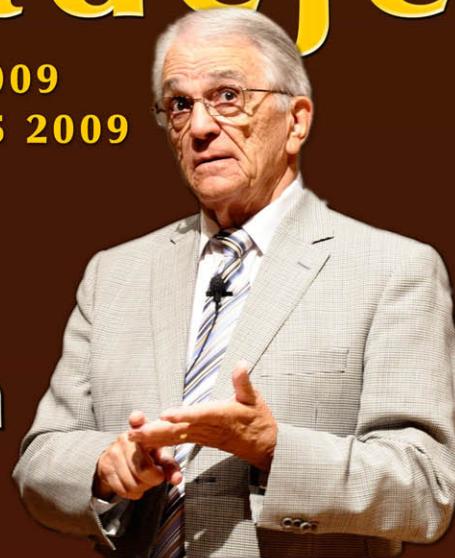
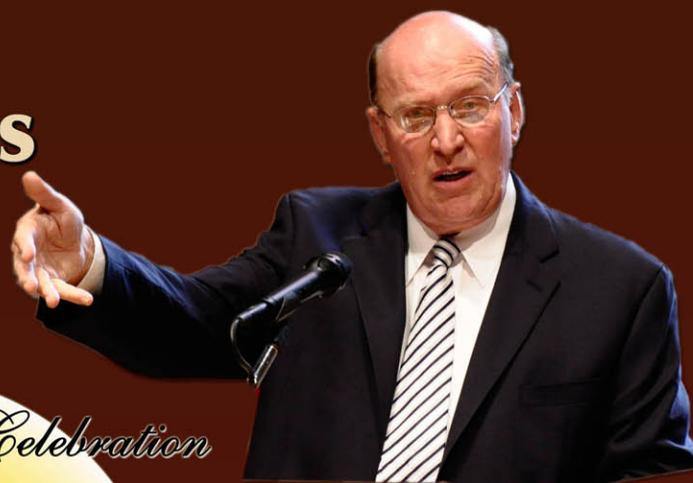


# Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

Vol. 35 N° 4-5 2009  
Ročník 35, číslo 4-5 2009



## The Mission Today and Always



Jako mě poslal Otec,  
i já posílám vás

Jan 20,21b

*The Centennial Celebration*



Ako mňa poslal Otec,  
aj ja posielam vás

Ján 20:21b

As my Father has sent me,  
I am sending you

John 20:21b

# Music 2009 at the Convention



Ema Kralik



April Chocholaty with daughters



Canji and Kmet families



Aaron Blata



Daniel Blata, Rachel Vika and Aaron Blata



Richard Mazanec



Miloš Šolc and Marija Sommer



Miriam Racinsky and Natasha Laurinc



Robert Weaver and Stan Mantle



Monica, Sara, Andrea and Nicole Lamos



Neda Pilic, Rachel Vika and Carmen Habuda



John Alac



Bob Dvorak at the piano

## 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 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, obecenství 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 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

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### Publication Office:

**Glorious Hope / Slavná naděje**

Rt. 4, Box 58D, Philippi, WV 26416-9717 USA

email: george.sommer@ab.edu  
WWW.CZSKBC.ORG

# Editorial



## Anniversary

We have witnessed the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. Its founders surely never considered the magnitude of the work they began, nor imagined how long it would last. The evident passion for mission work among

fellow countrymen, extending to all Slavic nations, is what I personally find most fascinating. A number of influential pastors, missionaries, and others working in ministry for the Lord have emerged from this convention. When we take into account the fact that the automobile industry was at its very beginning and that covering great distances, so typical for this continent, was not a simple matter, we must pay homage to those that accomplished this feat, to those who willingly served where they were needed, in the language that was needed.

Although the convention has gone through many phases, it has never become distracted from its missionary focus. The time came when the leaders seriously contemplated the

☞ Continues on page 7

## Výročí

Dočkali jsme se stého výročí Československé baptistické konvence. Její zakladatelé jistě netušili, jaká práce se z jejich myšlenky rozvine. O době trvání pravděpodobně také neuvažovali. Osobně mne fascinuje tehdejší zápal pro misijní práci mezi krajany a vůbec Slovany. Z konvence vyšla řada významných kazatelů, misionářů a dalších pracovníků na Božím díle. Vezmeme-li do úvahy skutečnost, že automobilový průmysl se teprve rozvíjel a překonávání vzdáleností, tak typickými pro tento kontinent, nebylo snadné, musíme vzdát hold. Vzdát hold všem, kteří ochotně sloužili tam, kde bylo potřeba. Také jazykem, kterým bylo potřeba.

Konvence procházela mnohými fázemi. Nikdy však nepustila od svého misijního zaměření. Později přišlo období, kdy se vedení vážně rozmýšlelo o ukončení existence konvence. Potom následovala otázka, jak dlouho konvence vydrží. Po té se objevila otázka další—zda-li se konvence dožije sta let. Dožila.

Misijní poslání konvence zasáhlo i další světadily, nejen tento severoamerický kontinent. Spojila v jeden celek velké množství lidí mnoha národností. Pojítkem různých charakterů a individualit je Boží láska. Tak vzniká obecenství.

☞ Pokračování na straně 7



Cover: Collage Vit Malek  
Photography: Dusko Pilic, Vlast Pojman,  
David Wiseman

# The Centennial Convention Greetings



## From President J. Michael Clyburn

As I complete my first year as the eighth president of Alderson-Broadus College, I am honored to reflect on the beautiful relationship between Alderson-Broadus College and the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with George and Marija Sommer, whose 40-year journey with A-B College and support for the Convention is a testimony of God's grace and blessing. There can be no doubt that God led them to our school and has used them to bless the lives of countless faculty, staff and students.

George and Marija Sommer have been instrumental in the strong partnership between Alderson-Broadus College and the Convention. When I think of the 20 years of songs, prayers, and fellowship brought to our campus by the Convention, I recognize the blessing of this gathering to our College family. Our College owes a debt of gratitude to George and Marija for their leadership, and to the Convention for the spirit and joy they brought to our school.

In these days of economic uncertainty and worldwide trouble and fear, I am delighted that the message and ministry of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention prevails. The "glorious hope" found in each convention participant's journey of faith and testimonial is an encouragement to all who pass our way.

May God continue to bless the members and leaders of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention.

With glorious hope, *Dr. J. Michael Clyburn*, President



## A Special Friendship

For almost a quarter of a century, Alderson-Broadus College and the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention have enjoyed a unique Christian partnership, which has drawn the two closer together in a special way.

What began for the College as the hosting of the annual convention on the campus each July has grown into a deep friendship defined by the caring manner exhibited by both groups. What began as a routine business venture has grown into a warm family gathering, with members of both groups genuinely committed to the care of the other.

For over a dozen years (1995-2008), I had the pleasure of actively participating in this yearly Baptist gathering, and gained many new and wonderful friends

within the Convention. I had the privilege of conferring honorary doctoral degrees on the Rev. Robert Mobley, Rev. Andrew Kmetko, and Rev. Robert Dvorak. From the meaningful worship services to the annual convention Sunday buffet, this was always a picture-perfect event. Susan and I had the pleasure of becoming good friends with Bob and Dottie, and cherish our times together at the annual meeting. I so admired Bob's dramatic preaching that I asked him to speak at one of our important Opening Convocations here on the campus.

The Convention was so committed to the College that they implemented two endowed scholarships, which will benefit A-B students for decades to come. This gift of love will provide love for years to come for many of our students.

My strong personal feelings for my Czechoslovak brethren were exhibited in my carefully crafted annual welcoming letter and opening Convention remarks. For me this partnership was a spiritual tie between the majestic mountains of the Tatras and the magnificent mountains of Appalachia - a spiritual tie between fellow believers from Canada and the U.S. and the A-B family members called to serve others through Christian higher education.

Each year, the Convention came to our mountaintop to provide its members with a mountaintop spiritual experience, but more importantly this annual gathering also provided us in the A-B family with a mountaintop spiritual experience!

*Dr. Steven Markwood*

President of Alderson-Broadus College 1995-2008



Vítám vás jménem Alderson-Broadus College! This year you celebrate your Centennial of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention on the historic hilltop in Philippi. It was my privilege 20 years ago to invite you to hold your first convention at Alderson-Broadus College.

Thus began a mutually beneficial and enriching relationship that brings the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention back to Philippi on July 9-12, 2009, to celebrate 100 years of meeting the needs of the world through preaching the gospel. Few things are more demanding or inspiring than the perennial job of making the faith intelligible and credible, comprehensive and convincing, to well-informed and honest minds, which is the goal of your Convention. Nothing short of the gospel can bring the hope and stability that our world

## The Centennial Celebration



needs and wants so desperately.

The students, faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni of Alderson-Broadus College are proud of the College's association with the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, and we are all happy that you continue to choose Alderson-Broadus as the place for your worship, renewal, study, and planning.

Like you, Alderson-Broadus College is proud of our Baptist roots and our Baptist heritage. We are also proud of our Baptist ideals, and we strive to live up to them. We pray God's blessing upon you as you worship, plan, pray, fellowship, work, and celebrate during your Centennial Convention.

It has been my joy to be associated with many of you over the years, and my only regret is that time and distance prohibit my joining you this year for the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention Centennial.

Yours in Christ,

*Dr. William Christian Sizemore*

President, Alderson-Broadus College, 1983-1994



ments they would be reminded of the power and glory of God. In that reminding they would be impressed to pass the story down to another generation of Hebrews.

When God parted the waters of the Jordan River to let the chosen people enter the promised land, Joshua collected stones from the river bottom. He built a monument on the river bank as an object lesson for generations to come: "In the future when

your descendants ask their fathers, 'What do these stones mean?'" (Joshua 4:21) These stones will always remind their children that God keeps his promises and protects his people.

Think of the people who have been impacted in the last 100 years because of the Czechoslovak Convention, the lives that have been transformed and renewed through Jesus Christ because a group of people 100 years ago began a vision that was prompted by God. Each year the monument laid down more reminding stones, stories of God changing lives, the Gospel being preached, churches impacting their communities for the Kingdom of God.

Cornerstone Baptist Church would like to extend our



### Greetings From Minionas

Dear Members of the Czechoslovak Convention,

Milestones are amazing. God reminds us many times in Scripture of the value of milestones and moments that impact generations to come. 100 years is a significant achievement, but what is even more amazing is the hand of God and what He has done in those 100 years.

When the people of Israel saw God's miracle of the parting of the Red Sea, the parting of the Jordan River at flood time, God asked them to build a monument of stones. Why? So that when they passed by those monu-

congratulations for this milestone, of which we have also been a part. I am reminded of the hymn written by Fanny Crossly,

*"To God Be the Glory":*

*To God be the glory, great things He has done;  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.*

*Refrain*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,*

☞ Continues on next page

## The Centennial Convention Greetings... Continues from page 5

*Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.*  
In Christ,

*Pastor Garth Priebe*  
Cornerstone Baptist Congregation

June 25, 2009

Dear Brother Dvorak and participants of the Centennial Celebration:

As you celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, please accept my heartfelt congratulations on this joyous and most memorable occasion. I want you to know that your convention has had a profound influence in my life and ministry.

Our family arrived in the USA in 1949, and in 1950 my father was invited to Cleveland, Ohio, to revitalize the ministry of the Russian Baptist Church there. The Russian congregation rented the facilities of the Scranton Road Baptist Church. Since our Russian services were held at 3 p.m., I was able to attend Sunday school and morning services of the Scranton Road Baptist Church and enjoy the wonderful preaching of Dr. Kmetko and the faithful teaching of our Sunday school teacher, whose name I have forgotten. At age 16 my father baptized me in the sanctuary of that church.

I never intended to go into the Christian ministry, and earned a degree in physics. But the Lord had other plans for me. Eventually, I attended Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, studied in Germany and France, and became pastor of the First Russian Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey. (In 1972 we moved to Union, New Jersey, and changed the name to Evangelical Baptist Church.) I have been serving this bilingual congregation

(English-Russian) for 45 years now. We're part of the Russian-Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Union, USA, and this weekend—June 26–28—we will be celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RUEBU's ministry in Philadelphia, where it all started. (You're ten years ahead of us!)

During this time I served in every possible capacity with RUEBU, including as president for eight years. In addition to my pastoral ministry, I was involved in radio ministry to the Soviet Union, and later to Russia, for 45 years. Since 1993, I have served with the Moscow Theological Seminary (Russia) as a trustee, where I teach a course every year. I had the joy of introducing a youth ministry in Russia, which functions in six cities and operates a Transformation Christian Center for drug addicts. For 17 years I was Denton Lotz's adviser with BWA for the former Soviet Union and Russia. There are other ministries.

I share this information not to boast about myself but to give God the glory, and to thank the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention for the important part that it played in my life as a teenager many years ago in Cleveland, Ohio. Were it not for Scranton Road Baptist Church, I don't know where I would be today. Through its faithful ministry to me and through my ministry in Eastern and Western Europe, and North and South America, CBC has touched more lives than you can imagine. You have invested in my life, and my fruit is your fruit as well, to the eternal glory of God and the joy of those redeemed by Christ through our labors for Him.

May the Lord bless you and all who are with you at your Centennial Convention as you celebrate the faithfulness of God and that of those who were once part of your fellowship. Congratulations on behalf of RUEBU, which I presently serve at its first vice-president and from our president, the Rev. George Harlov.

Rejoicing with you,  
*George Boltz*

□

## From the Executive Secretary



### Dates to remember

- Midyear meeting of General Board had to be postponed for medical reasons of president and secretary to February or March 2010 and will be held in Hatch Hollow Baptist Church, Hatch Hollow, Pennsylvania.

- Check the convention web page for pictures from 2009 Centennial Czechoslovak Baptist Convention [www.czskbc.org](http://www.czskbc.org) or [www.czskbc100.info](http://www.czskbc100.info)
- 101 Annual Convention is planned for July 8–11, 2010 in Philippi, West Virginia.
- More information will be published in next issue of *Glorious Hope*.

*George Sommer*

□

## Editorial... Continues from page 3

expiration of this convention. The subsequent question was then, how long would it last? Then another surfaced—will the convention endure to its centennial year? It endured.

The missionary calling on this convention extended beyond North America's borders to include other continents. It united peoples of many nations, connecting diverse characters and individuals with the universe's most powerful bonding agent—God's love. Fellowship is created and held together thus. Fellowship is a precious thing seen on every face, each one an irreplaceable contribution. Faces. So many faces. Familiar faces, less familiar and unknown faces. A greeting with a smile is evidence of a sense of belonging to the fellowship. Some faces are missing. They left, most of them to a heavenly home. Others lost interest. Quite simply, they're missing. They come to remembrance during this jubilant anniversary.

A hundred years of God's mercy. A hundred years of many blessings. A hundred years of God's faithfulness. A hundred years filled with expressions of God's love. That is our convention.

*So Jesus said to them again: "Peace to you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you."* John 20:21 (NKJV)

Editor-in-Chief *Natasha Laurinc* □

## Editorial... Pokračování ze strany 3

Obecenství je vzácné. Prezентuje se tvářemi a každá má na obecenství svůj podíl.

Tváře. Mnoho tváří. Znamé, méně známé i neznámé. Pozdrav a úsměv svědčí o příslušnosti k obecenství. Některé tváře chybí. Odešly. Většina do nebeského domova. Jiné ztratily zájem. Prostě chybí. Vybavují se právě při tomto jubilejním výročí.

Sto let Boží milosti. Sto let mnohých požehnaní. Sto let Boží věrnosti. Sto let projevů Boží lásky. To je naše konvence.

*Ježíš jim tedy znovu řekl: „Pokoj vám. Jako mě poslal Otec, i já posílám vás“.* Jan 20; 21 (NBK)

Šéfredaktorka *Nataša Laurinc* □

## Youth Scene... Continues from page 19

prepared for us and hiking down to the river and waterfalls below. Yet even amongst the busyness of the day, we were able to spend time around God's Word, in the open park. It was clearly evident that God was to be praised wherever we were.

The evening church services were all amazing. The worship through singing and prayer and the messages that were brought to us through all the preachers touched not only my life, but the lives of many present there. The old-fashioned hymn sing-a-long was definitely something I had been looking forward to since I had experienced it the first time I

was there, especially singing "This Little Light of Mine" with the actions, which put a smile on all our faces.

One of the highlights was the youth night at the

Vlasics' house. The Vlasics so lovingly and willingly opened their home to the youth, and prepared a feast of food and cakes for us all to enjoy. I know that the youth look forward to this night every year and it is greatly appreciated—a great night for the youth just to chill and eat together after such a busy day.

The whole four days spent at the Convention were amazing, a blessing. I treasure every moment I got to spend in God's house, around God's Word, and the amazing group of people I got to share it all with. Thank you all for opening your hearts to me and for making me feel welcome and a part of the family. May God bless you all for your kindness, and as a result, I may just have to come back for another Convention in the near future... God willing.



## 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





## Part 1A

# Ignition: The Spirit Burns Within Us

Rev. Kathy S. Shereda

Genesis 1:1,2, Matthew 3:1-12, Mark 1:1-8,

Luke 3:15,16, Acts 2:1-41

**H**ave you ever really thought about the power of the Holy Spirit within you? The Spirit has been likened to things in God's Creation which are recognizable to us. First, the Spirit is wind. Genesis speaks of God hovering over the waters like wind. The Hebrew word for wind, or breath of God, is *ruach*, a beautifully animated word which actually comes to life as we breathe in and then say it with enthusiasm. God's *ruach* was breathed over Creation and breathed into the very nostrils of Adam, giving him life.

The Spirit is also likened to fire, something we recognize as both useful and destructive. We speak of the Holy Spirit as the fire of baptism that John the Baptist spoke of, but also as the flames of eternal death. Fire is used by Jesus to illustrate both life and death. The Synoptic Gospels first use fire as an example of Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit at his baptism. Matthew: "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Mark: He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Luke: "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." The baptism John speaks of is one Jesus will give to enable his followers to carry on his ministry.

But let's hold that thought for just a moment. What is spirit, and what is Spirit? Notice the capitalization. When we talk of the human spirit, we are not talking about the Holy Spirit. There's a difference. We've all heard phrases like "The Spirit of '76," "that team has good spirit," "I



just don't have the spirit for this," "that horse is high-spirited," and others. I'm sure you can think of lots of examples using the word spirit. Every human being has spirit. The *human* spirit is the breath of life in a human being. And here again, we are not talking about eternal life, but physical life. If a human is alive and breathing, they have spirit. It may be at a high-functioning level or at a level where one is barely alive, but it is there, nonetheless.

Human spirit gives rise to soul. Soul is essence. This may be a hard theology for some, because we have often combined the thought that soul and Spirit are one. Jesus separated them. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength." That which makes you strong is God's Spirit within you. The others are physical attributes, and the soul is essence.

What is the soul? Our human body, together with the human spirit and the soul, progresses in God's creative order. There are four areas which contribute to "soul." *Cognition* is our ability to think. The mind

is one of four parts of what gives life to our soul. Decision-making and reasoning come from the mind. The *heart* is the seat of the emotions. It is commonly understood that our feelings originate in the heart. "My heart is heavy," "my heart is light," "my heart is happy," "my heart is broken."

*Volition* is the domain of one's will. It is a part of us that only God should be able to control, although in life there are those who rob us of our will by taking it from us forcefully. Dominant and overbearing people often oppress others by usurping the God-given right of will. It is for the believer to give over individual will in favor of God's will and only God's will. When we are able to give our will to God and make God's will our will, only then will we understand true freedom. A person's will is uniquely theirs. "He still has the will to live." "She is a strong-willed child."

The behavioral domain is where the other three create human action. People respond to life with various behaviors, either good or bad. Our behaviors are the result of the way we think (cognitive), the way we feel about something (heart), and our autonomy, or self (volition). We choose to behave one way or another. So, the human spirit is life, and the soul is essence. Neither the human spirit nor the soul offers eternal life. Only the gift of the Holy Spirit can do that.

There's a huge area of theological discussion where the unborn,

small children, and those who are mentally disabled are concerned. I think that all of these cannot be held accountable; therefore God protects them from eternal death. I hold support group meetings for parents of children with autism. These parents grieve over their children in this life and worry about whether they will know the joy of Christ's presence in the afterlife. I continually assure them that these "little ones" are the ones Jesus refers to as being protected. If human spirit and essence of soul are not present enough to allow choice, then I sincerely believe that the innocence of such a situation offers God's protection for eternity. Again, this is a theology which draws more conclusions than one. This is mine, and it is shared by many Christians.

Back to our question, "What is the Holy Spirit?" The Holy Spirit is not a "what," but a "who." John 14:15 says, *"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth."* The Greek word for Counselor here is *parakletos*, or *paraclete*. It means advocate, or helper. Jesus promised to send his Spirit to live and dwell within believers. To continue his ministry, he would need the strength and unity of those he taught. Jesus foretold of the "helper" in verse 26: *"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*

Acts 2 is what I like to call the "Ignition" chapter. This is an exciting chapter because it describes the coming of the Holy Spirit with wind

and with fire! God's *ruach* (Hebrew) is God's *pneuma* (Greek). A mighty rushing wind blows into the room; "a violent wind from heaven came and filled the whole house," as the NIV says. One would only have to breathe in for it to become a part of one's whole being! "They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them."

Several things were happening, and they happened fast. First, *they*



were all together in one place. Who are *they*? Some believe only "the twelve," with Matthias taking the place of Judas. Some think those gathered were the twelve, plus the women, as well as Mary the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' brothers. Others draw on Acts 1:15 and feel that it meant the entire group, plus about 120 post-resurrection believers. I lean more toward the latter. The wind and fire of Pentecost was a gift meant for all those true followers of Christ, and his promised gift was for them to receive.

Secondly, the sound of wind came. God used wind at Creation, wind to initiate life, wind to show his presence, and now the wind of his Son, Jesus, to breathe into every believer his Counselor Spirit. It is this breath of Life within us we receive as a gift when we first believe. The sound of the wind of Pentecost was not like a gentle breeze, by any means. It was noisy, perhaps like the "freight train" sound of a tornado, or the howling of a hurricane. God made his presence known when he sent the wind of Jesus to fill the believers.

Thirdly, we are shown the baptism of fire that John talked about. "He will baptize you with fire and the Holy Spirit." The tongues of fire were a gift of the Holy Spirit. I think it is intriguing that the very gift they received took on the shape of what they would do with it. The tongues of fire ignited them after they received it. Those gathered in that "one place" didn't stay there and talk about how interesting everything was. No, they got up from where they were, as though ignited, and blasted off into the city streets with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Lastly, the disciples were given the gift of being able to speak in other languages. The apostles were "ignited," and the Spirit moved them to speak. As they spoke, the message of Christ was understood by people from 16 distinct parts of the known world. Jesus came as the advocate, the helper, the Spirit who remains. As a result of their being able to speak to so many people from various parts of the known world, Acts 2:41 tells us that about 3,000 new believers were added to their number that day.

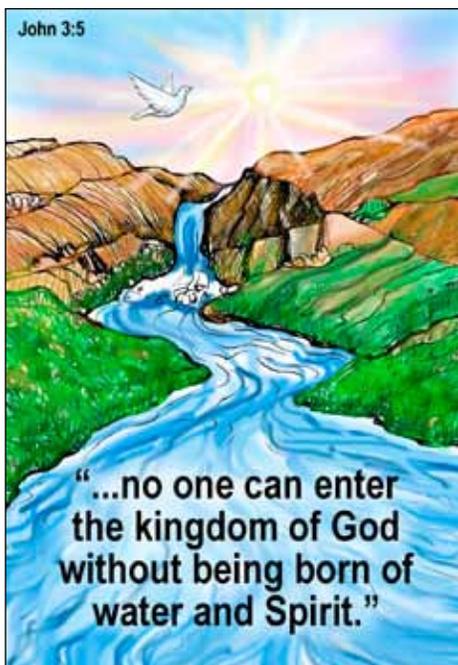
What about us today? We worship

Continues on next page

## Bible Study... Continues from page 9

God through Christ, and the Spirit teaches us truth. We call ourselves Trinitarian in this belief and practice. Most Christian churches observe and celebrate the mystery of “God in three persons,” Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the Trinity was developed by the Church in the fourth century to settle theological debates about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. At that point in history, the Church needed a solid statement about the theology of the Godhead which could then be taught and preached. All other theologies would then be rejected.

There are some faith traditions adherent to Christianity which do not recognize or accept the Trinity.



Some of these include Mormonism, founded by Joseph Smith; Jehovah's Witness, founded by Charles Russell; Christian Science, founded by Mary Baker Eddy; Oneness Pentecostals, founded by Frank Ewart; and even the Unification Church, founded by Sun Myung Moon. The Trinity is a perplexing theology to understand. Even the wisest of theologians find themselves at a loss to explain it.

Some use the analogy of the masks



worn by actors in the old Greek tragedies. One actor wearing many masks can play many parts. But it is still just one actor. Others have used the analogy of water. Under normal conditions, water, H<sub>2</sub>O, is a liquid, but freeze it and it becomes a solid. Heat it and it becomes steam. It is still H<sub>2</sub>O, whatever form it takes, but it can have three radically different forms.

These are called modalist analogies, and can only partially describe the Trinity. For instance, the water cannot simultaneously exist in every mode. God, on the other hand, exists simultaneously as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Modalist analogies are not adequate comparisons. They try to expose and reduce the extraordinary into something ordinary and explainable and completely separate. The Trinity is to be taken on faith. It cannot be fully understood or explained.

There are theological parallels in the Trinity. First and foremost is the descriptive meaning of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Within the Trinity are other meanings: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; past, present, and future; peace, patience, and hope; and other interpretations

as the Spirit leads. Some religious faiths do not even try to understand it, but accuse Christians of worshipping three Gods. Christians, in fact, worship one God whose attributes are known in three persons. As the hymn goes, “God in three persons, blessed Trinity.”

One of the most prominent Christian theologians who ever lived was a man we know as Augustine. Augustine was converted to Christianity in A.D. 386 by the writings and sermons of Ambrose, the bishop of Milan. Ten years later Augustine became a bishop himself and served at Hippo on the coast of northern Africa, in the area we now call Algeria.

It is said that one day Augustine was walking along the seashore pondering how God could be One and yet Three. Suddenly he stopped and watched a child who was carrying a cup of ocean water to a small hole he had dug in the sand.

“What are you doing?” asked Augustine. The child replied, “I’m trying to pour the ocean into this hole.” The bishop laughed and said, “That’s impossible.”

The child stared into his eyes and said, “It is no more impossible than

for you to put Almighty God into your small mind.”

And it’s true. The Trinity is one of those many things about life and faith that you and I will never understand. The secret of a successful life is not knowing and understanding everything about God, but having faith and trust in God. We can either spend our lives making ourselves miserable about what does not make sense to us, or we can live joyful lives based on faith and trust in God.

I may not be able to understand the mystery of God in three persons, but I can enjoy the incredible beauty of God the creator. I may not understand how a baby in a manger can be God, but I can read with awe the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and apply them to my life.

I may not understand all there is to understand about that Comforter that Jesus said he would send us, but there have been times when that Comforter, the Holy Spirit, has enveloped me with love and assurance. I don’t have to understand God in three persons in order to experience the grandeur of what those three persons can mean in my life. The secret of a successful life is not understanding, but trust.

Catherine Marshall, the author of many books including the bestseller *Christy*, and whose husband was the well-known pastor Peter Marshall, was told during a routine physical checkup on March 20, 1943, that she had contracted tuberculosis. It was a devastating blow to both of them. The doctors ordered her to stay in bed twenty-four hours a day. There she waited. And waited. And waited. In her book *Beyond Our Selves*, Catherine Marshall notes that over a year later she had gained some fifteen pounds, but otherwise nothing was changed. The area of infection was as widespread as before. Other specialists were consulted. They had no answers, and could only recommend more bed rest. When Catherine and her husband Peter asked how long, the doctors replied that they had no idea.

Writing in retrospect, Catherine described this time as three weary, endless years. Over and over she asked the question, “Why, oh why do I have to lie here month after month? Why can’t the doctors do something?” Yet it was during this time that Catherine learned many important spiritual lessons. She became keenly aware that there

were no shortcuts. God alone was in charge. She learned to deal ruthlessly and fully with sin in her life.

She committed her life completely to Jesus Christ as Lord during that time. The seeds of her writing ministry were planted during her time of recovery. Those seeds have touched thousands of people. She developed an increasingly strong faith in God’s ability to heal. At first she was told there was no progress. Then x-rays began to show progress. And finally she was pronounced well. In addition, as her faith was strengthened, Catherine Marshall was able to reach out with word and pen and encourage others. Catherine Marshall’s successful life is not a testimony to knowledge or complete understanding, but to faith and trust.

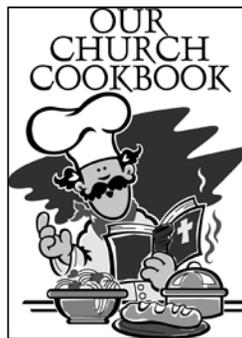
C.S. Lewis once said that the most frequently spoken word in heaven would be “Oh.” As in, “Oh, now I understand.” Or, “Oh, now I see what God’s plan was.” Or, “Oh, now I see the reason for the trial I went through.” We walk by faith, not by sight. But one day all will be revealed to us. We will be in the presence of the Father and the Son and the Spirit.

□

## Cooking Corner

### Calling all cooks...

We need your recipes! A cookbook is being planned to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. Just imagine a wonderful keepsake cookbook filled with delectable recipes that will remind us of our grand-mother’s kitchen. Czechs and Slovaks are well known for their culinary skills and delicious food, and we are hoping to get a great selection of traditional Eastern European recipes, as well as all of your favourites—everything from slow-cooker recipes to knedlíky!



The recipes must be in English, and you may forward them in Word or WordPerfect to Deb (Lev) Mulder at [debmulder@cogeco.ca](mailto:debmulder@cogeco.ca) If you do not have access to a computer you may just write them down on a piece of paper and send them to:

Deb Mulder

Box 22

Cannifton, ON K0K 1K0 Canada

All recipes must be received by March 31, 2010. We look forward to receiving all of your best and maybe even secret recipes.

Dobrou chuť!

□



# Premôž s Ježišom svoj handicap

Th.D. Darko Kraljik

Lk 18, 35–43 (Mk 10,46–52)

## Časť 1

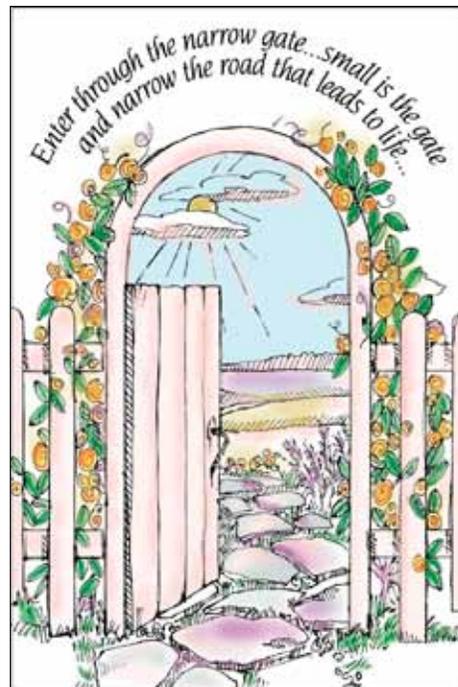
**M**áme pred sebou príbeh, ktorý sa odohral na konci Ježišovej pozemskej služby tesne predtým, než šiel zomrieť na kríž Golgoty za hriechy ľudstva. Mňa dnes tento príbeh nezaujal svojou historickou skutočnosťou, ani veľkosťou Ježišovho zázraku, ani jeho evanjelizačnou silou. Zaujal ma tým, v čom odzrkadľuje náš život, život nás veriacich ľudí. Je to príbeh, ktorý nás núti zamýšľať sa nad životom muža Bartimea a spolu s ním nás núti zamýšľať sa nad svojím životom, nad svojím vzťahom k Bohu, nad svojou službou na poli Božieho kráľovstva.

Pozrime sa predovšetkým na Bartimea. Príbeh nám o ňom odhaľuje niekoľko vecí. *Po prvé* tu máme Jericho—mesto, v ktorom sa tento príbeh odohráva. Je to mesto, ktoré bolo za dní Jozuu prekliate, mesto vydané záhube... Je to mesto, ktoré bolo vydané kliatbe, ak by ho znova vystavali. Prekliati boli tí, čo v ňom bývali... (Joz 6,26) Bartimeus bol človek, ktorý býval v tomto prekliatom meste. *Po druhé*, akoby toho nebolo dosť, príbeh opisuje jeho rodinné pozadie. Bartimeus vlastne ani nie je meno, znamená *syn Timaesov*. (Mk 10,46) Meno jeho otca možno preložiť ako špinavý, odporný... Tento muž teda žil na prekliatom mieste, v rodine, ktorá asi bola široko-ďaleko známa špinavosťou, nečistotou, azda chudobou, ktorej sa všetci vyhýbali. Navyše bol tento muž postihnutý, mal handicap: bol slepý a žobral vedľa cesty.

Keď sa teda na tohto človeka pozeráme ľudskými očami, tak je to beznádejná situácia, tragédia ľudského života. Mňa však zaujal práve tento Bartimeus



handicap. Práve on nám pripomína náš vlastný život a môžeme tu nájsť istú totožnosť. Každý z nás, aj ako veriaci ľudia, máme nejaké miesto, kde žijeme, a nám sa možno zdá, že naň Pán Boh zabudol, máme rodinu, ktorá má takú či onakú povest', máme svoje rodinné



problémy, k tomu svoje osobné problémy, navyše každý z nás máme vo svojom živote určitý handicap. Je to niečo, čo nás stavia do znevýhodnenej pozície oproti druhým, niečo, čo prekáža robiť určité veci, niečo, čo nevieme a nedokážeme robiť, niečo, na čo nemáme, niečo, v čom prosto nie sme dobrí, na čo nemáme obdarovanie.

To sú veci, ktoré neraz aj nás kresťanov akosi presvedčili, že nie sme dobrí a schopní slúžiť Bohu, že v našom meste, v našej cirkvi nič nemôžeme robiť, že sme nepoužiteľní. Najprv nás to možno trápi, potom nám to začne vyhovovať a mnohí v cirkvi skončia ako Bartimeus: sediaci vedľa cesty viery, vedľa cesty služby, odstavení, bez radosti, nadšenia, ako duchovní žobráci prežívajúci zo dňa na deň. Tragédiou je, že máme tendenciu tieto naše nedostatky ešte zväčšovať a používať ich ako výhovorku, prečo v zbore neslúžiť, prečo nenaplniť misijné poverenie.

Ježiš k nám však dnes prichádza, prechádza vedľa mňa a teba, vedľa miesta, kde takto možno sedíš, prechádza a chce premôcť tvoje nedostatky, chce uzdraviť tvoj handicap. Ježiš ťa dnes volá vydať mu tieto veci, aby ich premenil na nové príležitosti k novej službe, k novej nádeji, k novému nasledovaniu Ježiša. Ježiš ťa dnes volá vstať z toho miesta, kde sedíš, kde sa možno ľutuješ v tom, že vidíš iba to, čo nemáš, čo nemôžeš... Ježiš nechce, aby sme ako žobráci viery sedeli vedľa cesty viery a služby, aby nám príležitosti len tak unikali pomedzi prsty. Volá nás, aby sme vstali a nechali sa ním zmeniť a uzdraviť. Volá nás opäť sa mu vydať, nasledovať ho, oslavujúc jeho meno. Boh potom spôsobí, že aj ďalší ľudia sa pridajú k tejto oslave, nastane duchovný pohyb v nás i okolo nás. Čo môžeme urobiť, aby Ježiš premohol náš handicap a použil náš život pre službu?

1. Sústreď sa na to, čo máš. (Lk 18,36) Bartimeus nevidel, bol slepý, ale nebol hluchý. Preto čítame: „A keď počul...“ Sústredil sa na sluch, na to, čím ho Boh obdaril, nie na to, čo nemal. Mnohí ľudia sedia v zboroch vedľa cesty viery a služby, a len hovoria o tom, čo nemajú, čo robiť nevedia a nemôžu, na čo obdarovania od Boha nemajú... Oplakávajú svoje nedostatky a slabosti, sústreďujú sa na svoj handicap a točia sa okolo neho. Tento muž sa však sústredil na *sluch*. Stal sa „kazateľom“ a svedkom Ježiša Krista, lebo „počúval“. A tak sa stalo, že kým tí, čo videli Ježiša, videli v ňom iba *Ježiša Nazaretského*, on v ňom sluchom viery videl *syna Dávidovho*—Mesiáša, Spasiteľa. Ak teda ako Bartimeus máme v niečom handicap, znevýhodnenie, Boh nám určite toto kompenzoval inou vlastnosťou, nahradil určitý nedostatok iným obdarovaním. Tento muž mal rozvinutý sluch, no nielen fyzický, ale predovšetkým vnútorný—počul srdcom to, čo iní nepočuli, zachytil šum, ktorí iní nezachytili...

Drahí bratia a sestry... Tento príbeh je o nás. Mnohí z nás si možno povieme: ja neviem kázať, neviem učiť besiedku, neviem spievať, neviem to či ono. Alebo je vašim handicapom choroba, staroba, chudoba, zlá povest' rodiny... Ježiš vás volá aj s vašim handicapom. Určite máte niečo, v čom mu môžete slúžiť tak ako nik iný. Dovoľte mu, aby premohol vaše nedostatky a použil vás vo svojej službe svojím spôsobom v oblasti, pre ktorú máte jeho obdarovania, jeho talent...

2. Premôž verejnú mienku. (Lk 18,38–39) Príbeh nám odhaľuje, že tento muž bol pre svoj rodinný pôvod a situáciu, aj pre svoj osobný handicap zakríknutý. Podľa verejnej mienky mal byť ticho, nemal čo hovoriť, nemal čo ľuďom povedať. Verejná mienka ho tlačila z cesty, na okraj, utiahol sa, neukazovať sa, skrýť sa... Navyše sa nám tu natíska dojem, že sa to dialo aj zo strany zbožných, zo strany cirkvi. Čítame, že práve tí, „ktorí šli popredku“, na čele zástupu, ho najviac umlčovali, nedávali mu príležitosť k slovu. Akoby nám tu text

chcel povedať, že niekedy sa aj cirkev, aj vodcovia cirkvi previnia tým, že namiesto toho, aby ľudia s určitým handicapom našli v cirkvi prijatie a príležitosť na službu, nájdú odmietnutie. Niekedy sa aj cirkev uchýli k teológii prosperity a do služby stavia „superstar“—superhviezdy, ľudí obdarených výrečnosťou, ľudí všestranne nadaných, obdarovaných lídrov, ktorí spĺňajú všetky kritériá marketingu a šoubiznisu a ostatných tlačia nabok, priamo i nepriamo takto odstavujú, umlčujú. Mnohí sa nechajú umlčať, rezignujú a nenachádzajú priestor a príležitosť na službu, lebo nedokážu pre svoje znevýhodnenie súperiť s inými. Aj Bartimeus



musel s týmto bojovať. No keď ho Ježiš zavolať, premohol verejnú mienku, nepísanú, ale žitú teológiu prosperity zo strany zbožných. Pochopil, že Ježiš ho volá takého, aký je. A tak sa nevzdal.

Bratia a sestry... Možno aj niekto z vás zápasíte s podobnými vecami. Možno ste zostali niekde pomimo pre verejnú mienku vášho okolia, alebo aj z viny bratov a sestier, aj z viny vedenia zboru... Ježiš to chce zmeniť, volá vás k novej odovzdanosti, k službe, volá vás vstať a prekonať mienku ľudí. Volá vás odovzdať mu všetko, čo chce umlčať vašu modlitbu, čo vám znemožňuje naplno mu slúžiť. Diabol sa bude vždy snažiť umlčať veriacych ľudí, aby nepozdvihovali hlas s prosbou o prejavy Božej milosti... Ježiš to chce premôcť a zodvihnúť fa.

3. Odhod' žobrácky plášť. (Mk 10, 50) V tom čase najmä žobráci, ale zvlášť chudobní ľudia, sa obliekali do plášťa či odevu z ťavej srsti. (Ján Krstiteľ Mt 3,4) Bolo to vonkajšie znamenie postavenia človeka, jeho situácie. Vyjadrovalo beznádej situácie, bezmocnosť, chudobu a biedu života. Keď sa však Ježiš zastavil pri Bartimeovi a zavolať ho, tento človek počul slová: „Dúfaj, vstaň, volá ťa.“ (Mk 10,49) Tie slová boli niečo ako—Hej človeče, prečo tu tak sedíš, veď je nádej pre teba, rozveseľ sa, vstaň z miesta, kde si, a poď k Ježišovi, volá ťa... Pre tohto človeka to nebolo ľahké, ale urobil to vo viere v Ježiša Krista. Vstal a zhodil zo

seba plášť a šiel k Ježišovi.

Plášť však bolo niečo, čo Bartimeus nechránilo iba pred slnkom a dažďom, ale aj pred pohľadmi ľudí, skrýval v ňom svoju biedu, svoju chudobu, celý handicap svojho života. Teraz ho vo viere odhodil a šiel k Ježišovi taký, aký bol. Bolo mu jedno, že sa odhalil pred ľuďmi, bolo mu jedno, čo si ľudia hovorili, ako na neho ukazovali prstom, poukazovali na jeho nedostatky, na jeho rodinu. Urobil to, vstal, odhodil ho.

Odhodený plášť tu však vyjadruje aj druhú pravdu—že nie je možné prežiť obnovenie svojho vzťahu s Ježišom, obnovenie svojho života viery, nie je možné mať v Ježišovi novú nádej, novú radosť, nové dúfanie, nové poslanie k službe, a pritom to navonok neukázať.

☞ Pokračováni na straně 17



**B**ratislava June 30, 2009  
Dear Sister Natasha,  
Brother Robert Dvorak and  
Brother George Sommer!

It has surely been God's maneuvering that right when we wanted to wish you many God's blessings

to the convention's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we received your magazine, *Glorious Hope*, issue 2-3, 2009, which to us is very dear and precious.

Perhaps you already know that my dear husband Vladimir's health has, since the year 2007, been weakened due to a stroke. However, he still has peace in his heart and a smile on his face.

I am currently preparing a book for publication that will be entitled *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*. It is a selection of Vladimir's many sermons and articles from our magazine, *Rozsievac*. In the past few days, some workers from the University Library, where my husband was employed for a long time, visited him. They brought with them a bibliography of his work within the musical field of study (90), and his articles in the *Rozsievac*, where he was the editor, and later, the editor-in-chief. Altogether, there are 389 articles.

One of the sections in this publication that's being prepared is entitled *Amazing Manifestations of God's Power*, and in it we are featuring an article about our unforgettable visit to your convention, in the year 1997. We are sending this article to you with a desire for God's blessing upon your Centennial Convention, with our sincerest regards to you, an expectation of God's mercy to be manifest, and with the desire that our Lord be glorified during this convention and that it may bring refreshing encouragement to all present.

*Vladimir and Ruzenka Dvorak*

## Welcome to the Mountaintop

This is how, in the "Czechoslovak" language, the president of Alderson-Broadus College, Dr. Steve Markwood, welcomed attendees of the Convention during the opening service on Wednesday evening, July the second. And we were truly in the highlands. The university campus, situated on a hill overlooking the picturesque town of Philippi, is an ideal location for this Convention: a beautiful church with a spacious auditorium, an organ, grand piano, and many smaller rooms; accommodation in dorms; meals supplied by the university cafeteria; football fields for the youth; a pool... Everyone spends time together and experiences true brother-sister fellowship. The land's heights reflect

the spiritual heights we experienced here.

The wonderful Convention was for us an unforgettable experience. It brought us spiritual encouragement and many ideas for our work.

Now the only thing left is our expression of gratitude to God for our Czech and Slovak brothers and sisters, for their work, their interest in spiritual life in their former homeland. We personally are grateful for their precious invitation, hospitality and love which they showed us throughout the whole time we were there.

And now my wife Ruzenka will share her own impressions.

## Our Days on the Mountaintop

*Impressions from the Czechoslovak Convention in Philippi, July 2-6, 1997*

They can be expressed in two words: SIMPLY CAPTIVATING.

Why? Mostly, it was captivating because the Convention has met already 88 times, and the chain hasn't been broken despite pressures and divisions in the world at large; because Czechs and Slovaks, the young and the old, families of four (e.g. Martin Alac's) or families of five (e.g. John David's) come from places all over Canada and the United States, many times covering great distances to attend. There were more than three hundred people in attendance, and it took some of these a three-day drive by car to get there. The overall spirit and perfect organization of the Convention had us captivated. Although many are meritorious, we are most grateful to the Convention's secretary, George Sommer, and its president, Robert Dvorak. Everyone felt the same way and expressed their gratitude with a standing ovation and thunderous applause. Gratitude is one of many beautiful distinctive characteristics of our American brothers and sisters.

An interesting novelty for us was an evening of creativity and discovering talent, led by Sister Marija Sommer. Following the performances of the youngest children, we also heard mature creative expression. The highlight of the evening was seeing the youngest children perform and then seeing all the children and youth singing together. It was at this moment we were convinced there was no need to be concerned for the future of the Czechoslovak Convention. And though the program lasted until eleven o'clock in the evening, no one felt that it was too long.

During this Convention the scripture passage from 1 Corinthians 2:9, "*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him,*"

took on a whole new dimension for us. While we had always been aware of what reassuring words these are for those soon journeying to “the other side,” here we realized their pertinent reality. “Eye has not seen...” all the people who truly love the Lord made us feel the truth of these words. Thank you. Thank you for your love, our dear American and Canadian brothers and sisters!



Bratislava 30.6.2009

Drahá sestra Nataška, milí bratia Robert Dvorak a George Sommer!

Je to iste Božie riadenie, že práve keď sme Vám chceli zaželať veľa Božieho požehnania k 100. výročiu Vašej konvencie, dostali sme Váš vzácny a pre nás veľmi milý časopis *Glorious Hope*, číslo 2-3, 2009.

Možno viete, že moj drahý manžel Vladimír už od roku 2007 je pre mozgovú príhodu zdravotne veľmi oslabený, ale stále má v srdci pokoj a radosť na tvári.

Ja práve pripravujem publikáciu, ktorá sa bude volať *Hľadajte najprv Kráľovstvo Božie*. Je to výber z jeho premnohých kázni i článkov v našom časopise *Rozsieváč*. V týchto dňoch ho navštívili pracovníčky Univerzitnej knižnice, kde bol môj manžel dlho zamestnaný, a priniesli bibliografiu jeho práce z hudobnej vedy (90) a článkov v *Rozsieváči*, kde bol dlhé roky redaktorom a neskôr šéfredaktorom. Tých je dokopy 389.

V pripravovanej publikácii je jedna časť nazvaná *Úžasné prejavy Božej moci* a v nej uverejňujeme článok o našej nezabudnuteľnej návšteve na Vašej konvencii roku 1997. Posielame Vám ho so želaním Božieho požehnania pre Vašu Centennial Convention s najsrdečnejšími pozdravmi a so želaním Božej milosti, ako aj túžbu, aby náš Pán bol oslávený na tohtoročnej konvencii a aby priniesla nové povzbudenie všetkým prítomným.

Vladimír a Ruženka Dvořákovci

### Vítam vás na výšinách

Takto po „československy“ pozdravil konferenciu prezident Alderson-Broadus univerzity Dr. Steve

Markwood na otváracom zhromaždení v stredu 2. júla večer. A išlo skutočne o výšiny. Areál univerzity na kopci nad malebným mestečkom Philippi je ideálnym miestom na konferencie: krásny kostol s priestranou sálou, organom, klavirom, s mnohými menšími miestnosťami; ubytovanie v internátoch, stravovanie v univerzitnej jedálni, ihriská pre mládež, bazén... Všetci účastníci môžu po celý čas byť spolu a prežívať skutočné bratsko-sesterské spoločenstvo. Výšiny zemské sa tak premieňajú na výšiny duchovné.

Nádherná konferencia bola pre nás nezabudnuteľným zážitkom, priniesla nám duchovné povzbudenie a veľa námetov pre našu prácu.

A tak ostáva už len prejať vďaka Bohu za naše české a slovenské bratstvo, za ich prácu a záujem o duchovný život v ich starej vlasti a nám osobne za ich vzácne pozvanie na túto nádhernú konferenciu a za

starostlivosť a lásku, ktorú nám po celý čas prejavovali.

A teraz sa podelí o svoje dojmy aj moja manželka Ruženka.

### Dni na výšinách

*Dojmy z konvencie českých a slovenských baptistov vo Philippi v dňoch 2.-6. júla 1997*

Dajú sa vyjadriť dvoma slovami: UCHVÁTILA NÁS.

Čím? Predovšetkým tým, že sa

konala už 88. raz a že jej reťaz sa napriek mnohým náporom a rozdeleniam vo svete nikdy nepretrhla. Tým, že na ňu prichádzajú z veľkých diaľav USA i Kanady Česi i Slováci, starí i mladí, ba aj celé rodiny so štyrmi (napr. rod. Martina Aláča) či piatimi deťmi (rod. Jána Dávida). Účastníkov bolo vyše tristo, pri tom niektorým trvala cesta autom až tri dni. Uchvátil nás celkový duch i perfektná organizácia konferencie. Bolo to zásluhou mnohých, ale azda najväčšími vďaka bratovi tajomníkovi Jiřímu Sommerovi a bratovi predsedovi Robertovi Dvorakovi. Všetci to cítili a svoju vďačnosť prejavili povstaním a burlivým potleskom. Vďačnosť je jedna z krásnych výrazných vlastností našich amerických bratov a sestier.

Zaujímavou novinkou bol pre nás večer tvorivosti a objavovania talentov, ktorý viedla sestra Marija

Continues on page 21

## Memorial Service at the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

Sunday, July 12, 2009

Olga Glajch,	January 2009,	Grace Baptist Church, Windsor.
Marie Hynek,	December 1, 2008,	Czechoslovak Baptist Church, Toronto
Mary Hynek,	June 5, 2009,	Czechoslovak Baptist Church, Toronto
Martha Karhan,	August 2008,	Scranton Road Bible church, Cleveland
Rev. Andrew Kmetko,	August 2008,	Wheeling, IL
Sylvia Skalsky Kulina,	January 9, 2009,	Richmond, VA
Tony Mikulencak,	May 20, 2009,	Goodrich Community Church,
		Goodrich, WI

### Martha Karhan

April 5, 1919– September 12, 2008



On Friday, September 12, 2008, Martha Karhan was called home to be with Jesus at the age of 89 years. She was born in Detroit, Michigan, on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1919, to the late Florian and Martha Manas. She was also the sister of the late Rev. Florian Manas. The Manas family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in the 1920's.

At an early age, Martha attended the Scranton Road Baptist Church, where her grandfather, the late Rev. Joseph Vanek, was a pastor. As a teen, Martha was active in many youth and outreach programs at the church. Throughout many years she was a faithful Sunday school teacher to children from nursery to teens.

In October, 1955, she married Robert M. Karhan, and at that time became a wonderful mother to Robert L. Karhan. On Sunday mornings at Scranton Road, Martha and Bob sang many duets together. They often sang in both Czech and English. Many of the songs they sang brought joy and inspiration to the congregation. They spent many years singing in the choir at Scranton Road and at the convention.

Martha began attending the Czechoslovak Convention in the 1930's. She and husband Robert faithfully continued to attend until her health no longer allowed

her to travel. She was also the financial secretary to the Czechoslovak Convention for several years.

Martha is survived by her loving husband, Robert M. Karhan, her son Robert L., and his wife Kathy. She was grandmother to Kimberly Jackson, Steven Karhan and Karen Hansen, and great-grandmother to Lucas Jackson.

Martha's many friends called her a loving and faithful servant. Her friends and family miss her, but know that we will see her again one day when God calls all of his servants home.

*The Robert Karhan Family*

### Anton Mikulencak

February 8, 1914–May 20, 2009



Anton "Tony" Mikulencak, 95, of Goodrich, died Wednesday, May 20, at Pinecrest Nursing Home in Merrill, while under hospice care. Funeral services were held Saturday, May 23, at Goodrich Community Church, with Pastor David

Elleman officiating. Burial was at Evergreen Cemetery in Medford, Wisconsin.

Anton Mikulencak was born February 8, 1914, in Cudahy, to the late Thomas and Mary (Fiala)

Mikulencak. The family moved to Goodrich, where he attended Goodrich Grade School up to Grade 8.

On February 6, 1943, at Emmanuel Bohemian Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois, he married Helene Boubelik, who preceded him in death on March 26, 2008. They lived in the town of Goodrich, where he owned and operated a dairy farm for over 50 years. His father died when he was 10 years old, which made him responsible to continue the small farm his father began. He developed the farm from 45 acres to over 150 acres. All his life he worked hard at farming. He also enjoyed logging and making firewood.

He was a member of Goodrich Community Church, where he served as a deacon and treasurer; the Gideons; the Republican Party; the Taylor County Tree Farmer Association, from which he received the Taylor County Tree Farmer of the Year award; and the General Board of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. He also served as the assessor for the Town of Goodrich and on the Goodrich School Board. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, visiting with family and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include five daughters, Ruth (Ollie) Whitlow and Rachel (Joel) Paulson, both of Goodrich; Rosemary Mikulencak, of San Jose, California; Ruby Mikulencak, of Ghana, Africa; and Rebecca Skeeter, of Milwaukee; a brother, John Mikul, of Wausau; two sisters, Mary Buch, of Wausau, and Rose Mikul, of Goodrich; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and other relatives and friends.

*Ruby Mikulencak*

□

**Check our NEW Convention Web pages:**

**WWW.CZSKBC.ORG  
WWW.GLORIOUSHOPE.INFO  
WWW.CZSKBC100.INFO**



## **Biblická studie...** Pokračování ze strany 13

„Žobrácky plášť“, ktorým je manifestovaná bieda života, bez-nádej, duchovná chudoba, nemá čo robiť v živote Božieho dieťaťa, nie je to, čím chce Boh zaodiať náš život. Nemôžeme sa s ním spokojiť, keď sú nám dané veľké zaslúbenia Božie, keď sme sa stali Božimi deťmi, a tým aj dedičmi všetkého večného; keď nám Boh daroval bohatstvo nádeje, bohatstvo odpustenia hriechov, poskytol nám vstup do bohatého večného života, v ktorom máme všetky požehnanie nebeské... Prečo by sme mali sedieť vedľa cesty viery a služby ako žobráci, bez nádeje, bez radosti, bez odvahy niečo robiť, zakríknutí ľuďmi... Prečo sa obliekame do plášťa, ktorý nie je hoden Božích detí? Pán Ježiš nás volá odhodíť ho a obliecť sa tak, ako sa to sluší na Božie deti. Zaodiať sa Kristovým víťazstvom, jeho mocou, jeho radosťou, jeho pokojom, nasledovaním ho v službe, v oslave jeho mena... Toto je výzva príbehu. Je mojou modlitbou, aby sa Bartimeov príbeh stal našim príbehom, príbehom našich rodín, nášho zboru... Ľudia to uvidia a bude to začiatok misijného pohybu, ktorý povedie k tomu, že Ježiš bude oslavovaný v životoch ešte mnohých ľudí.

*Pripravil Darko Kraljik—prednáška k téme: Misijné poslanie cirkvi, Philippi 2009* □

## **Ladies' Page...** Continues from page 20

Before the closing hymn *To God Be the Glory*, our new officers were introduced. The new executive includes:

*President: Deb Mulder*

*Vice-President: Donna Nesvadba*

*Secretary: Margaret Springle*

*Can. Treasurer: Donna Nesvadba*

*U.S. Treasurer: Marija Sommer*

Deb Mulder made a presentation to Esther in appreciation for her commitment and role as president of the Women's Missionary Union. We sincerely thank her for her leadership and we wish her God's richest blessings as she continues to serve Him in other capacities. Esther then prayed for the new executive, for wisdom and guidance. Deb Mulder closed the rally in prayer. We look forward to our 87<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2010.

Respectfully submitted by *Deb Mulder*

□

# MOVING ?

Please write to:

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## Having Faith in God

Kristina Vlasic

While the 100<sup>th</sup> Convention provided a vast program for the adults, the children themselves had a fun-filled weekend full of activities and lessons. This year the children's main topic was *"Having Faith in God."*

On Thursday night we learned about the faith of the centurion. The kids then had the opportunity to act the story out, and everyone was eager to participate. By the end of the night the children had a clear definition of faith and that *"Whenever you have a problem, go to Jesus!"*

Friday we stepped out of our classroom and went on a walk where we found a good spot to have a snack and start learning about the faith of Queen Esther. During the evening service we finished our story and watched a movie to reinforce the message, after which we talked about how she had faith, and made king and queen crowns to remind us to have faith that God will help us and be by our side in all we do.

Our next lesson of faith was Joshua and the walls of Jericho. In our morning lesson we learned his story and began practicing our shouting for joy and singing as I informed the kids that we would be knocking down our own "walls of Jericho" that night. Needless to say, when the evening



Trisha Denniston, Kristina Vlasic



service came around, the kids could hardly wait to feast their eyes on the "walls" made out of Styrofoam cups. We quickly went through the story once more before we pulled out our air blowers and marched around shouting and blasting our horns. Without hesitation the walls came a-tumbling down! Saturday evening ended there but not before the kids' incredible rendition of *"Cast Your Burdens upon Jesus"* (ha-ha-ha).

Finally Sunday we tied up all the loose ends and talked "faith" one more time. The kids learned that faith without works is dead faith, and during the service we learned that we need to walk by faith and not by sight (thanks to Mr. Dvorak for helping us prove that point).

Often after a convention we look back and try to pinpoint parts that may have been our favorite or memories that will last for a long time. Unfortunately I cannot pick just one, as the entire weekend was thoroughly blessed. The children were always so eager to learn and quick to participate. I enjoyed having each and every one and hope

they had fun! I anticipate seeing them again next year, and hope they will bring lots of friends!

□



## 100<sup>th</sup> Czechoslovak Baptist Convention

### Rachel Vika—My Testimony

**M**y name is Rachel Vika, and I come from Melbourne, Australia. I was born in Melbourne, and my parents were born in Serbia but speak Slovakian. I was in Canada on holiday two years ago, in 2007, and happened to attend the 98<sup>th</sup> Czechoslovak Baptist Convention in Philippi, West Virginia, with family.



Neda Pilic, Rachel Vika

The memories and the friendships that formed over that weekend will last forever. I remember sitting there hearing about the 100<sup>th</sup> convention in 2009 and thinking to myself that I was going to be there and a part of it. So when the opportunity arose for me to come back to Canada again this year for a holiday, I made sure that it would include being able to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> convention.

Whilst waiting to come back to Canada, I would keep updated about the convention through the webpage and would get excited as I read about the events that I knew I was going to attend. I could not wait to be a part of the youth activities and to listen to preachers that I had heard so much about.

I arrived in Canada a few weeks before the convention was due to begin. Hearing everyone being excited about

going to the convention made me even more grateful that I was going to be a part of it too. The 30 hours I had spent travelling around the world was worth it. It was going to be a good weekend!

Convention time came around quickly. I arrived at A-B college on the Wednesday night and settled into my dorm with the lovely Kristina, who I had met two years prior thanks to the convention and had kept in touch with since. The place was exactly how I had remembered it to be. I was grateful that I wasn't going to get lost around the campus this time!

Over the next day or so as more and more people started arriving, it finally sank in to me that I was actually there. I was at the 100<sup>th</sup> Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, just like I had said I would be. I had never actually believed it would be possible, but with God, all things are possible!

The program for the youth was a blessing to me. It is



amazing to think that a bunch of youth can get together to have fun but also to study God's Word together. The weekend wasn't just about seeing each other and having fun; it was about God, and that was the one thing that we all had in common. We had all come from different parts of Canada, America and the world, and yet it was as though we were one big family. I felt so welcomed, and privileged to be in this sort of atmosphere.

On Friday the youth headed to Blackwater Falls, where once again we were able to marvel at the creation of God. The day was spent admiring God's handiwork of the falls and the scenery around, enjoying the good barbie that was

☞ Continues on page 7



## 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Czechoslovak Baptist Women's Missionary Union

Saturday, July 11, 2009

In this, our Centennial year, Esther Tarr welcomed everyone in attendance to the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Czechoslovak Baptist Women's Missionary Union. This welcome was followed by the singing of our opening hymn *Come, Thou Fount*, after which, Dottie Dvorak opened the meeting in prayer. The Toronto ladies sang two selections for us: *Jen Panu Jezisi* and *Kristus Mym Vudcem*. The scripture reading was Psalm 23 and was read in English by Margaret Springle and in Czech by Deb Mulder. After the Scripture reading, we all sang *God Leads Us Along*.

Ruby Mikulencak then shared with us about Christian ministries focussing on youth in Ghana and the increased focus on sports ministries. Youth are questioning religious, cultural and social norms and they are challenging our belief system. A staggering 45% of Ghana's population is under the age of 15 and because of these statistics and challenges, church planting is no longer a focus in Ghana, but there is a focus on youth. Young people are being encouraged to establish businesses to help support native missionaries because there has been a decline of western missionaries, and African and Asian missionaries do not have the funding to go out to the mission field. Ruby also shared exciting radio ministries and the need for continued funding for this mission. She graciously thanked the ladies for their financial and prayer support.

The minutes of last year's meeting were passed and the Donna Nesvadbá presented the financial report. Marija Sommer offered prayer before the collection was received, during which Dottie Kvasnica played the offertory. We were then blessed with April Chocholatý's beautiful rendition of *My Tribute* on the flute.

Esther introduced our keynote speaker, Heather Mantle.

Heather is the wife of Pastor Stan Mantle, who ministers at Grace Baptist Church in Windsor, Ontario. Heather presented her work at Matthew House in Windsor, Ontario. Matthew House is a small 3 bedroom bungalow that is a safe haven for refugee claimants in this border city. In 2008 there were over 1,000 claimants and Matthew House helped 55. There are no federal programmes offered for such claimants, so churches take on the role. Heather reminded us that a refugee is someone who has a fear of persecution. In scripture we read that "the Lord watches over the alien..." (Psalm 146:9),

"the Lord is a refuge for the oppressed" (Psalm 9:9) and "The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself..." (Lev. 19:34). God cares for the alien and His design is for us to take care of the aliens (refugees). In Matthew 25:35 we are reminded that we must invite the stranger in and feed, clothe and care for him. Heather recounted many experiences of families separated from each other and shared with us the miraculous story of a woman and her two children who eventually reunited with her husband. She also shared stories of people coming to the Lord—how exciting! Heather challenged us all to show the love of Christ to all people. Heather was then presented a gift from the ladies. Michele Moore then blessed us with her solo *Help This Shepherd be a Lamb*, accompanied by Marija Sommer. Esther presented a gift to Heather on behalf of the ladies and we are so excited that we have been able to increase the amount of our support to Matthew House this year!



Heather Mantle, Esther Tarr



Dottie Kvasnica at the Organ



Marija Sommer



Doreen Springle



Esther Tarr, Margaret Springle

Continues on page 17

## From Our Readers... Continues from page 15

Sommerová. Popri vystúpeniach najmenších detí sme tu počuli už aj vyspelé umelecké prejavy. Zlatým klincom večera bolo vystúpenie najmenších detí a potom spoločný spev detí, dorastu i mládeže. Tu sme sa presvedčili, že o budúcnosť Československej konvencie sa netreba obávať. A hoci program trval do 11. hodiny večer, nikomu sa to nezдалo dlhé.

Na tejto konvencii slová z 1 Kor. 2;9: „Ani oko nevidelo, ani ucho nepočulo, a čo ani len do ľudského srdca nevstúpilo, to pripravil Boh tým, ktorí ho milujú,“ nadobudli pre nás nový rozmer. Doposiaľ sme ich vždy vnímali ako slová útechy pre tých, čo už pozerajú na „druhý breh“, tu sme ich vnímali ako prítomnosť. „Čo oko nevidelo...“, to všetko nám dali pocítiť tí, ktorí z uprimného srdca milujú Pána. Vďaka Vám, vďaka za Vašu lásku, milí americkí a kanadskí bratia a sestry!

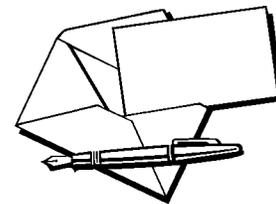


Greetings, George,

On behalf of the Shereda family, I would like to extend our most gracious thanks to all who made our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration a success. Not only was it a family reunion of the Sheredas, it was a time to reconnect with good friends. Paul and I have not been to a convention for nine years. During those years I was concentrating on my theological studies and finishing my M. Div. Now that I am taking a brief leave from academic circles and serving as pastor, I can once again enjoy the fellowship of the convention. Doctoral studies are on the horizon, but for now, we are taking a break. We were especially pleased to see so many young adults and youth taking an active part in the convention. We saw so much leadership talent and passion, and it made our hearts glad because it meant the vision had been planted. We enjoyed connecting once again with the familiar, but embraced that which was new.

The banquet was outstanding, and the table of *koláčky*, strudel, and cookies were like something in my dreams. The traditional meal of raised dumplings, pork, and sauerkraut on Sunday brought back memories of being at the Shereda dinner table on so many Sundays. Something we look forward to with anticipation is Bob Dvorak on piano. We enjoy Bob's presence so much in the pulpit and at the piano. What a treasure he has been to the convention!

We want to thank George and Marija for hosting such a pleasant afternoon of *obecenství* at their home. This couple has worked so hard to make every convention excellent, and with God's help, they have succeeded. Additional thanks go to those who helped me with logistics as I led the morning Bible studies.



Thank you to George Sommer and Darko Siracki who worked with technology and allowed me to use Powerpoint slides. It was an honor and a privilege to be asked to teach on such a momentous occasion. I am grateful for the invitation and give all the glory to my Savior. Again, the Sheredas say, „Děkuji vám mnohokrát!“

Rev. Kathy S. Shereda, Pastor,  
High Hills Baptist Church, Jarratt, Virginia



August 25, 2009

Dear President Robert Dvorak, Executive Secretary George Sommer, Marija and so many others,

Thanks for a wonderful convention. We know it entailed a lot of hard work and planning, and it was all great. The Saturday evening banquet instead of Sunday dinner was a very good idea and made for a very nice evening.

We also want to thank you for making it possible for us to attend. The wheelchair and people's thoughtfulness made it possible for Milan to enjoy the meetings and fellowship. The intent was for him to get a hip operation after we returned home. However, his doctor insisted on a stress test before he would okay the operation. The stress test revealed he only had one artery working to his heart, so things were changed and he had triple by-pass surgery instead. The surgeon said he could have had a heart attack any time if he hadn't had that fixed. God is good, and we are grateful.

Thanks again,

Sincerely in Jesus, our wonderful savior,

Milan and Virginia Steffel



Sept. 27/09

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Enclosed is my check to the convention on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I'm sorry that I'm not able to attend the convention this year. I've enjoyed the spiritual blessings as well as the fellowship of our Slovak brethren. However, I've made some changes in my living and am not at the Wellington Place for assisted living. I'm thankful for the opportunity to still drive to church, etc.

This contribution is in memory of my parents, Anna and Simon Santner, who dearly loved attending the convention.

May the Lord continue to bless the ministry of the Convention.

Sincerely in Christ,

Ruth Hitchcock



I have been talking to myself quite a bit recently. (Not to worry, this is internal, silent conversation, intentional and, I hope, reasonably cogent.) The subject has to do with the passing of years, the accumulation of years, the spending of years. To the Lord it may well be that a day is the same as a thousand years, and vice versa. To me, however, it is watching the spinning of every 365 days into another year that went by with incredible speed. And those many days and quite a few years are beyond recall.

What results have they netted? I am not entirely pleased with what my own record is showing. But one should go forward with the obvious, *Tomorrow is another day.*

Ever since our centennial convention meetings in July, I have been wondering also about the hundred years so far for the Czechoslovak Baptists in the US and Canada. O brother, O sister, didn't they spin away in a hurry. And what did they bring?

- A lot of joy and fellowship.
- A strong sense of belonging to one another, both present and past.
- Spirits and hearts made glad in the Lord, and in each other's company.
- Gospel sent to people and places it might not have reached had we not been active.
- A lot of listening and learning about the ways of God in the world and in human life.



- Linkages with Baptist Christians in other lands to do the one work of evangelism.

- Maturing of faith, deepening of trust, rejoicing in heritage.

There were setbacks and frustrations along the way, maybe even a few arguments and some hurt feelings from time to time. But the convention seems always to have remembered that the story of what went on among us was really about a work of the Lord.

Now we are setting off into a new century. Where will the future take us, and how long will we last? These are questions rightly raised in these days freshly succeeding our centennial celebrations. The

answers lie with the Spirit of God, who knows the Lord's schedules and timetables, the same Spirit who gives power and strength to God's people and who calls us and all the church to work for a future that counts for the Kingdom of God. We have always confessed, along with a songwriter of some years ago, Ira Stanphil: *Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand.*

So off we go into this new period of time. We're refreshed by the enthusiasm of what went on in Philippi, West Virginia, July 9-12. We loved being together and felt Christ present in the midst. We claimed the 100-year history of the past for our own. And we also sensed that more work and activity in the Lord's name lies ahead. Youth were in abundance at this convention. Our inclination to engage in "remembering" was balanced off by "anticipation."

If you missed this year's convention, do not fret. The 101<sup>st</sup> is set for July 8-11, 2010. And the General Board will be getting together to work on it all in February or March 2010, in Hatch Hollow, Pennsylvania (thanks to the church there and Pastor Devine). "Centennial-Plus-One" is coming up, or shall we call it "Bicentennial Minus Ninety-Nine"?

  
Robert Dvorak

□



# Convention Echoes in Pictures Part I



General Board meeting



Ruby Mikulencak



Darko Kraljik, Bob Dvorak and Jan Titěra



At the banquet



Tim Bailey



Fellowship



Children and youth choir



Denton Lotz and Bob Dvorak



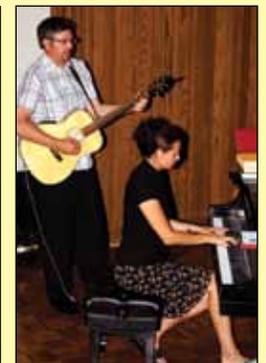
Communion



Banquet



Praise team



Michal Canji and Michelle Sury



*The Centennial Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, July 9-12, 2009*