I had a new car and was going to drive to Medicine Lake but I didn't know that our pastor had

an invitation to a wedding in Minneapolis. So all five of us went to the wedding. And next day we went to another place and then we went to the Medicine Lake Convention. And it was very interesting. The evening service ended and the other fellow—it was Bob Paroubek—and I went to visit a young lady in the wigwam and then, oh, it was getting to be almost eleven o'clock and we had to go, so we left and we came to this building with the bright light on. We heard a violin playing and there was John Michael and another young man and they were singing so we joined them until eleven o'clock, when we were supposed to be in our rooms. So then we left and we came to our large building and it was a little bit after eleven, and I said, "You know, the floor is so squeaky, let's use the fire escape." So we did. We got to the top of the fire escape and then a face appeared in the window next to the fire escape: "What are you guys doing up here?" Oh, boy, we went back down. Next morning—first thing in the morning—John Michael and his friend were called up before the convention board and they were read out and punished somehow for what they did. And then



the president of the convention—he was from our church—he said, “Those boys who went up by fire escape, don’t do it again.” I figured out why we weren’t punished, because I had a car and if they needed someone to go to the railroad station to pick up our speaker, I was available. Oh, boy, I can tell you...

Our pastor liked fishing. And somebody asked: “Where is the pastor?” Then somebody else replied, “Look up the lake over there, you see the guy fishing away up there? It’s him.”

There were no freeways in 1941 and we left at four o’clock in the morning and at 8:30 that night we were just north of Chicago. The speed limit was 35 you know, oh, I tell you, the pastor and his wife and the lady were all scrunched in the back of that car, I mean they just fit, you know, and the other guy and I were in the front seat with a big battery upgrade portable radio...

It was a good time. We really enjoyed the convention.



### **Edward Sedivy**

*This is your first convention. What is your impression of this convention?*

It’s really been a blessing. I’m sorry I missed it years before, but it’s really been a blessing, I really enjoyed it, every bit of it.



### **Sally Sedivy**

*This is your first convention. What is your impression of this convention?*

I see a bond between these Christians, Czechs and Slovaks, and how they are working hard to preserve their heritage and to pass their Christian beliefs on to their children.



### **Dan Widlicka**

*Where was your first convention?*

My first convention was in Chicago, 1939, at Lawndale Baptist Church, with Florian Manas and Johnny Michalicek, who changed his name to Michael. John borrowed his father’s 1929 Ford and the three of us drove from Cleveland to Chicago.

We made it in twelve hours, what an adventure! We were just recently

saved by a year or so, and we were hoping to find some spiritual-minded young people, so we

drove there and we found a great group of young people. It overwhelmed us, plus we had open-air meetings, where people sang and gave their testimony. It was a new experience for us, we never did that before. And they had a choir that sang in English and in Czech and Slovak. The choir was super, the music was super. And the church was good. And all the messages were in Czech or Slovak, so we understood. We had learned to speak Czech through our pastors. I’m thankful to them that I’m bilingual. And we can still hear and preach and teach. So that first experience in 1939 is within my heart. We have a picture here on the wall. And now it’s all English certainly, except the Slovak and Czech bible study, I’m blessed by the young people that are coming now, but we are still here, that’s the main thing. We thought the convention would eventually dissolve, because Czech and Slovak people who used to come are all going, going to Heaven, but here we are, still here as a mission. I’ve always said that to our people: it’s a mission to reach back to our roots to give them the good news of the Gospel. That’s about it.



### **Jane Widlicka**

*When was your first convention?*

My first convention was in 1971. Dan and I were married five years and he came with the pastor of Scranton Baptist Church, and Reverend Boubelik was the head of the convention, so it was just a wonderful experience. Of course I spent most of the time in the kitchen with the ladies. That was a wonderful experience for me.



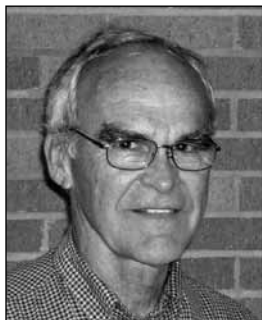
### **Milko Lamos**

*What brought you to this convention and what is your impression of this 101<sup>st</sup> Convention?*

I’d like to say that this convention for us was just like the new beginning of a new century, and I like to see it as a new beginning, with much enthusiasm, although somewhat smaller in numbers. But the spirit is here and the joy and fellowship with believers,

which is absolutely great. I think that many that did come won’t regret it, and I trust this will continue in the future and many of those who have stopped coming will come back again, and then

we'll have once again good fellowship together, and continue with the conferences for another century, if the Lord does not come.



### **Steve Kejr**

*What brought you to the convention and what is your impression of it?*

My dad brought me here. He was here three years ago and he asked me to come with him. So I thought it was a good opportunity to spend some time with him. So we came up and it's a thrill to see God's family and to see people committed to the Lord and I will say that Czech connection is special, to see what God is doing, and it was a blessing and an encouragement to be here.



### **Dottie Kvasnica**

*What did you find unique about this convention?*

At this convention I met more people than I ever had before and we had longer visits. I think that because they were fewer it was easier to visit with people and a little more in depth and I just loved that. And I wish we could be doing that for a long time... but I'm thankful...they are wonderful people here.



### **Susan (Pospisil) Oliver**

*What brought you to the convention? What did you find unique about this convention?*

I want to be with my parents, my brother. My parents and grandparents and great-grand- parents were coming here for years and it is interesting, you know, to see other people, hear their stories. It is just nice, because you don't see this at all, you know, the music, the sermons, we don't hear these hymns much any more in church.



### **Dorothy Pospisil**

*What was special to you during this convention?*

Just seeing our friends that we had come in contact with throughout the years. We made many, many friends,

and it's just good to see everybody, and we just enjoyed the fellowship, the music, the "kamarády" (friends) and just the overall convention.



### **George Pospisil**

*What was special to you during this convention?*

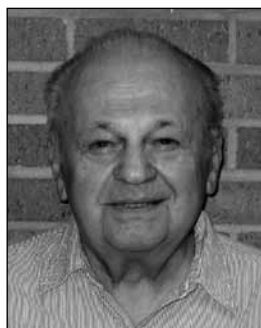
I just have to say, Praise the Lord! My name is George Pospisil. We thank the Lord for making all that possible that we have such a wonderful convention, that everybody shares the faith here and that the messages give us the power and enthusiasm to be better witnesses for Him. And we just thank the Lord for that. For our president, I know that's the pastor who led me to the Lord. Pastor Hlad is the one who started the convention and now his grandson is the president, and we just thank the Lord for that brother and also for all the people that attend, especially ones with the Czech language. Tak ja jsem rád, že jsem mohl přijet. Sláva Bohu za všechno. (I'm really glad that I could come. Praise the Lord for everything).



### **Anne Opocensky**

*What was special to you during this convention?*

I think it was just the opportunity to meet different people. We didn't do that in the past, this time we had each meal with different people. And we met people from California, the Kejrs, father and son, the Pospisils from California—we met their daughter and son, and we talked and there were others, it was just a delight. And of course the program as it was, the Word was there, we appreciated the effort that went into it. Then a small number of young people did an excellent job with what they were doing. So we're just glad that we were able to come and praise our God.



### **Fred Opocensky**

*What was special to you during this convention?*

And I will agree with that. The opportunity of meeting people who over the years became friends and we look forward to being here to meet them again, as God allows us to come this way.





### Gloria Andrs

*What brought you to this convention?*

Well, my husband had attended the Czech Baptist convention when he was a little boy in Minnesota and Minitonas. And in 1997 we learned that the Convention was in Philippi, West Virginia, which was certainly within driving distance of our home so that's why we decided to come that year, and we've been able to ever since.



### Jerry Andrs

*In what way was this convention unique for you?*

First of all I have to say that my first convention was in Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnesota [in 1941]. And I was eight years old. And when the convention moved here to Philippi, to Alderson-Broadbush, and we discovered it was here, we started attending. We have been attending for several years now and each year it seems to get better and better. And I'm looking forward to many more.



### Roberta Rucker

*What brought you to this convention?*

Larry and I were invited to the convention in 2001 by Gloria and Jerry Andrs. We had a little bit of background but we had no idea how extensive the programs were here. We enjoyed so much the Bible studies, the Bible lessons that we had. The music was phenomenal. We enjoyed the fellowship with other Christian people and it really inspires us; we look forward every year to returning to the Czech convention. If you've never come and you've said, "I don't know if I want to go or not," come one time and you will never miss another year.



### Larry Rucker

*What kind of message would you like to give to our readers of GH?*

I would like to agree with my wife about it, that we look forward to com-

ing here every year—the wonderful fellowship with devoted Christians and wonderful preaching and wonderful Bible study. It's just something that invigorates and delights us for months, and every year we look forward to coming back



### Ján Korčok

*Ako sa vám páči 101. konvencia?*

Na prvý pohľad je všetko dobré, ako to obyčajne býva, ale zdá sa mi, že tentoraz je tu podstatne menej ľudí než inokedy. Prial by som si, keby sa bratom i sestrám darilo naplánovať si čas tak, aby sa mohli konvencie zúčastniť.

□

## Editorial... Continues from page 3

give up, but summons every bit of strength necessary to pass the baton on.

The image of passing the baton from one athlete to the next may also apply to this convention. With every new phase come new faces, new contacts and the use of different motivational methods. The baton journeys on towards its goal in the next leg of the race. The participants of the previous leg observe the beginning and its development with interest. They are aware of the importance of cooperating with the whole team as well as with the organizers. They are experiencing and reliving everything together with the newcomers, and their efforts lie in support and evaluation.

Yes, the convention has a specific purpose in this new phase. These pages of *Glorious Hope* will give you a closer look at the (metaphorical) passing on of the baton.

*He spoke to them again and said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you,"* (John 20:21).

Editor-in-Chief *Natasha Laurinc*

Translated by *Elizabeth J. Fields*

□

## Editorial... Pokračování ze strany 3

opět prožívají a jejich úsilí podporují i hodnotí.

Ano, konvence má specifické poslání. V další etapě. Stránky *Slavné naděje* vám přiblíží atmosféru předávání štafety.

*Ježíš jim tedy znovu řekl: „Pokoj vám. Jako mě poslal Otec, i já posílám vás.“*

Jan 20,21 NBK

Šéfredaktorka *Nataša Laurincová*

□

# Let George Do It!

## ... and He Did It!

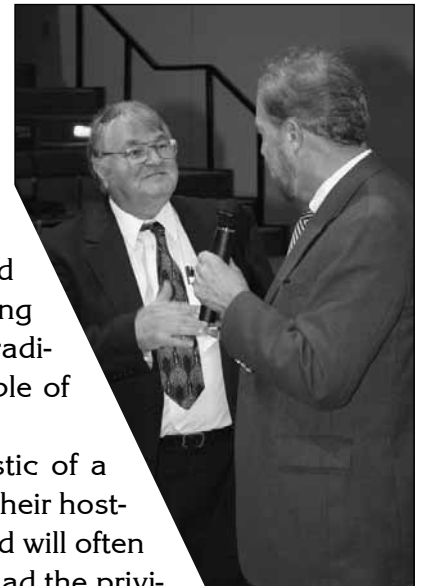
The personality of George Sommer has become an inseparable part of the convention and its participants. The middle-aged generation especially cannot imagine the convention without George being a part of it. For more than twenty years now, the Alderson-Broaddus College has been the convention's home. For George and his wife Marija, this has been their home environment, as they spend the vast majority of their lives right on or very near the college campus. They are both individuals gifted with more than one talent.

While George planned and organized everything, Marija took care of the musical programme, among other things. Dominant above all these was their gift of hosting. Those who found accommodation with them, and not only during the time of the convention, were many. Visiting their home to gather round and eat watermelon before heading off from the convention became a beloved tradition. Reminiscing, story-telling and sharing experiences were never missing from this traditional gathering, and it helped to draw people of all generations together.

Hospitality is a very telling characteristic of a member of God's family. The warmth of their hosting and home will never be forgotten and will often be fondly remembered by those who had the privilege of experiencing it. More than 30 years of Marija and George's work in God's vineyard is summed up in this very short article. We are grateful to God that he used Marija and George to continue his work in the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention.

Marija and George, we thank you.

*"Well done, my good and faithful servant."*  
(Mat. 25:23a)



Natasha Laurinc  
Translated by Elizabeth J. Fields

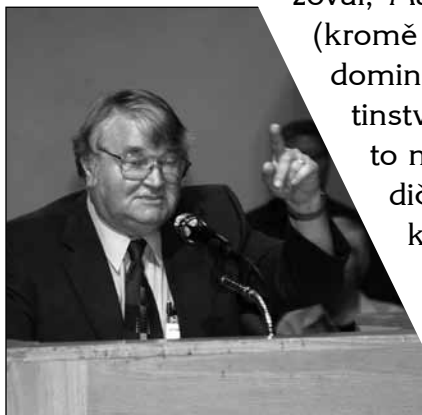




# Ať to dělá Jiří!

## ... a on to dělal!

**O**sobnost Jiřího Sommera se stala neodmyslitelnou součástí konvenčního společenství. Zvláště střední generace si neumí konvenci bez Jiřího představit. V posledních více než dvaceti letech se Alderson-Broadbudd College stala domovem konvence. Pro Jiřího, i jeho manželku Mariju, to je domácí prostředí. Prožili tam větší část svého života. Jsou to lidé obdávající více než jedním darem.



Zatímco Jiří všechno organizoval a zařizoval, Marija pečovala o hudební složku (kromě mnoha dalších věcí). A nad tím dominoval jejich jednoznačný dar pohostinství. Ti, kteří u nich našli ubytování, a to nejen během konvence, je mnoho. Tradičními se stala také každoroční setkání kolem melounu před odjezdem z konvence domů. Tam samozřejmě nikdy nechybí vzpomínání, vyprávění či vzájemné sdílení se přítomných, což umožňuje sbližování mladší a starší generace.

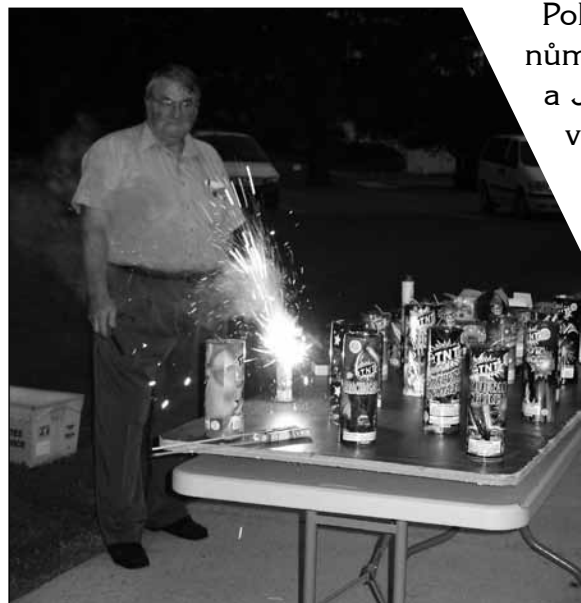
Pohostinství je vlastnost příznačná členům Boží rodiny. Vřelá pohostinnost Marije a Jiřího Sommerových zůstane navždy ve vzpomínkách každého zúčastněného.

V tomto krátkém příspěvku je shrnuto 30 let práce na Boží vinici Marije a Jiřího. Jsme vděční Pánu Bohu za to, že použil manželů Sommerových, aby Jeho dílo v Československé baptistické konvenci pokračovalo.

Marije a Jiří, děkujeme.

*“Výborně, můj dobrý a věrný služebníku.” (Mat. 25,23a)*

*Nataša Laurincová*



# BWA News



## Dr. Denton Lotz

### Receives BWA Human Rights Award

Denton Lotz, former general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, has been presented with the 2010 Baptist World Alliance (BWA) Quinquennial Human Rights Award, on July 30, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The award, given every five years during the Baptist World Congress, was conferred upon Lotz for a lifetime of commitment to human rights concerns. Lotz was BWA general secretary for 19 years, from 1988 until his retirement in 2007, and served the organization for a total of 27 years.

Lotz was described as an “outstanding Baptist leader”, a “persistent human rights campaigner,” a “courageous advocate,” and a “visionary.” The former BWA leader was recognized for having placed human rights at the heart of the concerns of the Baptist global organization.

He was also lauded for initiating or leading human rights visits to several countries, meeting a number of world leaders to discuss issues of human rights in their respective nation.

Described as a “friend of the needy” and “servant of the people,” the graduate of Harvard Divinity School in the United States and the University of Hamburg in Germany was declared to be a “champion of the poor and oppressed.”



Denton Lotz



John Upton

### Dr. John Upton is New BWA President

John Upton, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) and of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board (VBMB) in the United States, has been elected president of the Baptist World Alliance during the 20th Baptist World Congress held in Honolulu, Hawaii, from July 28 to August 1.

Upton succeeds David Coffey of the United Kingdom and will serve as BWA president for the period 2010-2015.

The new president of the global Baptist organization has had a long association with the BWA. He is a member of the BWA General Council and the Executive Committee, the two governing bodies of the BWA. He has also served on the Baptist World Aid Committee, the Commission on Christian Ethics, and the Executive Committee of the North American

Baptist Fellowship, one of six regional fellowships of the BWA. For the past five years, he was chair of the Congress Program Committee, which played a significant role in planning the Baptist World Congress in Honolulu.

Prior to being elected as executive director of the BGAV and the VBMB in 2001, Upton served as group leader of the Mission Mobilization Group of the BGAV, beginning in 1995. Earlier, he was pastor of Urbanna Baptist Church in Urbanna, Virginia, from 1984-1986 and 1991-1995. Between 1986 and 1991 he and his wife, Deborah, served as missionaries in Taiwan through the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The new president attended the Baptist-affiliated Averett College (now Averett University) in Danville, Virginia; the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, in the USA; and the Taiwan Language Institute. He received a Doctor of Divinity degree from the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Kerala, India.

### Message of the 20<sup>th</sup> Baptist World Congress

The congress, which ran from July 28 to August 1 at the Hawaii Convention Center, saw more than 4,000 registered delegates from 105 countries participating in worship, study, mission, and fellowship.

The message sought to capture themes and concerns arising out of the five days of gathering and drew heavily on the theme of the congress, “Hear the Spirit.” It recognized, among other things, the “vital importance of living and leading” a life “in the anointing of the Holy Spirit,” and the need “to share the power of the gospel of Christ to rescue those living without the hope of Christ.”

Baptists at the congress committed themselves to spread “the truth of God in Jesus Christ as the hope of the world, develop greater familiarity with the teachings of Christ, cultivate a rich prayer life, bear witness to the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ,” and “provide examples of godly living reflecting the values taught by the Lord of the church.”

Keynote speaker for the final session, Lance Watson, pastor of St. Paul’s Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia, in the United States, urged the delegates to go forth to their various and

Continues on page 22



## Ruby Mikulencak

RAM Chronicle, August 2010

### Spiritual Life Conference

Our July Spiritual Life Conference had more short-termers than long-termers. Still, the mix of young and old resulted in sharing and great fellowship. We also had an excellent Ghanaian speaker, who encouraged all of us with good, sound biblical teaching.

### Logos Hope Visit

It is wonderful how the Lord surprises you! Sherri and I were invited for a night on the Logos ship by old friends from Wisconsin. Never underestimate how the Lord will use you once you are obedient and faithful. Little did I realize when I left for Africa what He would do until now. The Lord used my going to Africa to call Randy into missions. God's amazing faithfulness!

### SIM West Africa Office

The second tremendous event was being part of an historical meeting of the SIM West Africa office (SIMWAO). God has given me a passion for youth and mission. It was awesome to be part of these first meetings in Ghana. They included the first interviews the office had and also some of the first candidates chosen by SIMWAO to go cross-culturally from Ghana.

### Holidays

Lastly, Sherri and I were able to have a break for a few days to enjoy the ocean and some sun at Anomabo Beach. It was wonderful to get away from the office!

### Prayer Requests

- Pray for daily strength and grace with half of the office staff gone for six months.
- We praise God that after a long absence we have long-term people coming! Pray for quick adjustment for a couple and a young single man who will join the SIM Ghana team soon.

Spiritual Life Conference



Fantastic teaching from God's Word, good food, fun, games, testimonies and wonderful fellowship

Historical first meeting of the SIM West Africa Office that will send out Ghana missionaries. What an awesome privilege to be involved!



A holiday at the beach



- Pray for good rains to last into October for a good harvest.

- Pray for Council meetings to be held October 26–29<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

- Pray for wisdom and guidance in choosing the next SIM Ghana Director.

SIM USA

Box 7790

Charlotte, NC 28241

SIM Ghana

P.O. 9962 KIA

Accra, Ghana

## The Poenarus

Furlough:

After three years of only summer breaks, we are planning to take a half-year furlough from mid-July to early January. This will include getting Daniel settled into a college, finding a good place for next year for Christopher, spending time with our family, getting some long-awaited rest... and, of course, getting a chance to meet many of you and bring you up-to-date on our ministry. Details of our itinerary will come later, but do let us know if you would like us to speak to your church or group—our desire is to share the plight and stories of Africa's sick children with as many as possible!

## The Potmas

Furlough:

From July 2010 until July 2011

Once again, we will be based in Windsor, Ontario, with visits to the Minneapolis area in August,

October, December, March and June. We are looking forward to sharing in person what God has been doing in Prague over the past four years and thanking you for your part in His work.

□

## Memorial Service at the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention

Sunday, July 11, 2010

**Milo Andrs  
Bob Green  
Frank Kovac  
Violet Lane  
Virginia Skalsky Profant  
Sophie Skladanowski  
Esther Widlicka  
William Widlicka**



### **Paul Jonathan Shereda**

**November 1, 1935 – July 23, 2010**

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, Paul Shereda departed this life and entered into the waiting arms of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Paul had been battling prostate cancer with metastasis to bone for six years. After five years of ongoing therapy which gave him good quality of life, his final year was a courageous battle. It was in his final year the Lord showed him the greatest gifts and kindness of God's people. We are thankful for our church at High Hills Baptist in Jarratt, Virginia, for rallying behind us and showing us what real love looks like in action. Paul is at peace now, and his memory will live on in the lives of his family and friends.

Paul Shereda was born November 1, 1935, in Zlin, Czechoslovakia, to Czech missionary parents Rose Masopust Shereda and Rev. Joseph J. Shereda. His life began as a pastor's son and ended as a pastor's spouse, a role he accepted and embraced as he supported his wife Kathy in the ministry. He was the fourth of five children born to Joe and Rose. His siblings were Joe Jr., who died in childbirth; Mary Elizabeth; David Thomas; and Ruth Esther, who was born in Minnesota.

When Paul was 3, Rev. Shereda was called back to the U.S. due to the dangers of Hitler's campaign on the Sudetenland. The family boarded the USS Manhattan, the last ship out, in November of 1938. Rev. Shereda moved his family to New Prague, Minnesota, where he would pastor

the Baptist church there. From New Prague, the family moved to Richmond, Virginia, in 1945, when Rev. Shereda was called to become the pastor of the First Slovak Baptist Church, which was later renamed Poplar Springs Baptist Church under his leadership.

Paul had many fond memories of his life at the church in New Prague and at Poplar Springs in Richmond. He was an active church member as an adult and served as church clerk, deacon, Sunday school teacher, and the latest nickname given him by the ladies at High Hills Baptist, "preacher's wife." Paul and Kathy served together side by side, teaching, leading, praying, and serving on the mission field during the summer. Theirs was a shared life of ministry together.

Paul enjoyed farm life, and in his retirement from work with the State of Virginia, he and Kathy worked the land, raised crops, and later when Kathy entered the seminary, Paul turned his farming ventures to raising cattle, and enjoyed working with his herd of black angus cows and calves.

The latest, greatest joy of Paul's life was being a first-time grandfather. His first and only grandchild was born on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008. He was able to be with her in the days following her birth, and helped dad Eric with the nursery preparations. He and Kathy attended her child dedication on her first birthday, at First Baptist Church of Wheeling, WV. Paul enjoyed watching Kerri grow, and as a final gesture of his love to her he built a toy box for her at Christmas as a lasting memento. On the top of the wooden toy box was painted "*Miluji Tě,*" and on the inside was penned in



his own hand, "I love you" and signed, "Papa Paul."

One of the things Paul enjoyed his whole life was being on the water. He had

several boats in his lifetime. Once while sitting and enjoying a sunset on the eastern shore of Virginia, he and Kathy made their final plans. It was Paul's wish for his ashes to be scattered in the orange light of the sunset on the Chesapeake Bay of Virginia, and is hers as well. Plans are for his ashes to be scattered on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010, what would have been their 25th wedding anniversary.

Ours is a life of faith, and surrounding us is a great cloud of witnesses. We have one life to live on this earth, one life to live for Christ, and one life to leave as a legacy of faith when God calls us home. How will you live your life, and how will you leave your life? May we all look forward to the day when Christ says to us, "Miluji Te" and calls us home.

### Obituary

Shereda, Paul Jonathan, 74, of Dinwiddie, passed from this life and into eternal rest on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. He was predeceased by his parents, Rev. Joseph J. Shereda and Rose M. Shereda; a sister, Mary S. Grant, and a nephew, Robert Heaton. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Rev. Kathy S. Shereda of Dinwiddie; a son, Jon Eric Shereda and his wife, Charity; a grand-daughter, Kerri Marie Shereda, all of Pittsburgh, Penn.; a brother, David T. Shereda and his wife, Dawn, of Meadows of Dan, Va.; a sister, Ruth S. Peaco and her husband, Edward, of Henrico; nieces Mary Lee Heaton, Wendy Van Koeving (Dave), Elizabeth C. Johnson (Phillip), Kathryn Moran, Angela Moran; nephews Jerry Heaton, David Shereda (Leoni), L. James Cowardin, III. He is also survived by in-laws William and Elizabeth Schutte, L. James Cowardin, Jr., & Donna Cowardin, William Schutte III & Patti Lou Riker, and Lisa S. Moran. A memorial service will take place at High Hills Baptist Church, 215 S. Halifax Rd., Jarratt, Va., on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010, with visitation from 3-5pm in the sanctuary. The service will begin at 5PM with Revs. David Roberts, Robert Wyatt, and Harvey Joyner officiating. A reception will follow in the church fellowship hall. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to High Hills Baptist Church, PO Box 296, Jarratt, Va. 23867.

Rev. Kathy Shereda

□

### Bible Study... Continues from page 7

those of us who are retired. It is easy to get so buried in the demands of a job or family that the years fly by. Then, one day we stand on the edge of eternity and ask, is this all? Is this really all that this thing called life was all about? But not so to those who live expectantly—it gives life focus.

This doesn't mean that because Jesus may return today I'll not take on long-term projects, save for the future, or plan for retirement. Nor does it mean that we are to be so heavenly-minded that we are of no earthly good, as was the case with some in Thessalonica.

It does, however, teach us "to number our days aright." (Ps 90:12) It forces us to pause from time to time and ask seriously, why am I here? What is my life counting for? To live expectantly is a spiritual mindset that gives life focus.

The last phrase Paul uses in reference to Christ's Second Coming must not slip by unnoticed: "Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath." (1 Thess 1:10) The term God's wrath is used several different ways in Scripture. It is used ten times in the Book of Revelation. Take Revelation 16:1 as an example, "Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, 'Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth.'" Here, as in 1 Thessalonians 1, the reference is to God's judgment that will be poured out on the world during the Great Tribulation.

The "rescue" of 1:10 is God's assurance that He will deliver His own from that time of terrible suffering. This is the Christian's blessed hope. As Paul closes this epistle this was his encouragement to the dear folks in Thessalonica who lived in a world that was coming apart:

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words. (1 Thess 4:16-18)

May each of us determine to live our lives *serving faithfully and living expectantly*.

□

## MOVING ?

Please write to:

**Glorious Hope**

Rt.4, Box 58D

Philippi, WV 26416 USA

or send email to : [george.sommer@ab.edu](mailto:george.sommer@ab.edu)

Include your mailing label from a recent issue of **Glorious Hope** for faster service.



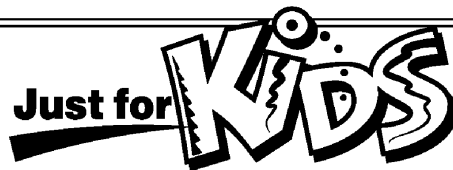




It was amazing. They're so smart and they all read the Bible so well. It was a pleasure to work with them. It was just great. And it's so easy to work when you have children so wonderful who have been raised so well, and know and love Jesus so much, and they are really participative. It was good, it was really good. I had a great time.



It's fun and we have Sunday school, the services, and the Sunday school teacher is nice... and we have good ice cream.



# THE GIFT

God has given us a gift that we can't work for or buy.  
Discover what this gift is by reading Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV.

Fit the words in bold into the word puzzle below. We've provided two letters for you.

**"For it is by grace you have been saved,  
through faith — and this not from  
yourselves, it is the gift of God —  
not by works, so that  
no one can boast."**





## Robert Paluch

*What brought you to the convention?  
And what do you like about the convention?*

I would say... it probably was the youth and what I like about it is... everything.

## Monika Lamos

*For how long have you been coming to the convention?*

I have been coming to the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention since I was a baby. I have really enjoyed the weekend because the youth program is so put together, and I was having a lot of fun getting to know others. It's such a tightly knit community, and just spending time together, you get to know each other through maybe helping together or just singing songs. You can have a lot of fun.

## Sara Lamos

*What do you think about the convention?*

I think it is a good opportunity for everybody to come together and we can spend time with each other and fellowship and grow together and get to know one another, grow in God's will and grow together. □





## Deborah Lev-Mulder Ladies' president

**W**hat is your connection to the convention?

I started coming to the convention as a young child. My parents brought me. And my mom had been involved with the convention as a young child as well. So I'm actually third generation, and I just feel real commitment to this ministry amongst the Czech and Slovak people here in North America but in Czechoslovakia and now Czech and Slovak Republics as well.

*What do you remember?*

I remember the convention being in a variety of different locations and my parents taking us to Campbell, Ohio, to Hatch Hollow, and to Minionas where my grandparents lived. I remember the convention being in Toronto, I remember that very fondly.

*What do you think about the future of the convention?*

I think the convention has a very interesting future. The dynamics of the convention are going to be changed because the demographics of the convention are changing. And our society is changing as well. And we need to meet the needs of younger people if we want this convention to continue. We need to be willing to make the changes, we need to be open to changes. But I think now in our one hundred and first year, those changes are going to start happening, perhaps at a slower rate than we would like, but I think people are open and they see the need for change. Please support the convention if you are able to financially but prayerfully and let's remember our leadership, let's remember them in our prayers. Please ask for wisdom, and just an openness and willingness to follow God's leading. □



## Deborah Lev-Mulder

**J**aké je tvé pouto ke konvenci?

Konvenci se zúčastňuji již od dětství se svými rodiči. Také moje matka byla do konvence zapojena od dětství. V podstatě jsem třetí generací a cítím se skutečně oddána této práci mezi Čechy a Slováky zde, v Severní Americe, tak i v Československu, nyní v České republice a na Slovensku.

*Na které konvence si pamatuješ?*

Pamatuji se, že konvence se konala na různých místech a rodiče nás brali s sebou—do Cambellu, do Hatch Hollow a do Minionasu, kde žili naše babička a dědeček. Pamatuji si také na konvenci v Torontě, na kterou mám milou vzpomínku.

*Co si myslíš o budoucnosti konvence?*

Myslím, že konvence má velmi zajímavou budoucnost, dojde ke změně v dynamice konvence, protože demografie konvence se mění. Musíme vyjít vstříc mladým lidem, jest-

liže chceme, aby tato konvence pokračovala. Musíme být ochotní změny dovolit, potřebujeme být ke změnám otevření. Myslím si, že v našem 101. roce již ke změnám dochází. Myslím si také, že ke změnám dojde pravděpodobně pomaleji, než bychom si přáli, ale lidé vidí jejich potřebu a jsou jim otevření. Podporujte, prosím, konvenci finančně, je-li to možné, určitě však

modlitebně a nezapomínejte na naše vedení, modlete se za ně, prostě za moudrost, schopnost překonat nesnáze, prostě za otevřenost a ochotu následovat Boží vedení.

□



Koreen Villers and Debbie Mulder



## Attention Ladies

As you already know, 2010 convention was smaller in numbers and as a result, the ladies meeting was not well attended. The collected gifts to the Ladies Missionary Union was not sufficient to cover this year budget.

If at all possible, please send your donations in enclosed envelopes, marked for Ladies as soon as possible, so we can pay our bills by the end of this year.

Thank you in advance and may our Lord bless each gift and each giver and may those gifts be used for His Glory.



# Convention Banquet



Pres. Dvorak, the Sommers, Darko Siracki



Jovan Vlasic, Marija's brother



President & Mrs Clyburn



Maja & Darko Siracki



Natasha Laurinc



Dan Widlicka



**D**ear Members and Friends:  
Heartfelt greetings to each person reading this letter. Very best wishes to you all.

The 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention, held last month in Philippi, WV, was a great experience of fellowship and energy. It was so great to be together again following last year's centennial gathering. Attendance was down from the high mark of one year ago, but that was to be expected. Everyone there at Alderson-Broadbush College, July 8-11, knew that the Lord was with us.

We are moving into a new era of convention life. Long-time Executive Secretary George Sommer has retired from his position. We elected and welcomed our brother Darko Siracki of Windsor, Ontario, to the office of Executive Secretary. Darko comes with a lot of convention experience. He has been assisting George Sommer with annual convention arrangements for some years now and has led our youth programming with effectiveness and creativity in recent summers. We look forward to Darko's strong contribution to leadership in the convention. (George Sommer will serve as counselor and assistant during this coming year of transition.)

Our mission, I hope you know, remains fixed, even if some of the ways we will be doing things undergoes change. We are solidly committed to evangelism outreach in the name of Christ wherever we have opportunity to alert people to the gospel. Our focus remains on the countries of Slovakia and the Czech Republic, but we stand by other mission proj-



ects as well, for example media broadcasting, printed periodical and tract distribution, personal missionary endeavors, and care for spiritual development in our own nations of Canada and the United States here in North America. These commitments are growing all the time. Requests for financial help from the convention are expanding year by year. God has opened to us doors for service and support. In a world as troubled as today's, it is amazing that opportunities to touch lives are almost limitless.

Will you contribute to the ministry of our convention as you are able? By your prayers and giving, you will be making an impact for Christ that only God fully measures. It is the Lord who makes all things—including your faithfulness and giving—work together for purposes way beyond our understanding. What a great privilege to have involvement with Christ in making known throughout the world that the Lord changes life and eternity for whoever will come to him.

So, beloved friends, you are on the mind of this convention. Prayers are with you as together we ask God's will to "be done on earth as it is in heaven." We trust you are strong and full of faith, and that God is blessing you and yours in these closing weeks of summer.

Sincerely,  
Robert Dvorak, president

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## BWA News... Continues from page 14

churches in the power of the Holy Spirit to "change handicaps into happy helpfulness; to change disadvantages into delightful deliverances; to change lameness into leaping love."

Stating that "it is the business and mission of the church to make a difference in the world," Watson called on Baptists to stoop down into the "deep valleys of human need, rolling up your sleeves, signing up for service, getting off your seat, standing on your feet... getting involved with hurting humans."

The Christian, however, needs to draw on the power of the Holy Spirit in order to perform such tasks, for if you "try to visit the sick or serve the poor on your strength alone, you can't do it. You can't serve God, sing to God, sacrifice to God, please God, walk with God, praise God or preach God without God."

Even though ecstatic experience of the Holy Spirit is impor-

tant, Watson declared that it is practical expressions of love and compassion that let others become aware of the love of God in Christ. "The world does not know about your religious experience. The culture does not know that you have been with Jesus and saved by His amazing grace... The world will not know who we are until we show them our love."

Baptists leaving the congress agreed to support "the values reflected in the UN Millennium Development Goals," including helping to remove "the scourge of poverty," supporting "efforts to provide universal education," and to "work for environmental sustainability."

The 21<sup>st</sup> Baptist World Congress will be held in Durban, South Africa, in July 2015.

□



# Convention Echoes in Pictures Part I



Robert Dvorak



Dr. J. Michael Clyburn, pres. of A-B College



Jon Villers



Milko Lamos



Ken Devine



Stan Mantle



General Board meeting



Fellowship at the Sommers



Evening service



Donald Shoff



Jan Franka





Save the Date July 14-17, 2011, Philippi, West Virginia

Please visit our web site [www.czskbc.org](http://www.czskbc.org) for more info