



The beauty around us. As soon as they are born, children begin to develop a sense of esthetics. The extent to which a child learns to be aware of beauty depends on how much the parents are aware of the harmony of creation. The disruption of this harmony is

The coloured leaves of autumn remind us of the palette of bright colours that an artist uses to capture the beauty of nature with a paintbrush. The fall season never fails to amaze us with its originality. The leaves, which were still green just a few days ago, point to the Creator with their wonderful colours. The beauty of nature during the various seasons teaches us to notice the

reflected in people's feelings and results in negativity. Our natural reaction is then a desire to bring everything back to its original state, to the harmony ordained by God. In practice, however, we can see the impossibility of satisfying this desire.

This reality may be applied to our personal lives and to the life of the entire congregation. We experience pleasant moments as well as unpleasant ones, and we can sense the lack of harmony. We know that we must fight and struggle in order to regain harmony. This causes our life to become one great battle in which we struggle for internal peace and balance. An experienced Christian is aware of the fact that this battle never ceases and requires that we always stay on guard. The battle never ends because the original harmony ordained by God has been disrupted. Man is not able to regain this harmony (the relationship between man and God) through his own strength and ability. Man understands that God, in His love towards humanity, prepared a plan that enables people to attain internal peace. Man believes in the power of Jesus Christ "through whom we are able to come before God the Father," and he is willing to turn his entire being towards Jesus Christ. Only in this way is it possible to regain the lost harmony in life. Are we willing to allow God to create a new order in our lives? If so, then our lives will be as beautiful as nature in autumn.

The contents of this issue of *Glorious Hope* are still influenced by our convention, held at the beginning of the summer. We believe that in the pages of this magazine you will find much inspiration for which to thank and praise God, especially during the time of Thanksgiving that we are currently celebrating.

Editor-in-Chief *Natasha Legierski*

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Podzimní barvy listů nám připomínají pestrou paletu uměle, který mistrně štětcem zachycuje krásu přírody. Podzim nás vždy znovu a znovu okouzlí svou originalností. Listy, které ještě před několika dny byly zelené, nás svými úžasnými barvami upozorňují na Stvořitele. Krásy přírody v jednotlivých ročních obdobích učí člověka vnímat krásno kolem sebe. Estetickému citění se dítě učí hned od narození. Do jaké míry krásno vnímá, záleží na rodičích, jak oni vnímají harmonii stvořitelského díla. Narušení této harmonie na sebe upozorní, odráží se v citění člověka a vyvolává negativní pocit. Přirozenou reakcí obyčejně bývá touha uvést vše zpět do původního stavu, tedy znovu vytvořit Bohem stanovenou harmonii. Praxe však dokazuje nemožnost splnění této touhy z důvodu hrubého narušení, a nebo úplného zničení konkrétních objektů.

Tuto skutečnost můžeme aplikovat do našich osobních životů i života celého sboru. Prožíváme různé chvíle, krásné i nepříjemné a cítíme nesoulad. Víme, že musíme bojovat a usilovat o znovuzískání souladu. Tím se náš život promítne do jednoho velkého boje, ve

☞ Pokračování na straně 115

Front cover: Maria Gabankova – Basket of Apples

Back cover: Convention 2000 Photos

Photos : George Sommer and Vlastimil Pojman

Plans for the Christian Social Center

From the work of our sisters...

On my way to the Sisters' Convention in Ostrava, I thought about whether we would be successful in building a closer relationship with our former homeland in our common work on the mission field. We know that the work of the sisters within the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention in USA and Canada was started with the specific purpose of offering help and support to our country. During the Communist era, this type of work was made impossible, so the sisters shifted their focus to other areas, but they continued working and offering financial support. Now, after the fall of the political regime, it is once again possible to focus on the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Forty years of atheist upbringing has left its mark on entire generations, especially in the moral and spiritual spheres. People depart for eternity in complete hopelessness; they are disappointed with society and life, often abandoned even by those closest to them. Many do not believe in the existence of God, and die without knowing the Saviour. The departure from God is truly the tragedy of our nations. On the other hand, God does not abandon anyone; He has His servants everywhere, even in our old country. At the Sisters' Convention, I was able to meet those who have been called into service by the Lord specifically to help these needy people.

On the following pages, a sister who stands at the forefront of the expanding mission work in Ostrava will introduce herself to you. Our sisters' committee was familiarized with the project during our convention in Phillipi and decided to support it financially. Christ's church should work as one large team. Every person has a role on this earth, and by contributing their abilities or financial resources can help in reaching the goal.

We would like to encourage you to join us in supporting this project; naturally, our brothers can contribute as well. (Cheques should be made payable to the "Czechoslovak Ladies Mission Union" and sent to the convention address in the preprinted envelopes.) We would also ask you to pray for this sister and her family, that the Lord would lead them so that many souls might still be saved. Let us not forget that "there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent" (Luke 15:7).

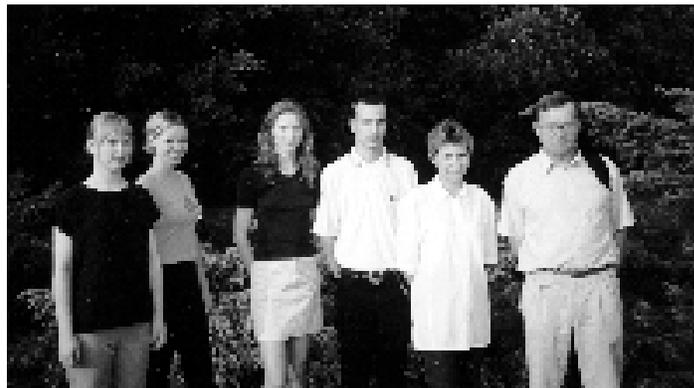
Basic Information

My name is Lydie Jariabkova. I was born on November 5, 1949, in Olomouc as the eighth of ten children. I am married and have four children, three daughters and a son. My youngest daughter is 18 years old. I live in Ostrava-Poruba, J. Skupy 1639, 708 00, Czech Republic.

My father, Alois Erlich, was a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He served in the BJB for 27 years. My mother was the first deaconess of the Pardubice Snaha. Both of my parents were deeply rooted in the Christian faith. They devoted most of their time to work within the church. My personal life was also submitted

Dear brothers and sisters,

In April of this year Natasha Legierski attended the Sisters' Convention in Ostrava. I accepted our fellowship as a gift from God. Most of the information I receive about your congregation comes from the magazine *Glorious Hope*. Sister Legierski's visit once again brought our congregations closer together.



Jariabka family

I am glad that I have the opportunity to familiarize you with my plans for offering Christian social services through our Baptist Church in Ostrava. I have attached some information about myself and our work.

I would welcome any help, ideas, or advice you may have to offer. I am also interested in your experience in the area of social work in Canada. Who else could better relate to our situation in the old country than those who used to live here?

I believe that our contact could expand from the pages of the magazine and the occasional telephone call to, for example, an opportunity for your youth to spend the summer here in Ostrava. Along with expanding their mother tongue and discovering the natural beauty of the region, they could help with preparing the social programs and services for the following year.

Wishing you God's blessings,
Sincerely yours Lydie Jariabkova

Autobiography

Lydie Jariabkova

to this priority.

I accepted Jesus as my personal saviour in 1965. I was baptized in the Baptist Church in Kromeriz by Pastor Zboril.

I worked in the youth group in the Ostrava Baptist Church. I taught the children's Sunday school class. Currently I sing in our church choir.

Roots

The family environment and the life of the congregation formed my character, opinions and decisions to a great extent. I was

☞ Continues on page 106

91th Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, June 29–July 2, 2000

Our Hope for Living in the New Millennium

The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4b

Well, once again a convention has come and gone, and we are left with great memories.

With advancing age, we realize how quickly days, months, even whole years pass away. It is very interesting that even children notice that fact. I realized that when we gathered for the General Board meeting in Crim Dining Room on the first day of the 91st Annual Convention. It seemed as if only a few months had passed since we gathered for the General Board meeting in 1999.

Joe Novak led us in opening devotions, reading from Ephesians 3:1, 14–21 with a few comments expanding on the Scripture. Then he and George Sommer led in the opening prayers.



G. Legierski and president R. Dvorak

We heard the minutes of the midyear 1999 meeting and other reports. The finance secretary and the treasurers presented their reports. The Board discussed thoroughly the amounts of money in the various funds. There are fluctuations in the value because of the financial ups and downs in the stock market. It was decided to have the Budget Committee discuss how to invest the various funds for the best returns. The recommendation of the Budget Committee will be handled at the midyear meeting before the decision is finalized.

Natasha Legierski, Editor, reported that *Glorious Hope* now includes three languages: Czech, Slovak, and English. The magazine is improving with each issue. She thanked all who are working and cooperating in the publication. She would like to have more articles about what is happening in the churches of our convention. Robert Dvorak complimented her on the excellence of the finished product.

Joe Novak then presented his report on the distribution of tracts. He has been working for 15 years on the tract program. He also gave a complete report as to the response he is getting

from many places and asked that we continue to uphold him and the work in prayer.

The Awards/Recognition Committee reported that an award of recognition will be given to George Legierski in recognition of his having been Editor-in-Chief of *Glorious Hope* in the past.

Joe Novak, chair of the Nominating Committee, appointed the following committee members:

Nominating:

Joe Novak- chair	Daniel Widlicka
Jan Banko	William Rotar
Stan Mantle	Garth Priebe
Florian Manas	Russell L. Kepple

Budget:

Robert Dvorak- chair	George Gregor
Bill Rotar	Oti Alac
Henry Pojman	Vera Dors

Time, Place:

Bill Widlicka- chair	John Senak
Fred Opocensky	

Publishing:

George Sommer- chair	Joe Novak
Jan Banko	George Legierski
Natasha Legierski	

Auditing:

Joe Hodul- chair	Leo Hala
Richard Mazanec	

Missionary:

Florian Manas- chair	Fed Opocensky
Leo Hala	

Youth:

Jan Banko- chair	Steve Michael
Stan Mantle	

Awards & Recognitions:

Robert Dvorak- chair	Florian Manas
Helen Horvath	George Sommer

The president and the executive secretary are ex-officio members of all committees.

Joe then presented a ballot for the next election period:

Executive Board for 2000–2002

President: Robert Dvorak; **First V-President:** Joza Novak; **V-P for USA:** Florian Manas; **V-P for Canada:** Jan Banko; **V-P for Parl. Procedures:** John Jeren, Jr.; **V-P for Publications:** Natasha Legierski; **Executive Secretary:** George Sommer; **Assist. Secretary:** Alice Kmetko; **Treasurer-USA:** George Gregor; **Treasurer-Canada:** Otilia Alac; **Fin. Secretary -USA:** Vera Dors; **Fin. Secretary- Canada:** Henry Pojman; **Glorious Hope Editor-in-Chief:** Natasha Legierski; **Canadian Office**
President: Jan Banko; **V-P:** Milan Lev; **Secretary:** Milan Lev; **Treasurer:** Otilia Alac; **Finance Secr.:** Henry Pojman; **Members-at-large:** Fred Opocensky; Joe Jersak, Joe Novak.

General Board Group I Members for 2000–2002

Joe Abraham; Otilia Alac; Robert Dvorak; Helen Horvath; Joseph Hynek, E; John Karenko, E; Robert Karhan; Russell L. Kepple; Alice Kmetko; Natasha Legierski; Florian Manas; Stan Mantle; James Mazur; Steve Michael; Helen Mikulencak, E; Joza Novak; Fred Opocensky; William Rotar; Mary Schoun, E; John Senak; George Sommer; William Springle; Bob Struharik; Daniel Widlicka; Esther Widlicka;

General Board Group II Members for 1998–2002

Lillian Adam, E; Vlado Canji; Vlado Dudok; Evy Evenhuis, E; Ed Evenhuis, E; John Gabor; Leo Hala; Joe Hodul; John Jeren, Jr.; John Jeren, Sr., E; Joe Jersak; Andrew Kmetko; Milan Lev; Richard Mazanec; Tony Mikulencak, E; Garth Priebe; Antony Springle, E; Paul Struharik; Mike Sivulka, E; Marija Sommer; William Widlicka.

(E = General Board Member Emeritus)

The ballot for the Executive Board had the following additions: Joe Novak as a member-at-large in the Canadian office. For General Board Group I Members: Joe Abraham, Robert Struharik, and Jerry Anders. A new designation of "E" for Emeritus was given to some of the senior members on the Board: Joe Hynek, John Karenko, Helen Mikulencak, Mary Schoun, Lillian Adams, Evy Evenhuis, Ed Evenhuis, John Jeren, Sr., Tony Mikulencak, Antony Springle, Paul Struharik, Mike Sivulka, Stan Hynek. These persons will not be required to attend all meetings but will still be a permanent part of the Board. "E" persons will not appear on the next roster of board meetings.

Additional names can be put on the ballot to be members of the General Board only if they are presented to the Nominating Committee and after they have been asked if they would like to be on it.

Robert Dvorak would like to see an open invitation to the young people to take their place on the General Board...there is no age restriction.

A motion to amend Article XI (General Board members for



R. Dvorak and A. Kmetko at the communion table

election to a two-year term) was made by George Sommer. General Board members will be updated on the progress of this amendment, and any pending errors will be corrected.

President's Report:

- I have thanks to say to you. Thanks to you for your faithfulness.
- We have a problem with the Baptist Union regarding our gift planned for 2000–2001. They have given us 14 different ideas. We will take it up at midyear after requesting that they shorten their suggestion list.



Jiří and Ludmila Dedecius and president Dvorak

- A chance to talk about the Orville Freeman bequest. He was very faithful to the convention. This was home to him. The convention is a home place to many of us through the years.
- We need to get the right person to tell us how to handle our wills in reference to our convention responsibilities. Lydia Gabor in her estate remembered the convention, as have others.
- The State of the Convention will present ideas as to where we are going in the future. We will be on the somewhat lower side in attendance once again this year. We shortened the length of the convention in hope of attracting more people. Times are changing, and we are losing some of our members. How do we cultivate a sense of commitment and responsibility to the convention? What can we do here that cannot be done in any other place? We will be a different convention in ten years. Thanks to George for all he does for the convention, and to Marija, who suffers but supports him.

Secretary's Report:

- *Glorious Hope* now lists our web page. Log on and see what is happening. (www.ab.edu/czslbaptconv)
- We have been working on tax-exempt status and are waiting to hear from the IRS.
- We have two new big sections of convention pictures called "*Do you remember when...*" posted in the chapel foyer.
- The executive secretary received a letter from the president of A-B College stating that George will be eligible for retirement in June 2001. What does it have to do with the convention? George has much convention material in his office. He may be given an office at the college when he retires to keep the convention materials. Pray that the Lord will show us what we can do. Dan Widlicka led in prayer asking God's blessing

☞ Continues on next page

on the decision to be made.

- In the past we had decided that the convention would invite the Rev. Jozef Kulacik and his wife as special guests, but the Baptist Unions in the Czech and Slovak Republics decided to have their combined annual convention at the same time as ours, even though they knew about our convention's dates at



The Novaks

least two years in advance. So Jozef Kulacik had to decline our invitation to come this year.

- Last year we had two guests from Trans World Radio, George Cooper and Lubos Vyhnanek. This year we have George Cooper back with another guest, Jan Viktorin, to give us a report about what TWR is doing in the Czech Republic.
- Names of persons who died during the past year as well as the date and what church they attended should be given to Robert Dvorak for the Memorial Service.
- The time of the next conventions will be:
92nd convention July 5–8, 2001.
93rd convention June 27–30, 2002
94th convention June 26–29, 2003
A change was made in the 92nd convention due to conflicts.
- The 92nd convention program has already been planned for 2001. It was suggested that we should have visitors from the Czech or Slovak Republics every other year instead of every year. More discussion on this point will be held at the midyear meeting.
- For Canadians, the cost of the annual convention is almost 50% more than US costs. How can we help them to be able to come? We will work on this problem at the midyear meeting.
- An ad hoc committee will have videos made of convention services to be sent out to the churches.

Steve Michael reported that the last of his mother's siblings died in California, and he went to the funeral and was greatly helped by Mike Sivulka, his daughter, and her husband.

The first Convention business meeting was held on June 30, 2000, at 11:10. Following missionary reports given by TWR (George Cooper and Jan Viktorin using transparencies), a letter from Vlado Canji, who is back from Slovakia, was read, and Joe

Novak gave his report on the tract distribution program.

Robert Dvorak read the scripture from Luke 1:57 and followed it with comments on the scripture before leading in prayer for the business meeting.

Then we received greetings from the following people and churches:

Scranton Road Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH; Ruth Oestreicher, Berwyn, IL; Milos Solc and family, Prague, Czech Republic; Poplar Spring Baptist Church, Richmond, VA; young people from Slovakia; Toronto Baptist Church; Stan & Joe Hynek family; Grace Baptist Church, Windsor, ON; Christ Community Church, Campbell, OH (former 1st Baptist Church); John & Marie Pavelda, Phoenix, AZ; Judy & Don Shoff and Mike Sivulka, CA; Parma Heights Baptist Church, OH; Sabrina Cook, Akron, OH; Emmanuel Baptist Church, Portland, TN; Mildred & Gilbert Drowley, Scottsdale, AZ; Dan & Ruby Ertner, Winston-Salem; Dottie Dvorak, Middletown, CT; Angie Gregory, Boca Raton, FL; Helen Wilcox, Sun City, AZ; Virginia Profant, Parma, OH; Tony & Helene Mikulencak, WI; Bill Walter & family, Des Plaines, IL.

In the second Convention business meeting, held on July 1, 2000, President Robert Dvorak asked for the committee reports.

Jan Banko reported on the **Youth Committee**. He was very pleased with the group in attendance and with the addition of the 17 young people who came from the Slovak Republic. Their subject was "*Mobilizing the Spiritual Needs in the Church and in the Ministry.*" We have been using ministers to address the young people because they are the future of the convention. Pray for the youth.

Time and Place Committee: The 92nd Convention will meet July 5 to 8, 2001, at Philippi. The midyear meeting will be held in Campbell, OH, at the Christ Community Church on November 3, 2000. This was originally the First Baptist Church.

Publishing Committee: The cost to produce *Glorious Hope* is approx. \$18,848 per year. A single issue is \$3,141 (1,100 copies of each issue are printed) or \$2.85 per copy. Those are



Jan Viktorin and the Widlickas

approximate figures.

Peter Branda from Toronto does the translations from Czech to English. Peter is doing a great job. We are now publishing articles in Czech, Slovak, and English.

The Convention will be publishing four different books by Pavol Kondac of *History of Anabaptists* and *Identity of Baptists*. They will be printed in the Slovak and English languages, two in English and two in Slovak.

A new column, *Blessed Is the Man*, will be published in *Glorious Hope*.

Glorious Hope represents our convention around the world. (We are mailing our magazine to 17 countries.) An excellent job is being done by Natasha Legierski and her staff.

The Auditing Committee reported that all documents and books are in order.

Budget Committee: The budget for 2000–2001 was presented and accepted. It was published in the July 2000 issue of *Glorious Hope*, in the insert.

Robert Dvorak explained that we are looking for better and more remunerative investments. Bill Rotar and George Gregor are to investigate what terms the Virginia Baptist Foundation is operating under and discover what is best and then make their recommendations. These will be discussed at the midyear meeting and reported at the convention in 2001.

Elections: It was suggested that Article XI of the bylaws be amended so the members-at-large can be elected for two years instead of four years in order to have the entire General Board elected at the same time in 2002. John Jeren, Jr., parliamentarian, has agreed that this is a legal procedure.

Ballot: nominations were closed, and it was voted unanimously to accept the ballot as printed.



For this year's convention we have invited Jiri (George) and Ludmila Dedecius from Brno, Czech Republic. The book *Guarded City*, published by the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention, describes their mission work during the Communist regime. We were inspired by their testimony, which was printed in the last issue of *Glorious Hope*, on page 95.

At last year's convention we decided to shorten our annual convention by one day to make it more affordable for our Canadian delegates, because the exchange rate is not favorable



S. Senak, A. Vlcek, M. Sommer, Brian & Vera Dors

for them.

At the opening service on Thursday night we were greeted by the president of Alderson-Broaddus College, Dr. Steve Markwood. The Philippi Baptist Church choir sang under the directing of Dr. Jud Bracey (who was also the convention choir leader), accompanied by Marija Sommer. Both are music faculty members of Alderson-Broaddus College.

Dr. Andrew Kmetko led English and Joe Hodul Slovak Bible study.

We had guests from TWR-Czech Republic, Jan Viktorin and George Cooper, director for Eastern Europe TWR. They gave us a



Fellowship at lunchtime

report about TWR work in the Czech Republic.

There were special events following every evening service. On Thursday night Florian Manas again presented his program, called *Manas the Mystic*. On Friday, as usual, we were blessed with *Old Fashioned Hymn Singing*, with Bob Dvorak at the piano. We ended with *The Lord's Prayer*, which was the highlight of whole evening. After that we cooled off with big portions of ice cream. And again we heard from the sound system booth voice, "The ice cream is m-e-l-t-i-n-g."

Saturday morning at the Ladies Missionary Rally, Ludmila



N. Legierski, J. Alac and K. Prusa

Dedecius gave her testimony about their missionary work during communist regime in Czech Republic. Then Natasha Legierski, president, gave her report from the trip to Czech Republic, where she was invited for Women's Conference of Czech and Slovak Baptist Unions.

On Saturday night we heard *Saturday Night Concert*, in which everybody could participate and show his or her talent. It was very entertaining to see even the smallest children play different

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Seventy-Seventh Annual Rally of the Czechoslovak Baptist Women's Missionary Union Philippi, West Virginia, July 1, 2000

This meeting was held in conjunction with the 91st Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention and started at 11:15 a.m.

Our president, Natasha Legierski, welcomed all in attendance, and mentioned that in checking old records pertaining to the beginning of this Missionary Union, she found that the women had a motto—*Kristus Zivot Nas* (Christ our Life)—which they repeated as they gave their offerings. Therefore we now have this motto displayed on the communion table during our meeting.

We joined in singing hymn No. 466, "What a Friend we Have in Jesus," with Donna Nesvadba at the piano.

Psalm 115 was read in English by Donna Nesvadba and in Slovak by Oty Alac. Jean Rotar led in prayer, asking God's blessing on our meeting.

Special music was a vocal trio "My Utmost for His Highest,"



J. Rotar, A. Opocensky, E. Lev and N. Legierski

sung by Elizabeth Legierski and Amy and Jodi Nesvadba, accompanied by Donna Nesvadba on the piano. Jodi played interludes on the flute.

Minutes of the 1999 meeting were read by Anne Opocensky, and Marija Sommer read a letter from Helen Struharik advising us that for health reasons she must give up the position of treasurer.

Sister Sommer then presented the slate of officers for the next two years as follows: President—Natasha Legierski, Vice-President—Eileen Lev, Treasurer—Joan Rotar, Secretary—Anne Opocensky. The officers were then asked to come forward and offer a prayer of dedication.

The next item on the program was the president's message. Natasha Legierski started by saying that when she returned home from the Toronto Church Youth Camp in the summer of 1999, in the pile of mail waiting for her was an invitation to attend a conference of Czech and Slovak Baptist women in Ostrava, in April of 2000. She really wanted to go, but was hesitant to accept this invitation. After consulting our executive secretary and Convention president, both of whom encouraged her to go, she made the decision in the affirmative. It was

especially meaningful to her as Ostrava was where she and her husband George started their life together 25 years ago. She brought greetings from our Missionary Union to the sisters gathered at the conference. In return she brought us greetings from the conference as well as from the sisters in the Prague church.

Natasha made reference to Hebrews Chapter 11, the "Faith" Chapter, and said that faith is the most important element in our Christian life. She then went on to tell us about a lady she met, Lydie Jariabkova, who has a vision to start a Christian social center under the auspices of the Baptist churches. This would be a ministry to seniors and youth, pertaining to physical care, but also giving an opportunity for Christian witness.

In conclusion she once again mentioned the women who had the vision to start the missionary union, and thanked God that we have the privilege of continuing the ministry.

At this point our offering was received, and Jane Widlicka gave the offertory prayer. The offertory was a lovely arrangement of "Lead On, O King Eternal" played by Marja Sommer on the organ.

Another special number was Amy Nesvadba singing "Breathe on me, Breath of God," accompanied by her mother on the piano.

Our guest speaker, Ludmila Dedecius, was introduced. She spoke Czech, translated into English by Marja Sommer. Her opening words were an expression of appreciation for having the privilege to be among us, and she brought greetings from her home church. She read a portion of scripture from 2 Corinthians 1:2-4, "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." She then proceeded to share her testimony, which can be found in the section "Tell Us About You" in this magazine. She closed with Isaiah 43:2: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you."

Our president thanked Ludmila for her message and presented her with a tapestry of Alderson-Broadus College as a memento of the occasion, and also gave her a certificate of appreciation. Ludmila presented a gift of ceramic items made and painted by handicapped youth.

A certificate of appreciation was also issued to Helen Struharik for her many years of service as treasurer of the Women's Missionary Union. This was accepted by Joan Rotar on Helen's behalf.

After the singing of Hymn No. 622, "Oh, How He Loves You and Me," Anne Opocensky closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, *Anne Opocensky, Secretary,*
Czechoslovak Baptist Women's Missionary Union



Mary (Marienka) Brtan



Mary Brtan celebrated her 96th birthday on June 26, 2000. Born in Važec, Czechoslovakia, into a family of three brothers and three sisters, of Lutheran parents, she was accustomed to church attendance.

Mary came to a saving knowledge of Christ through the witness of her oldest brother, John Brtan, who returned from Minneapolis, MN, for a visit, with the express purpose of sharing his new-found faith in his Saviour. Mary

was around 20 years old at that time.

Shortly after her conversion, she felt the Lord's tug on her heart to serve Him full-time, but did not know where. When she shared this desire for service with sister Sintajova of the Baptist Church in Vazec, this dear sister had the answer. Having knowledge of Kristína Rojová's establishment in Stará Turá for the care of the elderly and children's orphanage, sister Sintajova wrote a letter and received an immediate reply saying that this was God's answer to their prayers because they urgently needed help.

Mary, feeling somewhat like Abraham of old, left her home and village for a place she had never seen, not knowing what awaited her there. Upon arriving, she was put to work and also trained to serve as a deaconess under Kristína Rojová's direction. Later on, when Kristína became extremely weak and frail in her old age, she chose Mary to wait on her. Mary remembers carrying Kristína in her arms up the stairs to her bedroom.

After Kristína Rojová's death and transfer to glory, Mary continued to serve under Maria Rafajová until the totalitarian take-over in 1948, at which time the

establishment was closed and the inmates dispersed.

Mary served in a number of places before ending up in her old hometown of Važec, where she was the caretaker of the Baptist church, "Modlitebna."

In 1968 she emigrated to the USA and lived in Cleveland, Ohio, where she attended the Scranton Road Baptist church during Rev. Daniel Widlicka's pastorate. At present Mary Brtan is living with her niece, Mary Sochor, in Moneta, Virginia, who is caring for Mary in her declining health.

Some of the favorite verses she likes to quote in Slovak are Philippians 4:13, "Všetko vladzem v tom, ktorý ma posilňuje, v Kristovi," and John 15:5, "...bezo mna nemožete nic robit."

Her favorite hymn is "V srdci mi znie sladká piesnička," especially the second verse.

Ida May Feryance



Picture which includes all the deaconesses of the "Modrý Križ" in Stará Turá when Maria was accepted. She is the one in the back row, second from the right. Kristína Rojová is the little old lady in the center of the picture, in the middle row. All the deaconesses have the white starched head coverings. Mary Brtan served about 24 years, till the Communist take-over of Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovak Baptist Convention ... Continues from page 103

instruments. We have a lot of talents among our people, and they are not afraid to use them to praise the Lord.

On Sunday the Communion was served. After Bible study, Sunday morning worship, and the convention picture, we headed to the dining hall for a banquet of generous food (as usual).

We must not forget the team of Helen Pojman (Vlasta Pojman, Amy Nesvadba, John Alac, David, Elizabeth and Katherine Legierski, Kathy Prusa, Branislav Vlajnic) and many others who helped to prepare and run the 91st annual convention.

I believe that we received God's blessing through sermons, fellowship (obecenstvi), and prayers.

We noticed that the number of delegates was smaller than

previous years. We must ask ourselves how to address our churches and the descendants of those who were founders of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention and those who helped to nurture the Convention. President Dvorak's sermon made us think deeply and search ourselves.

We believe that the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada is mission-oriented. We believe that we will be able to resurrect the vision of our founders to bring it into the new millennium. With those thoughts on our minds, we departed to our homes.

*Executive Secretary
George Sommer*

especially affected by the intensive life of prayer of my parents. Along with preaching and pastoral duties, they also created a family atmosphere within the congregation and took care of the church's social services. Our household was seldom without guests, and God blessed even the humble means we had at our disposal.

Education, Career, Family

During a time when the Communist regime did not allow Christians to study at colleges and universities, I was miraculously accepted at a medical school, where I graduated in 1969. I had a desire to continue studying medicine, but unfortunately it was not possible at the time.

I worked in the hospital in Ostrava as an otologist, first with children and later in surgery.

The work at the hospital filled me with satisfaction.

I was married in 1972. My husband is a member of the Baptist Church in Ostrava and serves as a lay preacher.

Since 1977 I have stayed home with my children while caring for both my parents and my brother, who was ill.

Eventually, my sisters took over the care of my brother. With God's help we were able to keep caring for my parents at home until they passed away. I learned valuable lessons which I was also able to put to use at work after the Velvet Revolution in 1989.

From a broad group of Christians, we eventually formed an ecumenical Diakonie Center. Our congregation was a member of the center from the beginning. At first we focused on Christian counselling and later, under the leadership of Dr. Balaban, we expanded into offering social services for families with young children and the elderly. After the necessary building space was obtained, a school and residence for mentally and physically

disabled children was also established. I worked in the Diakonie Center as manager of social services until the end of 1999.

During my role as a manager, I formed a team of caregivers and provided for their education and personal growth. We expanded our services to include meal delivery, professional rehabilitation, help with moving, lending of rehabilitation tools, hospital beds, wheelchairs, etc. Our social services were acknowledged and valued by the city government offices, hospitals, and most of all by our clients and their relatives. We were willing and able to solve immediate problems, such as providing protection for children in difficult circumstances or offering housing for the young homeless.

Current State and Future Plans

I would like to continue in this work from within our congregation, focusing on the needy in the neighborhood of our church. Specifically, we would offer a center with social services for the elderly and a club providing activities for children. I plan on creating several new job positions.

Recently I have met with the elders of our church to discuss the use of available space in our church building. I keep in close touch with the city social workers and am informed of the need for specific social services in Ostrava. I am also monitoring any opportunity to obtain a building for future use as a retirement home, or possibly to house needy children. The demand for these services currently greatly exceeds the supply. At present, I am attending a course for entrepreneurs. I have included several pages outlining my goals.

Translated by Peter Branda



Lydie Jariabková

Plans for the Christian Social Center under the auspices of the Baptist Church in Ostrava

Lydie Jariabkova

Translated by Peter Branda

1. Personal Goal, Motivation

My personal goal is to provide, through our congregation, aid for children and the elderly. I consider it a personal calling and also the calling of all Christians to provide, under the authority of God's word, help for the needy in these areas:

- Acceptable living conditions
- Spiritual and pastoral care
- Healthy social environment
- Striving for more than mere material values
- Societal and personal perspectives

2. Short-Term Goals

- a) To form a seniors' club in the available space in the church building, with programs outside regular church activities. Focus especially on the elderly in the neighborhood of the church. Offer the following: a pleasant environment to relax, lectures, medical information, consultation services, discussion groups, information about our church activities and activities within other denominations, the opportunity to take part in church programs, personal spiritual care, literature

Plans ... Continues from page 106

- (to borrow or purchase), opportunity to listen to/view audio/video tapes, concerts, refreshments, etc.
- b) To support traditional crafts and organize craft shows to support charities, exhibitions, etc.
 - c) To offer clients home care to enable the elderly and disabled to live in a natural and familiar environment for as long as possible. Base the quality of this service on personal responsibility and biblical principles.
 - d) In cooperation with our youth group and other church members, to offer leisure activities to children in the church neighborhood. These will take place in the church building, available playgrounds, gyms, and in nature. The children will be motivated towards higher values and familiarized with biblical principles.

3. Long-Term Goals

To meet public demand, an appropriate building will be reconstructed as a retirement home, with space available to accommodate children in critical situations. Short-term accommodations will also be available to family members providing care for the seniors. Based on need and interest, continue the work for the seniors' club and for the children's programs.

4. Necessary Conditions to Meet Short-Term and Long-Term Goals

- a) All work will follow the principles of good management with the goal of obtaining services of the greatest quality, flexibility and scope within the available means.
- b) The retirement home will operate according to biblical principles, with close spiritual and organizational ties to our congregation.
- c) Based on the scope of the services, financial sources will include client fees, sales revenue, charitable donations, government grants and private donations.

In the city of Ostrava, over 2,000 individuals are currently waiting for retirement home placement.

5. Work Experience

I have over twenty-five years of experience in the field of social services and medicine.

I also possess the necessary medical education.

- Worked in hospital for six years
- Cared for my elderly parents in their home and cared for my ill brother for several years
- Worked in the Diakonie Center in Ostrava for ten years, for eight years of which I filled the position of social services manager
- Completed management course for medical staff in Brno in 1993
- Completed management training in 1995
- Regularly update my knowledge in the areas of gerontology, social services, psychology, etc.
- Currently attend a course for entrepreneurs



Záměr... Pokračování ze strany 109

c) Zajistit pečovatelskou službu v domácnostech klientů a umožnit tak seniorům případně postiženým lidem co nejdéle žít v přirozeném domácím prostředí. Kvalitu služby založit na osobní odpovědnosti a uvádění biblických zásad do života.

d) Ve spolupráci s mládeží a ostatními členy sboru zajistil aktivity pro využití volného času dětí z okolí sborového domu a to jak přímo ve sborovém domě, tak také na dostupných hřištích, v tělocvičnách a v přírodě. Motivovat a směřovat děti k vyšším hodnotám, seznamovat je s biblickými pohledy na plnohodnotný život.

3. Dlouhodobý výhled

Reagovat na společenskou poptávku a upravit vhodný objekt (vhodné objekty) na penzion (penziony) pro seniory s možností poskytovat azylový pobyt dětí v krizové situaci. Poskytovat také možnost krátkodobého pobytu klientů pro odpočinek nebo jiné potřeby příbuzných, kteří o ně pečují.

Podle potřeby a zájmu dále provozovat klub seniorů a práci s dětmi ve sboru.

4. Podmínky realizace krátkodobého a dlouhodobého výhledu

- a) Veškeré činnosti podřídit zásadám hospodárnosti s cílem dosáhnout za prostředky, které jsou k dispozici co nejkvalitnější, nejširší a flexibilní službu.
- b) Provoz penzionu řídit podle řádu ve kterém budou kromě jiného obsažené podstatné biblické zásady a duchovní a organizační vazba na sbor.
- c) S ohledem na předpokládaný rozsah činnosti využít vícezdrojové financování, počínaje platbami klientů, přes vlastní obchodní činnost, nadace až po dotace městských úřadů a dobrovolné dary.

Na zajištění kompletního ubytování seniorů v zařízeních typu penzion čeká v současnosti v Ostravě víc než dva tisíce občanů.

5. Předpoklady a zkušenosti

V oblasti zdravotní a sociální služby mám více než pětadvacetileté zkušenosti. Mám také odpovídající střední zdravotní vzdělání s maturitou.

- V nemocnici jsem pracovala 6 let.
- Pečovala jsem o oba rodiče v jejich domácnosti a několik let také o nemocného bratra.
- 10 let jsem pracovala ve středisku Diakonie v Ostravě z toho 8 let jako vedoucí pečovatelské služby.
- V roce 1993 jsem v Brně absolvovala manažerský kurz pro zdravotníky.
- V roce 1995 jsem absolvovala manažerský výcvik pro vedoucí pracovníky.
- Doplnuji si vědomosti studiem odborné literatury v oblasti Gerontologie, sociální péče, psychologie a pod.
- V současnosti navštěvuji kurz pro podnikatele.



Záměr pro křesťanskou sociální službu

Z činnosti našich sester

V průběhu cesty na sesterskou konferenci do Ostravy jsem přemýšlela, zda-li se nám podaří navázat užší kontakt s naší bývalou vlastí ve vzájemné spolupráci na misijním poli. Víme, že práce sester v rámci Československé konvence Baptistů v USA a Kanadě vznikla právě za účelem pomoci a podpory naší vlasti. V průběhu let byla tato práce znemožněna, a tak se sestry obrátily na jiné oblasti, v práci a hlavně i ve finanční podpoře neustaly. Nyní, po změně režimu, je opět možnost se zaměřit na Českou a Slovenskou republiku.

Čtyřicet dlouhých roků výchovy v ateismu zanechalo na celých generacích hluboké následky hlavně v oblasti duchovního a morálního života. Lidé odcházejí na věčnost v naprosté beznaději, zklamání společností i životem, mnohdy opuštěni i od těch nejbližších. Mnozí v existenci Boha nevěří a umírají bez poznání Spasitele. Odvrácení se od Boha je skutečně tragédií našich národů. Na druhé straně však Pán Bůh neopouští a má své služebníky všude, i v naší staré vlasti. Na konferenci jsem se setkala s těmi, kteří jsou Pánem voláni ke službě právě těmto lidem.

V následujících stránkách se vám představí sestra, která stojí v popředí rozvíjející se misijní práce v Ostravě. Výbor našich sester se s tímto projektem již seznámil při letošním setkání na konvenci ve Philippi a rozhodl se tuto práci finančně podporovat. Kristova církev má pracovat jako jeden velký tým. Každý člověk má na této zemi poslání a příspěvkem svých schopností nebo finančním pomůže k dosažení cíle.

Rády bychom vás povzbudily k připojení se podpory tohoto projektu (pochopitelně přispívat mohou i bratři). Šeky vyplíte na "Czechoslovak Ladies Mission Union" a zašlete na adresu konvence (předtištěné obálky). Dále vás vyzýváme k modlitbám za tuto sestru a její rodinu, aby je Pán vedl tak, jak je potřeba, aby ještě mnohá duše byla zachráněna. Nezapomeňme, že ze spasení každého člověka se celé nebe raduje „...tak jest radost v nebi nad jedním hříšníkem pokání činícím větší, než nad devadesáti devíti spravedlivými..." (Luk.15,7)

Nataša Legierská

Vážení bratři a vážené sestry.

Přijala jsem jako Boží dar obecenství s milou setrou Legierskou, která se v dubnu letošního roku zúčastnila konference sester



Jariabka family

v Ostravě. Většinu informací o životě ve Vašem sboru jsem měla a mám z časopisu *Slavná naděje*. Návštěva sestry Legierské opět přiblížila naše sborová společenství.

Jsem ráda, že Vás mohu seznámit se svým záměrem zajišťovat v rámci ostravského sboru BJB křesťanskou sociální službu. Více o mně a o mém záměru je v příložených materiálech.

Uvítám z Vaší strany jakoukoli pomoc, podnět, nebo radu. Zajímají mne také zkušenosti se sociálními službami v Kanadě. Kdo jiný by měl lépe pochopit poměry a situaci ve staré vlasti než ti, kteří zde ještě nedávno žili.

Myslím, že naše kontakty by se mohly rozšířit ze stránek časopisu a občasných telefonátů například na prázdninový pobyt vaši mládeže v Ostravě. Kromě procvičení mateřského jazyka a poznávání krás okolní krajiny by mohla v příštím roce pomoci v připravovaných sociálních aktivitách a službách.

Přeji Vám hojnost Božího požehnání a všechny Vás srdečně zdravím

Lydie Jariabková, Ostrava, ČR dne 16.6.2000

Životopis Lydie Jariabkové

Základní informace

Jmenuji se Lydie Jariabková. Narodila jsem se 5. listopadu 1949 v Olomouci jako osmé z deseti dětí. Jsem vdaná, mám čtyři děti, tři dcery a syna; nejmladší dcera má 18 let. Bydlím v Ostravě-Porubě, J. Skupy 1639, 708 00, Česká republika. Telefon ČR: 069/695 0713.

Můj otec, Alois Erlich, byl kazatelem evangelia Ježíše Krista v Bratrské jednotě baptistů—sloužil 27 let. Maminka byla první diákonka pardubické Snahy. Oba rodiče byli velmi hluboce zakořenění v křesťanské víře. Většinu času věnovali práci ve sboru a v církvi. Tomuto poslání byl podřízen i rodinný život.

Pána Ježíše jako osobního spasitele jsem přijala v roce 1965. Pokřtěna jsem byla v modlitebně naší jednoty v Kroměříži bratrem

kazatelem Zbořilem.

Pracovala jsem v mládeži ostravského sboru BJB, vyučovala jsem děti v nedělní besidce. Zpívám v našem pěveckém sboru.

Prameny

Rodinné prostředí a sborový život formoval do značné míry můj charakter, názory a životní postoje. Nejhlubším dojmem na mne zapůsobil intenzivní osobní modlitební život obou rodičů. Součástí jejich poslání kromě bohoslužeb a pastorače bylo také vytváření rodinného ovzduší ve sboru a zajišťování sborových sociálních služeb. V naší domácnosti málokdy chyběli hosté a pán Bůh žehnal skromným prostředkům které byly k dispozici.

☞ Pokračování na příští straně

Vzdělání, zaměstnání, rodina

V době, kdy komunistický režim v bývalém Československu všemožně bránil dětem věřících studovat na středních a vysokých školách, jsem se Božím zázrakem dostala na střední zdravotní školu, kterou jsem ukončila maturitou v roce 1969. Toužila jsem dál studovat medicínu. To žel nebylo v té době možné.

Pracovala jsem v Městské nemocnici v Ostravě na ušním oddělení, zpočátku u dětí, pak na operačním sále. Práce v nemocnici mne velmi těšila a naplňovala uspokojením.

Vdala jsem se v roce 1972. Manžel je členem ostravského sboru Bratrské jednoty baptistů. Slouží jako laický kazatel.

Od roku 1977 jsem zůstala doma s dětmi a současně jsem pečovala o oba rodiče a nemocného bratra. Péči o bratra později převzaly sestry. Rodiče jsme s Boží pomocí dochovali doma. I to byla škola neocenitelných zkušeností, které jsem pak mohla využít v zaměstnání po sametové revoluci v roce 1989.

Z širšího křesťanského fóra postupně vzniklo ekumenické středisko Diakonie. Náš sbor byl spoluzakladatelem střediska. Nejprve jsme se soustředili na křesťanskou poradenskou službu a později na podnět a pod vedením Mudr. Balabána také na pečovatelskou službu v rodinách mezi seniory a dětmi. Po zajištění potřebných prostor vznikla také škola a stacionář pro tělesně a mentálně postižené děti. Ve středisku Diakonie jsem pracovala jako vedoucí pečovatelské služby do konce roku 1999.



Lydie and Jan Jariabka

Po dobu mého působení ve vedoucí funkci jsem zformovala tým výkonných pečovatelek, zajistila jejich vzdělání i osobní růst. Rozšířili jsme sortiment služeb o dovoz obědů, odbornou rehabilitaci, pomoc při stěhování, péči o zemřelé a pozůstalé, půjčování rehabilitačních pomůcek, nemocničních postelí, vozíků a podobně. Pečovatelská služba získala uznání městských úřadů, nemocnic a především samotných klientů a jejich příbuzných. Byli jsme ochotni a schopni řešit okamžité potřeby, například zajistit azylový pobyt dětí v krizové situaci i pobyt nezletilých uprchlíků ve stacionáři střediska.

Současný stav a výhled

Ráda bych v této práci pokračovala v rámci našeho sboru se zaměřením na potřebné lidi z okolí sborového domu. Jednalo by se o klub a pečovatelskou službu pro seniory a

o aktivity pro využití volného času dětí. Počítám s vytvořením několika nových pracovních míst.

K dnešnímu dni jsem absolvovala jednání se staršovstvem sboru o využití volných prostor v našem sborovém domě. Jsem ve spojení s pracovníky městských úřadů a sleduji poptávku po sociálních službách v Ostravě. Sleduji také možnost získat v budoucnosti budovu pro penzion pro seniory, případně pro azylový pobyt dětí. Poptávka po těchto službách vysoce převyšuje místní nabídku. V současnosti absolvuji kurz pro podnikatele.

Bližší informace uvádím v příloženém záměru.

V Ostravě dne 15.6.2000

Lydie Jariabková

Záměr křesťanské sociální služby v rámci sboru Bratrské jednoty baptistů v Ostravě Lydie Jariabková

1. Osobní cíl, motivace

Mým osobním cílem je poskytnout v rámci sboru pomoc dětem a seniorům.

Považuji za osobní výzvu a také za výzvu všem křesťanům zajistit pod autoritou Božího slova pomoc všem potřebným v oblasti:

- důstojných životních podmínek
- duchovní a pastorační péče
- zdravého sociálního prostředí
- zaměření na vyšší než jen materiální hodnoty
- a společenské a osobní perspektivy

2. Krátkodobý výhled

a) Ve volných sborových prostorech v čase mimo pravidelné sborové akce zajistit činnost klubu pro seniory. Zaměřit se především na seniory z okolí sborového domu. Poskytnout jim příjemné posezení, přednášky, informace lékařů, konzultace, vzájemný rozhovor, informace o sborových akcích a akcích jiných křesťanských církví, účast na sborových akcích, osobní duchovní péči, četbu, poslech, videoprojekci, půjčování a prodej literatury, koncerty, jednoduché občerstvení a pod.

b) Podporovat tradiční drobné ruční práce, uspořádat s výrobky dobročinné bazary výstavy a pod.

 Pokračování na straně 107



Dear Natasha,

I would like to thank you for your initiative and your help in starting up the social services program in our church. Several years ago, this type of service was a natural responsibility our sisters fulfilled. Back then, they did not need great words; selfless help

offered to brothers and sisters was a natural part of the Christian life. Sometimes I ask whether something has changed in our view of our congregational life. I believe that the foundation of the gospel is God's mercy that we have received through Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, we often only think of our personal relationship with God, our personal salvation and faith. These are important, but we lack empathy for those around us. We forget about brotherly love. This is just what was so strong in the early church of the New Testament. The rule was: they love each other even before they know one another. This type of strong fellowship thought of all those who were poor, sick, abandoned, and mocked, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles.

I would like to apologize for not sending this letter sooner. I was helping an elderly woman move to a retirement home. To pack and clean the apartment was time-consuming for me as well as for John, who helped diligently.

I was very pleased to learn that the sisters will support our work. I am grateful; please give them my warmest thanks.

With greetings to your family and the congregation,
Lydie Jariabkova



The Youth Leader

The Ostrava youth group of the 1960s has been scattered across all regions of the world. Throughout the eventful history of the congregation, every member of the youth group has found a spot within their generation and roles within the church.

We have gotten older, and the passage of time has changed the horizons that opened before us towards life. Our youthful expectations have been replaced with gray hair, experiences and memories.

During our last reunion there was indeed much to remember and to speak about. As we recalled our wonderful years of youth, joy, and mischief we also discussed the serious topics of the condition of the church and society. Eleven of us were able to meet, but there were many that were not present. As often happens during such reunions, we spent time remembering those who were not able to be with us. The name of one particular individual appeared especially frequently in many pleasant incidents we recalled. As the youth leader, he was caring and sensitive, and no obstacle could stand in his way. He had (and has) an open heart for everyone. When he, along with his wife, left our country (at the time a socialist republic), an empty space was left behind. This space remains empty to this day.

I find it hard to believe that George Sommer will be celebrating the first anniversary of his second half-century of life. With pleasant memories, all of us from Ostrava would like to send him our congratulations and wish him God's blessing, much health and

strength for the future, and to thank him for everything he has done and continues to do for our congregation.

From the Ostrava youth group of the 1960s

Jan Jariabka

[Brother Jan Jariabka is a new correspondent to our magazine from the Czech Republic. He is a member of the Baptist Church in Ostrava with his wife Lydie, daughters Petra, Katherine and Jane and son David. They live in Ostrava-Poruba.]



Dear George and Marija,

I hope you have been able to relax and enjoy this beautiful weather after your hectic schedule leading up to and during our Convention. Dan and I don't take for granted all the work that you do—the many hours of thought and preparation to make everything so enjoyable for us.

We appreciate you both, and thank you!

With love to you, *Jane Widlicka*



Dear Vera,

September 25, 2000

This is to let you know of the home going of Aunt Mary Brtan. She went to be with the Lord Sept. 15, 2000. She had her 96th birthday June 26.

My sister Lydia and I are member of Franklin Hts. Baptist Church of Rocky Mount, Va. We are members of "The Fellowship Class."

The class wished to do something in memory of Aunt Mary Brtan. Since Aunt always looked forward to receiving the *Glorious Hope* we felt she would want the gift to go for that periodical.

Enclosed is a gift from "The Fellowship Class" of Franklin Hts. Baptist Church.

Sincerely, *Mary Sochor*



Dear Vera,

We are sorry we were unable to attend the Convention this year. Our prayers were with you.

Please pray for my Dad, Mike Sivulka, who has been diagnosed with a tumor deep behind his nasal passage. He will be undergoing radiology treatments for six weeks to help relieve the pain and shrink the tumor. His address is: Park Vista, 2525 Brea Blvd, Fullerton, CA 92635.

Recently, while were at the Brea Hospital we met Vera Chocholaty who attended the Czech Convention some years ago. That was a nice treat.

Keep up the good work and may our Lord bless you—real good.

Love in Jesus *Judy Shoff*



Dear Vera,

August 3, 2000

Greetings from hot Sun City, AZ, where the temperature is soaring in the 100s and over.

I am trusting that you and your family are well and happy.

I did plan to get to the Convention this year but because Lillian Korda whose daughter became ill, Lillian had to change her plans in going with me, so I was unable to travel alone. I am sure you all had a blessing time.

I love you all and God bless you in doing His work.

In Christian love, *Lennie Wilcox*

Czech Republic Mission Trip, May 2000

Richard F. Mazanec

Part 2

Saturday was a special day of celebration in Namest. The town square recently had been completely and beautifully renovated. The members of our team visited house to house and the many multiple housing units with invitations to the open forum or discussion to be held at a small chapel just off the town square that evening. We also circulated through the crowds that had congregated during the day for the celebration activities. Even Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus and his wife were present. Fighter jet planes flew overhead, performers, music and speeches were part of the excitement that permeated the crowds. Even an orchestra concert was provided which lasted until 7 p.m. Then some rain brought everything pretty much to an end. At that time we successfully were able to obtain the help of the students attending the forum to walk over to the town square to get chairs which the orchestra had been using for the chapel. Thirty people showed up to listen to questions and answers about religion, who Baptists are and who they are not and to also hear the plan of salvation. The importance of the Bible as our guide for living was stressed and emphasized.

Early Sunday morning we left for Zlin to attend the second service at the Baptist church where Dr. Titera, Pavel's son, is pastor. I shared my testimony and Robb Dunn, one of the seminary students from S.E.T.S., Raleigh, NC, preached the sermon. It was a time for worship and praise. We also were pleased to be able to have dinner with the pastor and his family.

Sunday afternoon we headed for Mikulov, a city with a rich history dating back to the Anabaptist Movement in the 16th century, a city of religious tolerance (refuge) involving Baltazar Hubmaier and his followers until the political situation of the

times necessitated that they seek asylum somewhere else. Mikulov is a city near the Austrian border in southern Moravia today with a population of about 7500.

It is hoped by Baptists in the Czech Republic as well as by some here in the U.S. and Canada that in time it will be possible to establish a church in this city which is very much in need of an evangelical Christian witness. In January the Jesus film was shown and some people did respond positively to the message of salvation, but to date not much has been done to help disciple them for Jesus Christ. Our mission team with the help of two more seminary students (one a mime and the other a youth pastor) was able to witness for Christ in the Zakladna Skola giving testimonies and sharing our faith at another forum. The assistant principal was very gracious, sent invitations home with the students, and attended the forum which was held in one of the classrooms. Twenty-four people came. The Baptist church in Brno is sending individuals and groups upon occasion to Mikulov and is trying to reach out to the people of this city. Two boys, ages 15 and 16, both with the name Jarek, professed faith in Jesus. Both were given New Testaments and are being disciplined to some degree. They need help and encouragement in order to be able to grow in their faith and in their knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. They need our prayers.

Early Wednesday, May 31, we left for Prague. The next day, June 1, we left to return to the USA via British Air.

Our mission trip of eleven days passed only too quickly. It is my prayer that the seed has been sown and that an abundant harvest of souls will follow. □

Portland, TN

Dear Friends,

As many of you already know, I had the opportunity to be part of Josef Solc's missionary team last May that spent some time in Mikulov, a city of 7500 people in Southern Moravia. It is a place much in need of an evangelistic witness that hopefully will lead to the formation of a Bible and/or prayer group or fellowship—maybe even a Baptist mission or church. After some earlier efforts to reach out to these people, using *The Jesus Film* and such, some have responded with an openness to the Gospel. Some may even have asked Jesus to come into their hearts and lives.

The Lord has really burdened my wife and me for the people of Mikulov. They need to be visited and encouraged and disciplined. Perhaps we can make a difference in their lives.

We now have plans in place to leave for Vienna, Austria, on November 15, 2000, where we are to be met by someone from the Baptist Church in Brno, who will take us to Mikulov by car, about an hour's drive away. We plan to return to the U.S. on March 15, 2001. We covet your prayers.

Yours in Jesus, The Mazanecs, *Richard and Cora*

□

From Our Readers ... Continues from page 110

Dear George and Marija,

We thank the Lord for both of you and for the time and effort you put into making this Convention a success.

Sue and I were blessed by all the meetings and it was a pleasure to again be with so many old and new friends.

We also enjoyed the music and singing at the Priestly Hall after the evening service. One of the highlights after the Convention was the outdoor picnic at your home, which was also a big success.

We hope and pray that more people will attend the Convention and receive the blessing as we have.

May the Lord richly bless both of you.

In Christian love *John and Sue Senak*

✉

Dear Vera,

Warren 9/7/2000

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

Thank you very much for *Glorious Hope*, which is blessing to us when we read it. Enclose is a gift for the *Glorious Hope*.

Lord Bless you and your Family!

With Love, *John and Maria Valko*

□

Jarold Knox Zeman

Feb. 27, 1926 – Sept. 18, 2000



“The Lord has opened a door for me.”
(2 Corinth. 2:12)

Dr. Jarold Knox Zeman went to be with his Lord on September 18, 2000. Jarold was born on February 27, 1926 (in a village in North-eastern Bohemia named Semonice). He grew up in a teacher’s home. After the war in 1945, he began his studies at the university in Prague in preparation to become a teaching profession. At the end of the first academic year, he was called into full-time ministry. He went to study at

Knox College in Toronto and became a pastor and missionary in Toronto.

In 1951, he married Lilian Koncickou and God blessed them with four children. They devoted their lives to minister among the Czech and Slovak people in Ontario. In the fall of 1956,

God opened the door for doctoral studies at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. In 1959 he accepted a call to service on the staff of the Home Mission board of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec. The assignment included supervisory responsibility for Baptist mission work among immigrants of all ethnic origins. In July 1968 they moved to Wolfville, Nova Scotia, where he was teaching church history at Acadia Divinity College, a Baptist seminary. He has preached in every Canadian province, in many states of the U.S. as well as in Europe. He retired in June 1991. Jarold Zeman’s Christian commitment, his considerable knowledge and wisdom was shown through his book *Open Doors* published in 1991. [We published more about Dr. Zeman in *Glorious Hope*, November 1998, p. 134



Stanley Hynek

May 5, 1919 – July 9, 2000



I’d like to share with you a little bit about my dad’s faith—especially to friends and neighbors who never saw the deeper side of my father. Why talk about his faith? Because it was his faith that made him the kind of man that he was; a kind, benevolent, fun loving man, who saw the lighter side of life and even kept his sense of humor up to the very end.

Although he was a deacon and a church board member, he was never

one to beat a big religious drum. Oft times, some people go through a real “on fire for God” phase that is short lived. They remind me of dry twigs and leaves that are put on a fire, flare up and then soon burn out. My dad, on the other hand would look more like a log in the fire with which nothing was happening, but if you turned that log over, you would see that it was not just burning hot, but white hot!

He was a man who did not like to be in the limelight. Believe it or not, he actually feared getting up in front of people. He would get quite nervous if he had to say the blessing at a communion service or give the Treasurer’s Report at the annual Czech Convention. It was not his thing—but he did it, for he was a man of duty, and he did it for his Lord.

He was a simple man. Now don’t misunderstand me! There

are many dictionary meanings for the word “simple”. The ones that describe my dad perfectly are; “free from guile, innocent, free from vanity, modest, free from showiness or display, of humble origin or modest position— example: a “simple” farmer”. And that’s exactly what he was— a “simple farmer” from Dauphin Manitoba. A man who would rather do things with his hands than anything else.

He didn’t read many books. Neighbors would often seem him sitting on the porch reading one of two things: the newspaper or his Bible. Often times, when I would visit my folks, I would find him sitting on the porch reading his beloved book—usually from the Psalms.

Dad was a “behind the scenes” type of man. He was a fixer of things and a helper of people. Even his neighbors all commented on his willingness to help them around their homes. Jesus said that if a man wanted to be great in the Kingdom of God, he must first be a servant. All who knew him can attest that he was a man who was always willing to serve others.

He was an honest man. The other day, a neighbor who new dad for many years said to me, “You know, I felt as if I could trust him with anything!” I was thinking a similar thought myself, just the other day. I never saw my dad take advantage of anyone—even for a dime! He was a giver not a taker!

He was a man of prayer. Ever since I can remember, dad would “give thanks” (always in Czech) not only at the dinner table at home but even publicly in a restaurant. He wasn’t doing it for show! He did it because he was a truly thankful man.

But it wasn't just before meals that he prayed. The other day my sister Linda shared with me that she would quite often hear what sounded like my dad talking to himself when he thought he was alone; either sitting on the porch, hobbling around the house with his cane or out in the backyard working in the garden. But when she got closer, she realized that he was actually having a heart to heart talk with his Heavenly Father. This proved to be a wonderful example of a true Christian in her eyes which will be in her memory forever. He was practicing, as the Bible calls it "praying without ceasing". The old hymn which says "He walks with me and He talks with me and He tells me I am his own—and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known" was not just a beautiful melody with fluffy words—but a living reality!

One day, he did something that I never saw him do. Before he said thanks at dinner he took his Bible and started reading (in Czech) from Psalm 116 and with tears in his eyes he kept repeating "This is talking about me! Isn't this me? This is me! This is me!" I understood that much but because I don't fully understand the language very well, I couldn't wait to get home so that I could read and understand what he got so emotional about. This is what I found:

Psalm 116

1 I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

2 Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.

3 The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came upon me; I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.

4 Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, save me!"

5 The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

6 The LORD protects the simple-hearted; when I was in great need, he saved me.

You see, you have to understand that about a 1 1/2 years ago, my father spent three months in the hospital with pneumonia. For three weeks he was in intensive care with wires and hoses attached to him everywhere. He was unconscious and near death. We were sure that we lost him! Then, but by the miraculous grace of God, he not only recovered but he was able to come home in January of 1999. As we drove into the driveway that day he simply exclaimed "Thank you God! Thank you God!" Truly, we had seen a miracle! So now you can understand why this passage was so precious to my dad.

But someone may say "Fine lord isn't he! He saved him then but what about now! Stan died didn't he?" Good question! I think that to understand the Bible, one has to realize that there are both physical miracles and spiritual miracles. Quite often God performs physical miracles to show us what he is able to do in the spiritual realm. It's important to know that physical miracles, no matter how wonderful they are, always end in death! Jesus made the lame walk, blind eyes to see, deaf ears to hear, and even brought the dead back to life— but no matter how great the miracle, the recipients ultimately died! In John 6, Jesus makes this point perfectly clear. People who wanted miracle bread from heaven were told "Do not work for food that spoils but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you (vs. 26)... Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. " I am the bread of life...If

anyone eats of this bread he will live forever!" (vs 48-51).

So you see, although physical miracles ultimately end in death—spiritual miracles last forever!. When the Lord gives a man the new legs which make him able to walk in the spirit, eyes and ears to perceive spiritual things, "new life" to those who were "dead in their trespasses and sins"—these miracles last forever! Being able to comprehend this principle is important for those who have trouble understanding the Bible. As we read Psalm 116, there appears to be this gradual transition from the physical to the spiritual. With this in mind, notice what the psalmist says in verse 7–9. He tells us that the Lord has delivered his soul from death so that he may walk in the "land of the living"!

"Aha!," the skeptic may exclaim, "It sure looks to me like Stan has left the "land of the living! He died, didn't he?" But Stan is in the land of the living!—for he has "eternal life"! This world is not the land of the living—it is the "land of the dying"! No wonder the psalmist goes on in vs. 15–16: "Precious in the sight of the lord is the death of his saints ... You have freed me from my chains."

I always like to point out that the word "saint" is never used in the Bible. It is "saints", always plural, pertaining to the collective body of true believers. Some how we tend to picture a super-spiritual person with a halo around their head, the elite in Gods "Hall of Fame" for the most righteous. That's not true! If you're a believer in Christ Jesus, you are a saint.

Here, physically today, lies saint Stan. On July 9, at about 9 pm, my dad truly experienced the ultimate miracle. He passed from this world of pain and suffering and stepped into eternal spiritual realm where there is no more death. Although this is an emotional day, we weep not for poor Stan. He is not poor at all! His physical eyes are shut but his spiritual eyes are now wide-open. His physical ears are no longer hard of hearing but now has clearly heard the voice of his master saying "Well done good and faithful servant! Enter in. My joys are yours!" His earthly chains have fallen off. He is now free from the body which imprisoned him. He has been released from his dungeon and has stepped from this world darkness into the "Everlasting Light."

As far as I know, my dad never preached a sermon or even led a Bible study, but he would be thrilled to know that because of what's been said on this day, somebody here who has been searching for this "simple faith" that my dad had; the faith to live by, the faith to see you through the tough times, a real honesty to goodness personal relationship with the loving Savior, can be yours today! How? Just ask and the Lord will give it to you! "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Eph 2: 8). You may say, "But don't I have to change my life first?" No just ask! "Don't Christians have to obey it a bunch of rules and regulations?" No. That's called religion. Christ's worst enemies were the religious experts. His salvation frees us from the bondage of religion. His door is always open. Jesus said "He that comes unto me, I will in nowise cast out". This is not just wishful, hopeful thinking. What the Lord will do in your life will be very real. You will fear the change! You too will not only experience the miracle of a new life but realize a wonderful relationship with the same living Lord that my dad knew.

As far as my dad is concerned, this is a great day of celebration. Some may say that his spirit is here today, watching what is going

on. I don't think so. I think he's in the presence of his Savior having the time of his life. With that in mind, I leave you with this verse from Luke 24:5–6, averse which certainly pertains to Christ's resurrection but today I'd like to use it in context of what's been said here today: "Why seek the living amongst the dead? He is not here. He has risen!"

God bless you all!

Farewell message for Stan Hynek as delivered by his son at his farewell service July 13, 2000

Antonín Springle

April 13, 1916 – August 8, 2000

Milan Springle's (Son) Remembrance

I have so many good memories of my dad. He was a godly man, and I am so thankful for the example he set and the Christian heritage he left with us.

One of my fondest memories of childhood is waking up Sunday mornings to the beautiful sounds of my father playing the piano. Dad loved music. Apparently he was a self-taught musician, never having had the benefit of formal music lessons. For what seem like years in my childhood memories, Dad played the piano or organ at church on Sundays. And he sang in the church choir for over 50 years.

He gave us, his children, the opportunity to share his love for music by encouraging us to take lessons in piano, cello and violin. Some of our best family times together in the early years were practicing our trio, where my brother Dennis played the cello, I played the violin, and Dad, the piano. I was always proud to have the opportunity to be part of a musical program at special events at our church. Many of you remember those times. The last time we enjoyed this activity was at my parents' 50th wedding anniversary in 1990, when my sister Donna did the piano part in the trio.

Dad was also a good role model. He was generous, he was always looking for ways to help, and he was an encourager. My wife Beth and I (along with our three children) had the privilege of doing missions work in Zambia. I credit Dad with providing the home environment that led me to want to do that—and those were certainly some of the best years of my adult life. Dad was always so supportive. Often we would need things we couldn't obtain in Zambia—like a replacement motor for a washing machine—and I always knew I could count on Dad to get one for us. During our 14 years overseas, my parents made trips to visit us. During those visits he always kept himself busy helping out in any way he could.

Dad was always a family man. I don't ever remember his pursuing an interest or activity (apart from work) that didn't also involve our family. Even with work, he provided me with summer jobs. I "sweat it out" at Ferguson Tools for 10-hour work days every summer. (That was a real encouragement to me to keep plugging away at my university studies!)

Just last week, as my mother and I kept vigil at Dad's bedside, I gleaned a little anecdote I want to share with you. In 1942, Dad spent a few months working for the Bata Shoe Company. He was

being trained to take over their retail store in Chatham. During that training, he was taken on a tour of Bata's operations in Southern Ontario. On returning from that trip he announced to my mother that he was leaving Bata Shoe then and there! Apparently the company expected to exert total control over his time and life. But Dad would have none of it. He had higher priorities—in particular, family and church involvement.

I am so thankful for Dad's strong family commitment, not just to our own nuclear family, but also to the greater extended family. My closest childhood friends were my cousins. I loved the times we spent with my two uncles' families on their farms in Burlington. My cousins were as close as brothers and sisters. I remember being completely devastated by grief when my cousin Charlie Springle was killed in a car accident when I was just nine years old. I couldn't have felt the loss any more deeply had he been my own brother.

The first family holiday I can remember, when I was seven years old, we drove to Manitoba to visit my mother's brother and sister in Minitonas—what a thrill! Then when I was 13, Dad allowed me to travel alone by train, to spend the summer with cousin Charlie Reichert in Minitonas. They were wonderful times.

Dad was always warm and sociable. He just loved to be with people. My memories of Sunday mornings were going to church—and I never objected, I loved it, partly because I got to hang out with that circle of friends. And Sunday afternoons were usually spent entertaining guests at our home, or being invited out for dinner. In the summer it was group trips to the beach, or an afternoon volleyball tournament. We were never bored!

Even in the past eight years or so, as Dad suffered the devastating effects of Alzheimer's disease, he loved to walk. But during his walks, he always stopped to greet everyone he met along the way, and especially children. He was a people person to the end!

I miss my father. He was a wonderful person. But I rejoice for him too. Now he is freed from the deteriorating body that had become such a frustration for him in the last few years as he struggled with Alzheimer's. And I rejoice especially because of what the New Testament writer Paul put so well: "I desire to depart and be with Christ which is better by far."

Milan Springle

□



Osobní svědectví ... Pokračování ze strany 119

pak rozmnožovalo pro potřeby zájemců pro službu nemocným a jako služba nevěřícím. Později jsme získali peníze prodejem staré historické knihy a zakoupili lepší techniku pro nahrávání.

Nahrávali jsme vše co mohlo posloužit lidem věřícím i jejich přátelům. A to byl také začátek práce pro křesťanské vysílání TWR z Monte Carla, které šířilo evangelium do mnoha zemí i východní Evropy.

Bydleli jsme v domě, kde kromě nás bydleli sami prominenti komunistického režimu a naproti nám byla Státní policie a Národní výbor. Byli jsme silně pod kontrolou režimu a tak jsme se chtěli přestěhovat jednak mimo tento dohled a také blíže ke sboru v Brně kam jsme dojížděli do shromáždění.

Původně jsme chtěli vyměnit byt v Blansku za byt v Brně. Ale Pán Bůh s námi měl vyšší záměr. Zvláštní cestou (viz kniha *Strážník město*) jsme koupili domek v Brně kde bydlíme a nahráváme dodnes v mnohém větším rozsahu než dříve. Ve volných dnech, po pracovní době a v době dovolených jsme natáčeli hudební skupiny, poezii, svědectví a také se natočily materiály pro slepce např. Nový zákon—ekumenický překlad.

Pro pěvecký sbor Jas, který založil v roce 1969 Miloš Šolc, se nahrávaly hudební doprovody a sóla u nás a celé sbory při různých setkáních.

Po změně poměrů u nás v republice v roce 1989 jsme pokračovali v práci pro TWR a tato práce byla legalizovaná tím, že byla zaregistrována jako misijní organizace TWR se sídlem v našem domě. Později se TWR přestěhovalo do větších prostor.

Po některých nedorozuměních Jiří z TWR odešel, ale práce pro Pána pokračovala i nadále. Nahrávalo se mimo jiné i pro válečnou Jugoslávii programy v češtině a slovenštině. V roce 1993 v květnu studio za zvláštních okolností vyhořelo. Největší škoda byla na zbytku archivu, který ještě nebyl převeden do TWR. Byla to pro nás velmi těžká zkouška, ale Pán Bůh stál při nás, a tak jsme si ověřili, že „věřícím všechny věci napomáhají k dobrému“. To platí v plném rozsahu.

Po odchodu nás obou do penze, jsme začali nové období práce na Boží vinici. Po vydatné pomoci, ze zahraničí máme nové a mnohem technicky dokonalejší vybavení. Pracujeme tak jak nás Pán vede podle potřeby pro rozhlas, dále pro slepce nahráváme různou literaturu,

Blessed is the man

Polibovaný ten muž

John E. Karenko

What is your “life style?” For “workaholics” it would be their occupation or job, but for many people their life style is described by their avocation or their main interest away from their job. One person I know said, when asked what he did for a living, “I’m a carpenter by trade, but that’s only to pay bills, for my main purpose in life which is to be a Christian.”

The apostle Paul put it this way: For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21) It’s smart to live for Christ during the few years of life that we spend here on earth in comparison with an eternity in heaven, when he could greet us with His “well done” and the rewards that He will give us to enjoy forever. □

hudební nahrávky a pod.

Naše životní krédo je Kristus—život náš a rádi bychom naplnili verš žalmu 92.15 „Ještě v šedinách ovoce ponosou zůstanou statní a svěží.“ □

President ... Continues from page 118

that we also had the best of life.

If you don’t know it already, I probably cannot convince you. But I hold it a self-evident truth that God sent us, every single one of us, rich layers of life’s blessedness! What wealth our souls have received!

Now our journeys move on. As they do, we are going to be falling back time and again on remembrance of gifts sent our way by the Giver of Every Good and Perfect Gift, especially the greatest of all gifts, Jesus Christ. And at last—finally—we will have been made strong enough to face anything. Even God!

Robert Dvorak



Marie’s Circle ... Continues from page 119

Brandon, MB, where we enjoyed a ladies’ retreat, held at the Colonial Inn. The Lord blessed us and moved in very special ways through music and fellowship, and during challenges from guest speaker Sue Voth, who encouraged us to “Stand Up, Reach Out, Pass Him On.”

The district to which we belong is divided into five churches. Our cluster is a group of six churches in close geographical proximity. The clusters’ responsibilities are to encourage one another and to promote fellowship and prayer for the ladies in our churches.

As we look forward to the fall, we anticipate hosting our annual community Ladies’ Fellowship Night.

Our prayer is that we might grip women to use their gifts and abilities in serving Jesus, the church, and our community.

Submitted by Ester Nemetchek □

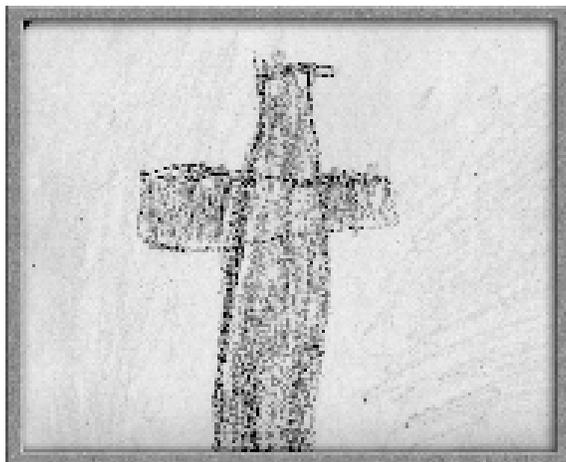
Editorial ... Pokračování ze strany 98

kterém zápasíme o vnitřní pokoj a vyrovnanost. Zkušený křesťan si je vědom toho, že tento boj nikdy nekončí a vyžaduje naprostou bdělost. Nekončí proto, že původní harmonie, Bohem ustanovená byla narušena. Člověk není schopen získat zpět tuto harmonii (vztah člověka a Pána Boha) sám od sebe, z vlastní síly a schopnosti. Rozumí tomu, že Pán Bůh ve své lásce k člověku, připravil plán, který člověku pomůže dosáhnout vnitřního pokoje. Věř v moc Pána Ježíše Krista, skrze něhož máme smělý přístup k Bohu Otci, a celou svou bytost je ochoten obrátit na osobnost Pána Ježíše. Jedině tak může člověk získat ztracenou harmonii života.

Jsmo ochotni dovolit Pánu Bohu nastolit nový pořádek v našich životech? Potom bude náš život krásný tak, jako podzimní příroda.

Toto číslo Slavné naděje vychází ještě s dozvuky naší konvence, která se uskutečnila počátkem léta. Věřme, že na stránkách tohoto časopisu najdete mnoho podnětů k díkům a chválám našeho Boha Otce, zvláště v období díkůvdání, které nyní prožíváme.

Šéfredaktorka Nataša Legierská □



Miloš Šolc IV - 4 years



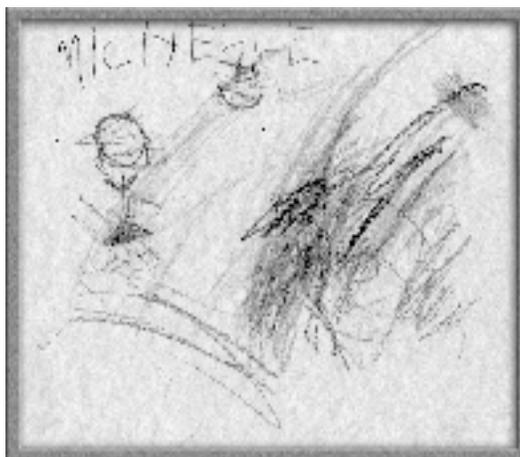
Lukáš Gavač - 6 years

We are grateful...

Dear Children,

This issue of our magazine has been published during the time of Thanksgiving. Your Sunday school teachers surely teach you to whom and for what you should be grateful. We may think of food, clothes, or even toys. Take a look at the pictures that the children from Toronto Sunday school drew. They drew these pictures to answer the question "What are you grateful to God for?"

What would appear on your drawing?



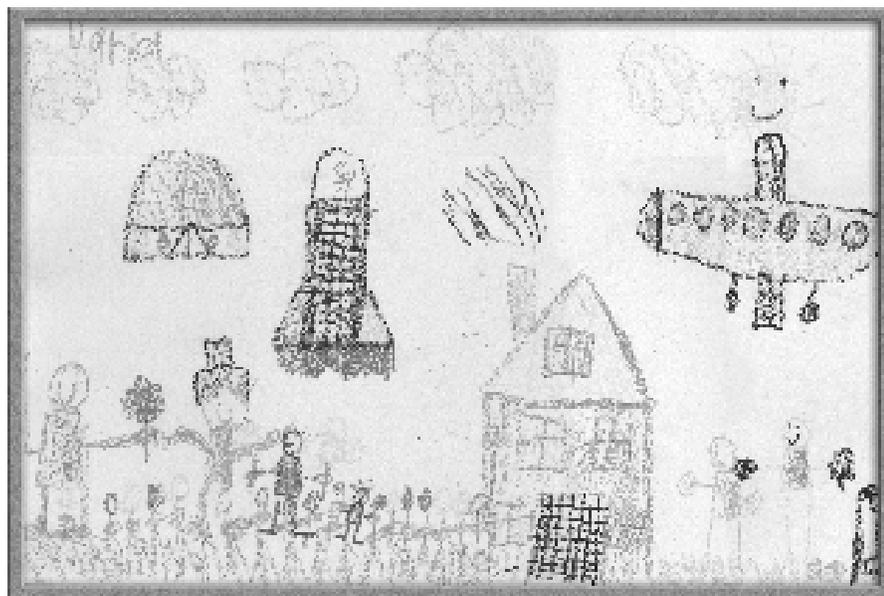
Michelle Gavačová - 2 years

Jsmě vděční...

Milé děti,

Náš časopis vychází v době díky vzdání. Jistě vaši učitelé v nedělní škole učí o tom, komu máme být vděční a za co máme být vděční. Většinou nás napadne jídlo, oblečení, možná i hračky. Podívejte se na obrázky, které nakreslily děti v nedělní škole v Torontě. Na otázku "Za co jsou Pánu Bohu vděčné?", vznikly tyto obrázky:

Co by bylo na tvém obrázku?



Daniel Kulich - 7 years



Abigail Šolcová - 2 years

Return to Algonquin

Vlastimil Pojman

“And God said, ‘Let there be light ... Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, ... Let the land produce vegetation, ... Let the water teem with living creatures and let birds fly above the earth ... Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds.’ And God saw that it was good.”

Genesis 1:1-25

Imagine waking up to the beautiful sound of a loon singing out on the lake or sharing a piece of bread with the local chipmunks. Imagine absorbing the amazing quietness of the nature around you, no cars zooming by, and no powerboats on the lake, only the sound of the wind moving through the leaves, the cracking of old trees and the splashing of waves on shore. If you get up early enough, you get to



Algonquin

After a four-year absence from Algonquin, our youth group decided once again to give a serious hike in this beautiful provincial park another try. Most of us had been there in the past, but there were a few newcomers. If you have never tried it yourself, it's hard to imagine packing a 30-kilogram backpack on your back for 15 kilometers a day over rough terrain. We had to carry everything we needed for four days, including the food, tents, sleeping bags, mats and the cooking utensils.

After a couple of days of hard walking, and very sore back and leg muscles, it's impossible to say what it is that draws us back year after year. But when I had the time to sit back and relax and have a look around, it became easier. The beautiful lakes that Algonquin Park is famous for, the green trees, and many animals are the reasons for many of us. At the end of the trip, you wonder why you did it again, but a few days of rest fix that. And when you get a chance, you go for it again, not remembering the hard times but fondly thinking of the beauty of God's creation. □



Algonquin

see a fine mist settle on the lakes, and at night you can see millions of stars, even through the tree canopy. That's what I remember from Algonquin.

All convention gifts may be sent in the enclosed envelopes: US residents may use the **Business Reply envelope** or send their gifts to **Vera Dors, 6621 Elmdale Rd., Middleburg Hts, OH, 44130**, and Canadian residents may send their gifts to **Henry Pojman, 1516 Pembroke Dr., Oakville, ON, L6H 1V9, Canada**. Make checks payable to **Czechoslovak Baptist Convention**, and on the bottom write to what account you are sending your gift: **Convention, Glorious Hope, Trust Fund, or Scholarship Fund**.



MOVING ?

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From the President

The Thanksgiving holiday is a joyful occasion wherever, whenever, it is observed (somewhat differently in our two countries of Canada and the U.S.). Families get back in touch with each other, bountiful meals are shared, and around our tables and in our homes pleasures of fellowship are known. At the heart of Thanksgiving lie truly happy times and heart-felt satisfactions. I love the day. But something else lurks at the corners of this holiday: a premonition that severe weather is on the way along with shorter periods of daylight. The north winds pick up, and snow puts the soil into a very deep sleep.



I am reminded that, similarly, throughout our lifetimes we have plenty of good moments, occasions when things go genuinely right. Health is strong. Rewards of work and play are plentiful. We gain and grow and know victories. Yet things are not forever bright. We need to take some of the goodness of our blessed moments and store it up. Along with hearty enjoyment of the moments themselves, wisdom teaches us to pack away some of the robust joy for later draw-down, when tougher times or major struggles burst into scenes of living.

One whose friendship I've long enjoyed took a final departure. Throughout life she had had many advantages, and she did her best to live well with them. She was generous. She gave no small sums of financial support to advancing the gospel in our day. She knew also that things like art and music are important to the vitality of the human soul, so she collected things of beauty and applauded artful things.

The God whom she had long ago met in Christ Jesus was the central dynamic to her days. She knew the Bible cover to cover and believed in the Lord from a heart that trusted quite naturally. She had her tormented moments, as every last one of us does, but always she desired to live beyond them and toward the Lord. He was the stabilizing center of her life. This past July, the high middle of summer, terrible "winter" storm slammed into her.

More and more she had to spend time "indoors." (By that I mean she had to spend a lot of time inside herself, much less able to get around and experiencing increased difficulty interacting with others in ways she was accustomed to doing.) She managed this inhospitable climate in her soul pretty well. I was proud of her. In spite of the furies of bodily attack and the growing darkness of time running out on her, she seemed calm within. It was all...well...it was all right!

I want to make the observation that God has made a good earth home for us. We have spoiled it some, I know, but it is still a finely appointed place for the time being. And we have time and resources for enjoying it. Take the gifts of being alive here and now! Use them! Welcome every blessing! Give thanks, and be filled up in your spirit! But remember this too: whatever you have of goodness—whatever you have seen, heard, handled, smelled, and tasted that showers you with joy—is intended to give you strength for later on also. You are most welcome to feel really good about life's fulfillment and pleasurable moments, but perhaps the largest benefit accruing from it all is the sense of well-being that accumulates, equipping one with a certain sturdiness of soul for what lies ahead when reversals come and the crumbling of life-as-you-once-knew-it begins.

An important and familiar psalm once taught us, "Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Fullness of life we have surely known—blessedness (for which we give thanks in this Thanksgiving season). The good news is that it is never lost. It trails after us all the days of our life. And when, somewhere along the line, we walk into deep places (valleys) and shadows cold as winter, the blessings and advantages we once knew in sunnier times will continue their impact. They prepared and fortified us to accept the worst of life, even death when it comes, knowing

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From the Executive Secretary



Please note the following important dates:

- The midyear meeting of the General Board of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada will be held in Christ Community Church (formerly Campbell Baptist Church), in Campbell, Ohio, on Friday, November 3, 2000, at 1:00 P.M. Evening service will be held at 7:00

P.M., followed by the *Old-Fashioned Hymn Singing with Bob Dvorak at the piano*. Everyone is welcome.

- The 92nd Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada will be held on July 5–8, 2001, at Alderson-Broadus

College, Philippi, West Virginia. (This is a new date for the 92nd Annual Convention).

Great News!

I have great news to share with our readers of *Glorious Hope*. As of September 1, 2000, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has granted our Convention an exemption from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

A few years ago we discovered that our Convention did not have such an exemption. We have been working to obtain an exemption ever since. We are very happy that the amount saved will be available for expanded ministry.

George Sommer



Tell us about you!

Povězte nám o sobě

Maria Gabankova is a visual artist living in Toronto, Canada. She was born and grew up in Czechoslovakia in a family of Christian artists. Following the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968, Maria and her family immigrated to Canada. It was there a few years later that she experienced a life-changing encounter with the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is this faith that is at the core of her life and work as an artist.

Realist representation of the human figure has always been the central theme of her drawings and paintings. Portraiture is a special focus in her work. It is through the means of the physical—the visible—that she searches for expression of the spiritual—the invisible.

She explores the symbolism and poetry of ordinary objects—fruit, plants, architecture—with or without the human figure, to create a contemporary allegory. She sees her art as a journey of discovery and learning, as an instrument for communicating the “message of good news,” as well as simply a reflection of or meditation on God’s creation.

Maria exhibits her work frequently in Canada and internationally. In addition she has taught figure drawing and painting in various art institutions, most recently at the Ontario College of Art and Design. □



Malířka Maria Gabánková žije v Montarijském Torontu. Narodila se v Ostravě a vyrůstala v křesťanské umělecké rodině. Po invazi vojsk varšavské smlouvy do Československa v srpnu 1968, se celá rodina přistěhovala do Kanady. Po několika letech poznala milost a živé setkání s Ježíšem Kristem, což je základem jejího života a umělecké práce.

Realistické provedení lidské figury je vždy středem její malby a kresby. Zvláště se zaměřuje na portrét. Skrz to, co je fyzické (viditelné) hledá vyjádření duchovního (neviditelného).

Používá symbolismus a poezii obyčejných objektů, ovoce, rostlin, architektury buď s lidskou figurou nebo bez ní a vytváří tak současnou alegorii. Pokládá své umění jako cestu k objevování a učení se, jako nástroj ke sdělování evangelia jako meditaci nad Božím stvoření.

Maria vystavuje svou práci pravidelně v Kanadě i jinde ve světě. Mimo to učila figurativní kresbu a malbu v různých institucích, v současnosti na Ontario College of Art and Design. □

Osobní svědectví

Ludmila Dedeciusová

Chci vás pozdravit slovy apoštola Pavla 2. Kor. 2-4. „Milost vám a pokoj od Boha Otce našeho a Pána Ježíše Krista. Pochválen buď Bůh a Otec našeho Pána Ježíše Krista, Otec milosrdenství a Bůh veškeré útěchy. On nás potěšuje v každém soužení, abychom i my mohli těšit ty, kteří jsou v jakékoliv tísní tou útěchou, jaké se nám samým dostává od Boha.”

Pocházím z katolické rodiny. Jako dítě jsem chodila s babičkou do kostela. Ve svých osmi letech jsem byla pozvána do sboru baptistů v Kroměříži. V deseti letech jsem uvěřila v Pána Ježíše jako svého Spasitele. Ve třinácti letech jsem byla ve sboru v Kroměříži pokřtěna.

Do tohoto sboru přijeli posloužit hudbou s zpěvem bratři a sestry z Brněnského sboru, kde jsem poznala svého budoucího manžela. Pět roků jsme si dopisovali. Jiří studoval v Brně a já jsem žila a pracovala v Kroměříži.

Po svatbě v roce 1961 jsme bydleli v Pardubicích. Tam se nám narodil syn Petr. Protože jsme neměli naději na byt a bydleli jsme velice nouzově, Jiří sháněl zaměstnání s bytem. To se podařilo až v Blansku. Pán Bůh měl pro nás připravené zvláštní cesty. Tam se nám narodila dcera Hana a začala naše práce pro Pána jak ve sboru v Brně, i jinak.

Jako technik Jiří začal nahrávat konference—kázání a to se

☞ Pokračování na straně 115

Greetings from Marie's Circle in Minitonas!

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”
(Philippians 1:6)

Highlights from this year

One of our ministry goals is “I enable Christian women to develop their potential under God and through the church, in maturity toward Jesus Christ and in ministry to people.

Our Circle meets monthly for Bible study. The most recent study was *A Woman of Beauty*, by Juanita Ryan. This study reminded us of our lives, our struggles and our dreams. It helped us to discover how to apply God’s word through prayer and listening for God’s voice.

In March, twenty-five ladies were blessed by our Women’s Ministries Today seminar in our church. This was led by Linda Azirney, a pastor’s wife from Stonewall, MB, and chairperson of the NWM (National Women’s Ministries) leadership team for the Baptist General Conference, and Julie Robinson, national rep for Central Canada District. This seminar provided new vision and practical help for our church to reach and equip women through “Belonging, Becoming and Blessing.”

On April 7th and 8th, two van loads of our ladies traveled to

☞ Continues on page 115