



If You Love Me...

Why is love dying in this world..."

These were the opening lyrics of a song we used to sing with our youth group. Lately, I have been thinking about these words often. It seems that there is never enough love among people.

Only a life that is filled with God's love can be fruitful. We may not always see the fruit, but God's sight is not limited to the present. God knows about all the situations and details that make up the tapestry of human lives as they create the image of His kingdom on this earth. We know how wonderfully God's love can change a person, how it gives new meaning to life. Imagine life within a society where

every individual submits to God's love...

We know the greatest and most important commandment God has given us; the Bible draws our attention to it in several places. The Pharisees also knew it, but despite this, one of them asked Jesus about it. Perhaps he was curious to hear how Jesus would answer. Jesus reminded him about what the law is founded upon and in what it is contained (Matt. 22:35-40).

This year's convention may be called a manifestation of God's love. The motto of our convention reminds us of what can happen if we love God (John 14:15). The success of the Christian life is contained in this.

Personally, I am grateful to God for the opportunity to meet and get to know everyone better at the convention. The history and the very existence of our convention are a testimony to the keeping of God's greatest commandments. I have realized that without people devoted to God, our convention could not exist. Our family was among those who left Czechoslovakia during one of the last waves of emigration. As time passes we are able to meet more of the members of the convention and become more familiar with its work. We are also able to find out more about the work that was done in the past, not only from the pages of this magazine, but also from individual people. That is why I would like to repeat the call that we already heard at the convention: Send us the memories you have of members of the convention who have remained faithful in their work for God. This way, we will be enriched and motivated to keep our fellowship for future generations.

May the Lord bless you.

Editor-in-Chief *Natasha Legierski*

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Glorious Hope / Slavná naděje

September 2001, Vol. 27, N° 5

(USPS 009334)

ISSN 0700-5202

Published Bi-Monthly by

The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention
of USA and Canada

Periodical postage paid in Philippi, WV.

Publication Office: Glorious Hope

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Glorious Hope / Slavná naděje

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

Next issue deadline - October 15, 2001

Milujete-li mne...

Proč láska dnes na světě umírá..."

Těmito slovy začíná píseň, kterou jsme zpívala-li v mládeži. V poslední době mi často přicházejí na mysl. Zdá se, že mezi lidmi není nikdy dostatek lásky. Pouze život naplněný láskou, Boží láskou, je životem plodným. Vždy to ovoce nevidíme, ale Boží zrak není omezen přítomností. Pán Bůh vidí a zná všechny souvislosti i těch nejmenších detailů mozaiky lidských životů vytvářející obraz Božího království na této zemi. Víme, jak předivně Boží láska formuje a přetváří člověka, dává životu novou náplň. Pokusme si představit život společnosti, ve které se každý jedinec podřídí Boží lásce...

Známe to největší a nejdůležitější Boží přikázání, na které nás Bible upozorňuje na více místech. Zákoníci jej také znali, přesto se jeden z nich Pána Ježíše zeptal. Možná byl zvědavý na odpověď. Pán Ježíš mu tedy připomenul, na čem je celý zákon postaven a také zároveň v čem je obsažen (Matouš 22, 35-40).

Průběh letošní konvence by se dal nazvat manifestací Boží

☞ Pokračování na straně 99



Convention Photos: George Sommer, Vlastimil Pojman
Front Cover: Vit Malek, photos-Vlastimil Pojman
Back Cover: Vlastimil Pojman



July/August 2001

From the General Secretary

Denton Lotz



Make Love Your Aim!

The apostle Paul's declaration on love in 1 Corinthians 13 is probably the most widely read and deeply appreciated passage concerning love. We are all familiar with that remarkable beginning, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not

love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."

To understand this passage, we need to remember that in the previous chapter Paul has been speaking about the various gifts of individuals: of apostles, prophets, teachers, workers of miracles, healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues, etc. After reviewing these gifts, Paul in exasperation declares, "I will show you a more excellent way." And this more excellent way is none other than Chapter 13 on love.

But few people read the first verse of Chapter 14, which explains the action required after reading about love! Paul states simply, "Make love your aim!" After all of your study, preaching, prayers, singing, worship, ecstatic utterances, etc., you must aim for one thing! Make love your aim! Not some type of romantic love of pie in the sky by and by! No! Paul understands love as that love of Christ for humanity which went all the way to the cross, enduring our shame and sin, for our salvation. It is this type of love, all the way to the cross, for which Paul commands us to aim!

The BWA General Council just met in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. Our delegates went home rejoicing at the remarkable love we experienced from our Canadian Baptist brothers and sisters in Charlottetown. Dick Coffin, chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, and the members of First Baptist Church exhibited that love to us in so many ways. And, I believe, this love was contagious and contributed to very successful and Spirit-filled meetings.

Billy Graham on another occasion summed up our call to Christian behavior. We are to

1. love one another.
2. serve each other.
3. be patient with each other.
4. be courteous to one another.
5. set an example to each other.
6. forgive one another.
7. avoid judging each other.
8. be subject one to the other.
9. edify one another.
10. pray for one another.

May we be empowered by the Spirit so to live and so to act! What a difference it would make for the whole world!

O Lord, send us such love! Begin in me today! Amen.



Editorial ... pokračování ze strany 98

lásky. Již heslo našeho sejití upozorňuje na to, co se děje, jestliže Pána Boha milujeme (Jan 14:15). V tom je také skryté tajemství úspěchu křesťanova života.

Osobně jsem vděčná Pánu Bohu za možnost účasti na konvenčním setkání a možnost sbližování se se všemi členy tohoto obecnství. Historie konvence i její existence svědčí o zachovávání těch dvou nejdůležitějších příkázání. Uvědomila jsem si, že bez lidí, Pánu oddaných, by tato konvence nemohla existovat. Naše rodina patří mezi příchozí emigranty během poslední vlny útěků z Československa. Postupně se seznamujeme nejen se členy konvence, ale i s prací tohoto tělesa. Dozvídáme se o činnosti minulých let nejen z tohoto časopisu, ale i ze vzpomínek pamětníků. Proto nyní zopakuji výzvu, která zazněla také na konvenci: posílejte nám své vzpomínky na členy konvence, kteří zůstali věrní a konali Boží dílo. Tímto způsobem můžeme být rovněž obohaceni a motivováni k zachování tohoto obecnství i pro generace budoucí.

Pán vám žehnej.

Šéfredaktorka *Nataša Legierská*



From Our Readers ... Continues from page 113

Dear friends in Christ,

8-17-01

Please use this gift for the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention where it is most needed, in memory of Marian Boubelik, wife of Albert Boubelik and sister-in-law of Henry Boubelik. Marian went to be with the Lord in December 2000. Their son also went to be with Jesus earlier this year (2001).

May the Lord keep blessing our convention for the honor and glory of our great and loving God!

In Jesus' name, *Ed and Evy Evenhuis*



Milá sestro Natašo,

Ostrava 2. 8. 2001

srdečně děkuji za dar, který mi byl předán v neděli 27.7.2001. Je to velmi milé, že myslíte tímto způsobem na sociální práci v ostravském sboru BJB a Seniorcentru.

Prosím vyříd' můj srdečný pozdrav a poděkování všem sestrám z konvence.

Pán vám všem bohatě žehnej.



Lydie Jariabková



Staying Centered

William Catlett

“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me” (John 15:4).

Staying Centered”—this interesting title is my assigned topic for tonight’s opening message of this your 92nd Czechoslovak Baptist Convention.

Centering can be crucial for certain things to function properly and/or to prevent injury or damage. The placement of the clay on a potter’s wheel is one of several things that comes to mind. In order to control centrifugal force and thus allow the potter to design and shape the clay after his will, the clay must be centered. The center of a hurricane is the place of peace and tranquility even as the storm rages all around. To move out of its center is to be exposed to the storm’s devastation. There is a mark on the flywheel of an automobile engine which is designated TDC or “Top Dead Center.” It is an alignment mark from which engine timing is determined for proper engine function. Improper timing can seriously damage the engine.

Our scripture text is in the context of Jesus’ final discourses with his disciples before his crucifixion, as recorded in John, Chapters 13 to 17. Chapter 15 is in the center of these very personal and revealing discourses. Here Jesus uses the image of a grape vine with its branches and vinedresser to illustrate the unique relationship we are to have with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. There are several things in this imagery that relate to the importance of staying centered so that our lives may be shaped by God’s will, so that we may know God’s peace and so that we may also function as God intended.

First of all, we are to stay truthfully centered. In John 15 verses 1 and 5, Jesus implicitly states that he is the “true vine.”

“Virtual reality” is a major emphasis in technology today. Whether in television, computer games, computer-generated images for films or even for weapons systems, there is a great expenditure of time and resources to design that which appears real and true. According to Webster, the word virtual means, “being in essence or effect but not in fact.” Virtual reality is not truth, only the appearance of truth. In our technologically sophisticated society of today the “fact” remains, as the Bible warns, that people still are “so easily tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness and deceitful wiles” (Ephesians 4:14).

Too many in our society today would rather live in reality deception than seek out and face the truth about life and about themselves. We would rather reinvent truth than have truth redefine us. A society that lives in falsehood is one that is off-center, no matter how much it congratulates itself on being virtually on the mark.



Let me illustrate by telling you a little story about Clem’s solution: A city dweller bought a house in the country to enjoy the open space and fresh air. Since his work was still in the city he would drive back and forth each day. In his daily commute he passed a farm with a large barn near the road where he noticed several bull’s-eye targets painted on the side of the barn, each with a bullet hole dead center of the target. Every other day or so he would see another bull’s-eye target painted on the barn and it also with a bullet hole in the exact center.

On the way home from work one day he spotted the farmer in the field near the road, so he stopped and introduced himself to his neighbor and told him how impressed he was at the man’s marksmanship. The farmer laughed and then declared that it was not he but his friend Clem who was the rifleman. “Why did you laugh?” asked the man. “Well,” said the farmer, “Clem likes to shoot at the barn and then afterwards goes and paints a bull’s-eye around the bullet hole.”

Is not Clem’s solution the world’s solution for staying centered? If we live by our own devised code of truth and paint a bull’s-eye around it, we can convince ourselves that we are hitting the mark. Devising our own brand of truth means never having to say, “I missed the mark” (sin); it’s a means for self-congratulation (pride); it means that there is no need for a change of direction in my life (repentance); it means living in self-deception (blindness). Clem’s is not a reality-based solution, and no computer genius can design a program to make it otherwise.

Staying centered demands that we first come to know the truth. The same Jesus who said, “I am the true vine and you are the branches,” also declared, “I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” Knowing Jesus is to know the truth. An old Arabian proverb states: “He who knows not and knows not that he knows not is a fool, shun him. He who knows not and knows that he knows not is simple, teach him. He who knows and knows not that he knows is asleep, awaken him. He who knows and knows that he knows is a wise man, follow him.”

Jesus is that wise man who knows the truth because He is the truth. That is why those who seek truth follow Him.

So then, staying centered means staying truthfully centered in Christ. In verse 3 Jesus says, “Now you are clean through the word I have spoken unto you.” Staying centered in the word of truth helps us to remain clean and on the mark of God’s will for our life. It’s the true center

where saved sinners live in absolute reality.

Next, we are to stay vitally centered. The word vital means “concerned with or necessary to the maintenance of life” (Webster).

The whole illustration of the grapevine is centered in the vital nature of abiding in the vine and in the care of the vinedresser. To abide in the vine is to abide in the very source of life. John 15:6a declares, “If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers....”

When something withers it is in the process of dying because it has been cut off from its life-giving source. In the loveliness of a flower bouquet one must allow for the fact that it is composed of cut flowers of a withering and fading beauty.

Being vitally centered is to be intimately supplied by the vine. The vine/branch relationship is a very personal one. The Christian faith is a love affair between the Savior and the saved, between the Creator and the created, between the Vine and the branches.

The Greek word for abide is “meno,” which means to stay in a given place, state, relation or expectancy. The NIV and TEV translations read to “remain.” The key to Christian living is here—a continuing, living and loving relationship, not an on-again, off-again one. The blessing is for those who remain intimately connected. “Till death us do part” is the commitment of remaining (abiding) in marriage; “Till death us never part” is the commitment of remaining (abiding) in Christ. For “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord,” writes the apostle Paul in Romans 8:38–39.

Being vitally centered is also to be faithfully supplied by the vine. The vine says to each branch, “Not to worry, little branch, there is plenty more where this comes from, just keep on receiving what I’m supplying. Continue to abide in me and I’ll keep on supplying all of your branch needs.” Being vitally centered is a trust relationship where the branch accepts its branch-ness while trusting the vine to be the supplier. That’s the vine’s responsibility. Let the vine be the vine and the branch be the branch by staying vitally centered in Christ.

The story of the young immigrant who had booked passage on a ship bound for America illustrates my point. The young man had only enough money for his passage and a little extra to get a new start when he arrived. To save on expenses he had packed enough crackers and cheese to last him the voyage. Each day he would roam the decks and at meal times he would smell the delicious dinners being served to the other passengers but he would return to his cabin and eat his crackers and cheese and drink tap water. Within a few hours of his journey’s end, he asked one of the ship’s stewards what it would cost for him to have the one last meal aboard before docking. The steward asked to see his ticket and then replied, “Why sir, it will cost you nothing.” “Nothing?” questioned the young man. “No sir,” replied the steward, “The cost of your meals was included in the price of the ticket.”

Suppose we discover at the end of life’s journey that a banquet was prepared and available to us each day at a cost that

had already been paid and we missed it because we were not vitally centered in the source of that supply but instead sought to supply our own needs with crackers and cheese? That is not a supposition, it’s a fact for those who have chosen not to stay centered in the Vine. Remaining in the Vine is to enjoy every good thing God is making available every day on our earthly passage.

Lastly, we are to stay productively centered. The vine/branch/vinedresser lesson is about produce.

God created us to bear fruit. Adam was placed in a fruit-bearing garden as a fruit bearer among fruit bearers. In partaking of the forbidden fruit he moved from being a producer to a consumer. Sin leaves us with nothing to give but instead gives us an unwholesome desire to take. Self-centeredness and selfishness are at the root of our sinful natures. By nature we are takers, not givers—consumers, not producers.

Staying centered in Christ is to return to our created purpose as fruit bearers. Staying productively centered is to be available to the vinedresser who works to prune us to bear much fruit. That’s what we read in verse 2 of John 15. “...and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

Pruning is necessary to remove the unnecessary. As a “thing-oriented” society, we are captivated by every new thing powerfully advertised to the buying public as necessary for a happy and meaningful life. But we soon discover with each new thing that more of our time, attention and resources are needed to operate, maintain and even store the new thing, which in any case soon becomes old and uninteresting. Our lives soon take on a kind of cluttered existence from which even an occasional yard sale does not free us.

Pruning is the removal of the unnecessary which has attached itself to our lives as it weakens and diminishes the real purpose of our life to God. These are called “suckers” on plants for a reason - they suck the strength and growth potential from the branch.

Staying centered allows the watchful and skillful vinedresser to do his pruning work. We cannot prune ourselves because our judgement is marred by sin and we would only prune away those things that cause the least pain, the least discomfort and the least inconvenience to our lives. The vinedresser knows that which most needs to be removed, even if by pain and sorrow, in order for the best fruit to appear.

Pruning assists the branch in reaching its full potential. The vinedresser does not come to the branches saying, “You’re doing very well little branches, but I know if you really try you can do even better.” The vinedresser himself assumes the responsibility for ensuring that the branches will do better as long as they stay centered in him. With the unnecessary removed by pruning, the branch can devote its time and energy to becoming more than would have otherwise been possible. Martin Luther King is known to have said, “To pray and expect God to do everything while we do nothing is not faith, but superstition.” Pruning assists the branches but it’s up to the branches to do their part by staying centered in the vine.

☞ Continues on page 103

Seventy-Eighth Annual Rally of the Czechoslovak Baptist Women's Union, Philippi, West Virginia, July 7, 2001

This meeting was a special part of the 92nd Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention for the ladies attending, and was started at 11:25 A.M.

President Sister Natasha Legierski extended a warm welcome to all present. She remembered the women who had had the vision to start this union seventy-eight years ago, and exhorted all of us to be faithful in carrying on this ministry.

Sister Natasha then led us in the singing of hymn number 323, "Holy,



Natasha Legierski and Marija Sommer

the piano. Susie Devine gave the offertory prayer.

Sister Natasha introduced our guest speaker, Ruby Mikulencak, who is no stranger to us. She expressed appreciation for having the opportunity to be with us again after three years, and proceeded to bring us up to date on her activities during her latest term of service in Ghana.

To refresh our memories, Ruby mentioned that she had been born to Tony and Helene Mikulencak on a farm in Wisconsin. She marveled at how God could take a shy farm girl



Susan Devine

Holy, Holy," with Margaret Holt at the piano.

The scripture was Psalm 122, read in Czech by sister Tona Springle, and in English by Esther Tarr.

Sister Judy Shoff led in prayer, invoking God's blessing on our gathering.

This was followed by a special number, "Amazing Love"

and lead her into missionary service. This started in 1972 in Ethiopia, where Ruby served as a nurse working in a mission hospital run by SIM, the organization of which she is part. She remained there for seven years. Then, because of a Marxist revolt, she, along with many other



Amy Nesvadba

sung by Amy and Donna Nesvadba, with Donna at the piano.

Anne Opocensky read the minutes of the 2000 meeting.

Grace Niswonger moved adoption, seconded by Rose Novak. Carried.

In the absence of Joan Rotar, treasurer, Marija Sommer gave the treasurer's report.

Marija also announced that Donna Nesvadba was appointed Canadian Treasurer of the Women's Union, in order to keep our giving separate from that of the Convention, and make it easier for the financial secretary.

Our offertory was a real treat—April Chocholaty played a flute solo, "Crown Him with Many Crowns," accompanied by Marija Sommer on



Antonia Springle



Anne Opocensky

missionaries, was asked to leave. After she left Ethiopia, the Lord called her to serve Him in Ghana, West Africa. For the past 21 years Ruby has been serving in the northern part of Ghana where a church-planting ministry has seen the church grow from less than 10 churches in 1980 to over 120 churches in 2000. She was involved with the Kasena

people, and counts it a privilege to be part of a ministry where phenomenal growth has taken place. During this time she held the position of district superintendent.

After her return from furlough three years ago, she was in for a surprise. Due to a series of events, Ruby was asked to take the position of director of SIM Ghana. She closed her remarks by reading Psalm 139:13-18.



Esther Tarr



Marija Sommer, Dona Nesvadba, Natasha Legierski, Oti Alac



Natasha Legierski and Ruby Mikulencak

In order that everyone might share in what we were privileged to hear at this meeting, Ruby's message will be published in *Glorious Hope* in its entirety. She urged us to faithfully support her in prayer as she returns.

We were blessed by special music as Jana and Eva Branda and Elizabeth Legierski sang a trio. Their voices blended in beautiful harmony as they sang "Most High and Glorious God" without accompaniment.

Our president thanked our speaker for her ministry to us and presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation and a blanket as a memento of Alderson-Broadbush College.

Marija Sommer announced that our offering was \$790 Canadian and \$1,414 U.S. funds. She mentioned that this was not enough to cover what we had budgeted for, and urged the ladies to send monthly contributions to the women's ministry of \$10, \$15 or \$20, as the Lord moves them.

Our closing hymn was number 495, "It is Well with My Soul," and Grace Niswonger dismissed us with prayer at 12:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Opocensky, Secretary.

□

Staying Centered ... Continues from page 101

Conclusion:

It is from the branch/vine/vinedresser analogy of Jesus that we find our need to stay truthfully centered, vitally centered and productively centered in the Vine to experience the abundant life. Staying centered is to discover the true meaning and purpose of one's life as a blessing to God, self and others and as a living witness of truth's reality.

There was a time early in my marriage when Tupperware parties were a major attraction to my wife. On one occasion she came home with some free gifts from a party. She showed me some bottle caps, a broom holder and a strange-looking item the purpose of which neither she or I could understand. It was yellow in color, about six inches long with one end shaped like a small chisel and the other end in a kind of hook-shaped design. Not knowing what it was for, we tossed it into a kitchen drawer.

In the meantime, we acquired a kitten and I acquired another chore on my "Daddy Do" list, feeding the cat. My wife soon began to complain of my using one of our dinner forks to dig out the canned cat food. So I began looking through the kitchen drawers for something else to use and there before me was that strange Tupperware device. I soon discovered that it worked quite well because I could dig out the cat food and wipe the chiseled end clean with a paper towel. I was happy, the cat was happy and most of all, my wife was happy.

One day while I was eating my lunch in the cafeteria at work, a woman sat down at the table across from me. She opened her bag lunch and then pulled out an orange and I almost looked away as I remembered how messy it is to peel one. But unexpectedly she began to peel it rapidly and with no mess. My curiosity prompted me to look more closely, and as I did I saw in her hand—the "cat-food digger." That strange device, I then knew, was an orange peeler. I could hardly wait to get home that night and share my new-found discovery with my wife.

Later, after I had entered the ministry, I remembered that event and began to see its correlation to life. Many people go day to day fairly content "digging cat food" with their lives, not knowing that life was created with design and for a significant purpose.

Why is it important that we as Christians stay centered? Because when we are living as God intends, then others will see what life is meant to be. That woman never knew what she did that day to help me to know the truth about that orange peeler. We likewise may never know what impact we will have on another life that is observing us as we stay truthfully centered, vitally centered and productively centered in Christ, our faithful vine. May it always be our heart's desire to stay centered in the abundant grace, mercy and rich blessings of our loving Lord.

□

Ruby Mikulencak's Message

Let me just review my history a bit before I share this past term with you. A term for me is usually 2 1/2 years with months for furlough, or home assignment as they call it now. It has not been an easy term, but before I get ahead of myself let me fill you in on some things.

I was born and raised on a small farm in rural Wisconsin. Tony and Helene Mikulencak are my parents and Henry Boubelik was my uncle. He actually was the one that got me more involved in the Convention! I was one of those middle children that caused a lot of grief to my parents. I was very insecure, shy, fearful and rebellious, with not much opportunity for doing anything in the world. But God had different ideas!

Through a series of normal experiences, I felt God's call to missions. He sent me to Ethiopia in 1972 where I served as a nurse in a mission hospital run by SIM, the organization I am part of. I remained in Ethiopia for seven years, and then left because of a Marxist revolt when many missionaries were asked to leave. After I left Ethiopia, the Lord called me to serve Him in Ghana, West Africa. I have been there for the past 21 years, serving in the northern part of Ghana where a church-planting ministry amongst seven groups has seen the church grow from less than 10 churches in 1980 to over 120 churches in 2000. I have only been involved in one of those groups, known as the Kasena. We have seen phenomenal growth amongst the Kasena, and it has been my



work) in the north of Ghana.

This is a little background history which brings me to this last term....

SS White Creek, June 17, 2001

These past 2 1/2 years have been traumatic and difficult, and yet when I look at what God has done, I marvel in wonder at His grace and power in my life and in the work in Ghana.

The key word for this term I would have to say is change:

In 1972 God took me from rural Wisconsin and placed me in a different continent and a different lifestyle and ministry. I was young then, full of adventure and a desire to see new and different things. Change was easier then; now change is harder to go through. I like things to be normal and the same and with an even flow. You know, no problems, no difficulties, everything going along smoothly.

Certainly my 2 1/2 years have not been smooth and easy! It started out with delays and change as January 1999 saw Chicago get its second to highest snowfall, grounding all planes and traffic. One of those planes was mine, trying to leave for Ghana. It was delayed and I was stranded. With a beginning like that to another term, I should have suspected things would be out of the ordinary!

After a few days of delay, I finally arrived in Ghana safely. A few weeks later the trend for the unexpected continued. My car got stolen.

Perhaps I should have had a premonition of things to come, but I didn't. A series of five robberies in Chiana—these were hard and difficult days.

After the 5th time of thieves entering our properties, Pat and I went to the chief and told him we wanted to turn over my old house to the Town Development Committee. He begged us to take time and he would call the inspector of police. We cleaned everything of value out of the house and it is ready now for the town to take it over. The ultimatum to the chief resulted in the police acting, but the criminal got away and is now on the run.

I found I have lost about 1,000,000 cedis (about \$400), including a solar panel. It has been very discouraging to me because of my inability to do anything about the situation.

Jeremiah has been of help to me in this situation. "You are like a mighty warrior to me. Cause them to stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced. Let me see your vengeance on them for to you I have committed my cause."



Ruby Mikulencak with Youth Group

privilege to be part of the church work.

I have been involved in community-based health care, discipleship, teaching and training. I also have been involved in administration, being the district superintendent (in charge of the

My Ghanaian friends here say, “One day his cup will be full.” My problem is that I find it difficult to wait for that day. I want to do something. I want to see justice done now. But that Kasena statement is more biblical than my desire to control the situation. It has been hard not to be able to do something and change things. I had to leave that to the Lord. What helped me through those dark hours were other Christians who came and encouraged me and also prayed for me.

I began to feel restless. I was not discontent or unhappy, although the robberies were not easy. I felt a sense of oneness and companionship with my brothers and sisters. I felt accepted and had a sense of fulfillment in being in Chiana. I had lived there 20 years.

As I look at it now, I can see that this oneness I was feeling with my Ghanaian brothers and sisters was because I could not control the situation. My hands were tied and I was frustrated. You know that is the way it is most of the time for my friends in Ghana. They cannot do much about their situation, but they don’t get annoyed or upset. They accept it and continue to go on with life. Their support and help were what pulled me through. God’s too.

Yet it seemed as if there was something more ahead, though I didn’t know what it was. Should I leave Chiana? If I did, go where? Somewhere else in Ghana, back to America, or pursue studies? God was preparing me for a change, perhaps one of the biggest of my life and career.

In SIM Ghana we have an administrative structure where the boss is called a director. Usually the person under him/her is the deputy director. Under this one is what we call a district superintendent, or DS for short. I had been overseeing the work in the north for a number of years as DS and was content not to have to make the final decisions. It is always nice to be able to refer difficult decisions to the boss.

In 1999 our director was asked to go to one of SIM’s newer fields to become the director in South Africa. This meant that we as a Ghana field had to choose another director. The process was quite long, but in the end we chose a man who we felt would do a good job. He was home on furlough at the time but was expected back in June of 2000. In the meantime the present director was going home on furlough so he could proceed to South Africa. That left me, the third in command, to be the acting director. Fine, I could handle that for a short time.

But then came the phone call from America. I had just experienced my first professional soccer game, Togo vs Ghana. I was pretty excited because Ghana had won. On the phone was Ruby Dugan, the newly elected director, who said, “Christi and I feel we need to stay home with our boys, so we are taking a leave of absence from SIM.”

I was stunned and silent! I knew what that meant even though I could not comprehend it all at the time. So began the process of choosing another director. My name was top on the list.

Talk about change: from DS to director, from rural to city, from no schedule to 8-5 office hours daily, from being able to pass the buck to stopping the buck. It was a huge change, and I struggled over letting my name be put forward. I did not want the job. I was not seeking it, and yet here it was put right into my lap. But did I really want this stress and pressure?

I was in a confusion for a number of days, and I struggled with the obvious but couldn’t quite accept that God was asking me to do this job.

My sister helped me: I called her on the phone and asked her opinion. I had expressed my inadequacy and my feelings about being totally out of my league, so to speak. She said, “You remind me of someone else.” “Who?” I asked.

The team gave me their confidence vote, and I am now the director of SIM Ghana. I still have to remind myself at times that I really am the director. I will be sitting at a function and the SIM Ghana director will be called, and I look around waiting for the person to come, when all of a sudden I realize it’s me they are calling!! I would like to close by reading Psalm 139:13-18.

I marvel that God has taken me from obscurity, a shy, reserved, insecure farmer’s daughter, and placed me in charge of SIM Ghana. Why? I don’t understand this mercy and grace.

But you know power or control has a funny way of affecting you. How do you keep a humble heart and a spirit dependent on the Lord rather than on prestige and power? Power can blind you to your importance. It can make you think you are really great and wonderful. It can make you independent of God. I ask you to pray that God will keep me humble and dependent. I cannot do this task of leading SIM Ghana in the 21st century without His help, His input in my life, in my decision-making, and in working with people. Pray for a team around me who can fill in for any weakness.

You have always been beside me in my work. Without you, I would not be where I am today. But you know I still desperately need you to be on the team. I need your prayer and financial support more than ever.

Mission work is changing, and to keep up with things I need insight and creativity, knowledge and wisdom, grace and compassion, and discernment in making decisions that will enhance the work of God in Ghana through SIM. Continue to pray for me.



Natasha Legierski and Ruby Mikulencak

□

The Saturday Night Concert



From left: Natasha Legierski, John Senak, Dave Devine, George Pospisil, and Jan Alac



Jana and Eva Branda, Elizabeth Legierski



Marija Sommer, April Chocholaty



Martin Alac Family



Jenny Alac with children



Matthew Habuda



Lamos girls



Jane Widlicka



Marija Sommer and Richard Mazanec



Nick Habuda



Tom Devine



Dave Devine



Kristina Vlasic

Convention Echoes in Pictures Part 1



Dr. Stephen Markwood – A-B President



George Sommer



Marija Sommer



Antonia Springle, and Others



The Novaks and Andrew Kmetko



"Obecenstvi" at Sommers - 1



Robert Dvorak at Piano



"Obecenstvi" at Sommers - 2



Jan Viktorin and Alexandr Flek



Amy Nesvadba



Ice Cream Social

Czechoslovak Baptist Church—Toronto

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1Pet. 4:10).

At the end of the last year God spoke to our church with this biblical text. We feel that through this message He leads us to ministry in our local church and in the surrounding society. This direction of our church is thus represented in teaching, in preaching, in the life of the church and in its respective undertakings. Dear readers, we'd like to outline for you the most important events in the period of the last four months. Please, pray for the future of our church community.

The Easter season always brings forth God's rich blessing. This year we again expressed our devout gratitude for the work of salvation, which God has completed in His only begotten Son,



Easter Concert



the Lord Jesus Christ. He represents for us the only way to the Heavenly Father. This way is safe, and those who sincerely dedicate themselves to God and trust Him completely will not lose their way. The solemn services of Good Friday and Easter Sunday were this year enriched by an Easter concert, which took place on Saturday, April 14. The audience first listened to the works of baroque masters G.F. Handel, H.L. Hassler and J.S. Bach, performed by our church choir. We also enjoyed the beautiful and skillfully arranged "Concerto in D Minor for Lute and Strings" from

the workshop of another baroque composer, J.S. Weiss, performed by the chamber group Fiddlesticks and a guitar group whose members are Eva Branda, Daniela Graner, Elizabeth Legierski, Jane Branda and John Alac. The Czecho-



Mother's Day Program

slovak Handel Consort, led by its outstanding conductor, John Alac, and excellently accompanied by Eva Branda on piano, addressed the audience with a unique work of G.F. Handel, "Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened," inspired by Psalm 89. The message of God's Word was delivered by Miloš Šolc and Ján Banko.

Ministry to invited visitors is combined with ministry to our closest relatives and friends. On Sunday, May 13, we commemorated Mother's Day. In the program, enriched by the service of our children, we expressed our gratitude for the atmosphere of love and spiritual growth created by our mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers in the family and in church life. The following week,

we met in Toronto with churches from Windsor and Kingsville, and delivered messages on the important topic "God's Kingdom and the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ." All generations of the church were looking forward to the Sunday school picnic, which took place on Sunday, June 10, at the home of the Alac family. Children together with adults enjoyed well prepared games. Also contributing to the informal atmo-



Jan Viktorin—TWR-CZ

sphere of the picnic was a tasty barbecue from the workshop of our chefs, Milan Lev and Jan Alac, and added to with irresistible goodies baked by our caring sisters. All together, we also praised our Lord for His mercy and love, with spiritual hymns and through His very Word, in beautiful and sunny nature.



Picnic at Alacs

The second half of June in our church was oriented to mission. On Sunday, June 24, we were addressed by representatives of Trans World Radio (TWR) Christian broadcasting. We were informed about the broadcasting of the message of the gospel and biblical teaching in our old homeland. This information was delivered by George Cooper, Director of TWR for Central-East Europe; Jan Viktorín, a member of the TWR Council of Broadcasting in the Czech Republic; and Lubomír Vyhnánek, Executive Director of TWR in Slovak Republic. We ask our Lord for His help with the project of Czech and Slovak TWR broadcasting, which is being prepared in the Greater Toronto Area and in Windsor and vicinity. Our desire is that the gospel will touch our fellow-countrymen living around us, and we would like to use all available opportunities for



The Cosmades' with Toronto Members

this goal. Next in the row of these opportunities was a traditional "Czech and Slovak Day of Canada," which also took place on June 24, in the afternoon, on the beautiful premises of Masaryktown. We ministered to our countrymen with hymns performed by our choir and with the message of the gospel.

The summer months in our church are traditionally marked

by the ministry of unique preachers and missionaries. There has been no change to this pattern this year. On Sunday, July 22, we were visited by the missionary Thomas Cosmades and his wife Lila. Thomas served us on the topic "Identification With Christ—Our Genuine Prototype," based on John 15:1-10. The next Sunday, July 29, we were absorbed by listening to preaching on the topic "The Lord Hears Hezekiah's Prayer," based on Second Kings, Chapter 20, and delivered



Thomas Cosmades

by Rev. Miloš Šolc, President of the Baptist Union in Czech Republic and pastor of the Vinohrady Church in Prague, who visited Toronto together with his wife Květa. The message of the gospel together with lovely spiritual songs resounded strongly again on Sunday, August 19, through the ministry of missionary Daniel Adámek, who visited us with his wife Vierka.

Our gratitude for His work belongs to our Lord. He calls and strengthens us on the way of faith. He is the giver of spiritual growth, and He leads His disciples to serve Him and their neighbors. We ask you to pray for our church community and for its growth in the ministry we have been called to by our Lord.

Ján Banko



Miloš Šolc



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Československý baptistický sbor—Toronto

„Každý, ako ktorý dostal dar milosti, tak si tým slúžite navzájom ako dobrí správcovia rôznej milosti Božej.” (1. Pet.4,10)

Uvedeným biblickým textom oslovil Pán Boh naše zborové spoločenstvo na sklonku minulého roka. Vedie nás tým k službe v našom miestnom zbere i v okolitej spoločnosti. Toto smerovanie zboru sa pochopiteľne odráža v oblasti vyučovania a kázania i v oblasti zborového života a jeho jednotlivých podujatí. Tie najdôležitejšie z nich za obdobie posledných štyroch mesiacov vám teraz chceme, milí čitatelia, načrtnúť a poprosiť vás o vaše modlitby za budúcnosť nášho zborového spoločenstva.

O b d o b i e
sviatkov Veľkej

Noci vždy prináša so sebou mimoriadne Božie požehnanie. I v tomto roku sme vrúcne ďakovali za dielo záchrany, ktoré Pán Boh vykonal v osobe a diele Jeho jednorodného Syna, Pána Ježiša Krista. On je pre nás tou jedinou cestou k Nebeskému Otcovi, cestou spoľahlivou, na ktorej úprimne odovzdaný a dôverujúci človek nezblúdi. Slávnostné zhromaždenia Veľkého Piatku a Veľkonočnej Nedele boli v tomto roku obohatené Veľkonočným koncertom, ktorý sa konal v sobotu, 14. apríla. Pozvané obecnstvo si najprv vypočulo diela majstrov baroka, G.F. Händla, H.L. Hasslera a J.S. Bacha v podaní nášho spevokolu. Prekrásnym a výborne zaranžovaným „Koncertom d-mol pre lutnu a sláčiky” z dielne ďalšieho z autorov baroka, J.S.Weissa nás potešilo domáce

komorné sláčikovo-gitarové teleso v zložení Eva Brandová, Daniela Granerová, Elizabeth Legierski, Jana Brandová a John Aláč. Jedinečným dielom G.F. Händla, „Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened”, ktoré je inšpirované 89. Žalmom sa nám prihovorilo „Československé Händlovo Konzorcium”, ktoré viedol náš vynikajúci dirigent John Aláč a na klavíri výborne doprevádzala Eva Brandová. Posolstvom Božieho Slova oslovili prítomných Miloš Šolc a Ján Banko.

Služba pozvaným návštevníkom sa prelína so službou našim najbližším. V nedeľu, dňa 13. mája sme si pripomenuli Deň Matiek. V programe obohatenom službou našich detí sme ďakovali za ovzdušie lásky a duchovného rastu, ktoré naše matky, staré i prastaré matky vytvárajú v živote rodiny

i zboru. Ešte ani neubehol celý týždeň a už bolo na programe stretnutie zborov z Windsoru, Kingsvillu a Toronta s dôležitou témou: „Božie Kráľovstvo a druhý príchod Pána Ježiša Krista”. Na piknik Nedeľnej školy, ktorý sa konal v nedeľu, 10. júna na pozemku u Aláčov sa tešili všetky generácie zboru. Výborne pripravené hry potešili nielen deti, ale i dospelých. K neformálnej atmosfére pikniku nemalo prispieť chutné „barbecue” (mäso pripravené na ražni) z dielne šéfkuchárov, Milana Lva a Jána Aláča doplnené neodolateľnými dobrotami, ktoré napiekli naše starostlivé sestry. Spoločným spevom duchovných piesní a Božím Slovom sme potom v nádhernej, slnkom zaliatej prírode oslavovali nášho Pána za Jeho milosrdenstvo a lásku.



Easter Concert



Mother's Day Program



Easter Concert

Druhá polovica júna sa niesla v našom zbore v duchu misie. V nedeľu, 24. júna nás svojou prezentáciou oslovili zástupcovia kresťanského vysielania Trans World Radio (TWR). O šírení evanjelia a biblickom vyučovaní na vlnách rozhlasového vysielania v našej starej vlasti nás informovali bratia George Cooper, riaditeľ TWR pre stredovýchodnú Európu, Ján Viktorin, člen Rady vysielania TWR v Českej Republike a Ľubomír Vyhnaněk, riaditeľ TWR v Slovenskej Republike. Prosíme nášho Pána o Jeho pomoc pri pripravovanom projekte spustenia českého a slovenského vysielania TWR v oblasti veľkého Toronta a v oblasti Windsoru. Túžime po tom, aby sa evanjelium dotklo našich krajanov, ktorí žijú okolo nás a chceme k tomu využiť všetky dostupné príležitosti. Ďalšou z nich bol už tradičný „Český a Slovenský Deň Kanady“, ktorý sa konal tiež dňa 24. júna popoludní v krásnom



Jan Viktorin, George Cooper, Ľubomír Vyhnaněk—TWR, and Ján Banko

prostredí Masaryktownu. Poslúžili sme tu našim krajanom piesňami spevokolu i slovom evanjelia.

Letné mesiace v našom zbore sa už tradične nesú v znamení služby jedinečných kazateľov a misijných pracovníkov. Nebolo tomu inak ani v tomto roku. V nedeľu, 22. júla nás navštívil misionár Thomas Cosmades s manželkou Lilou a poslúžil na základe biblického textu Ján 15,1–10 vyučovaním na tému



The Cosmades'

„Identification With Christ—Our Genuine Prototype“. Už o týždeň na to, dňa 29. júla sme sústredene načúvali kázaniu na tému „Vyslyšení Ezechiáše“, ktorou nás z 20. kapitoly 2. knihy Kráľov oslovil brat kazateľ Miloš Šolc, Predseda Výkonného Výboru Bratskej Jednoty Baptistov v Českej Republike a kazateľ zboru na Vinohradoch, ktorý navštívil Toronto i so svojou manželkou Květou. Slovo evanjelia i nádherné duchovné piesne zazneli mocne i v nedeľu, 19. augusta, kedy nám poslúžil misijný pracovník Daniel Adámek, ktorý nás navštívil so svojou manželkou Vierkou.

Je to jedine náš Pán, ktorému patrí vďaka za Jeho dielo. On povoláva na cestu viery a On na nej i upevňuje. On dáva duchovný rast a vedie svojich učeníkov k tomu, aby slúžili Jemu a svojim blíznym. Prosíme, modlite sa aj za naše zborové spoločenstvo, aby rástlo v službe, do ktorej ho náš Pán povolal.



Ján Banko



Picnic at Alacs

From Our Readers



07/20/01

Dear Marija and George,
Just a time to say "thank you"
for your gracious hospitality
and for all you do for the
Czechoslovak Baptist Con-
vention. All seemed to go well,
thanks to you and your efficient

helpers. We stopped to visit Bill and Esther Widlicka and Flor
and Barb Manas on our way home. They all seemed to be in
good condition and sorry they missed the Convention.

In His love, *Andy and Alice Kmetko*



Dear Marija and George:

We want to thank you again for the invitation to your home
on Sunday afternoon. We thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship
and food. What a good decision we made to stay over in West
Virginia through Sunday evening.

Once again the Convention was so meaningful to us,
and as you heard, Roberta and Larry were so pleased they
attended this year.

Sincerely, *Jerry and Gloria Andrs*



Dear Br. George and Br. Bob Dvorak

June 18, 2001

Just a short letter to let you know I am so sorry I won't
be attending the Convention this year. I am just getting my
strength back.

I had a heart problem. In January I was in the hospital
for two weeks.

I know there are many blessings awaiting those who
attend...and I have been praying for you all—all in the Executive
and General Board and for the programs!

Thank you for all you do in Jesus' name!

God bless you, Lovingly, *Lillian Adam*



Dear George and Marija July 14, 2001

The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention 2001 is now a warm
memory away.

Once again, thank you for the many hours of hard work
which you did to make it a great convention.

May we now go out and be doers for the Lord and not only
hearers of his word.

We pray for health, strength, and wisdom for you both!
"Libá Vás,"

Dick and Grace Niswonger



Greetings George,

July 18, 2001

I have been hearing such wonderful reports concerning
this year's convention.

I had a nice visit with Norris Jett this morning. He is an
active member of the Gideon and was on his way downtown
to pass out New Testaments to those leaving for service.
He stopped by to tell of the blessings he experienced at this
year's convention.

Norris and Thelma have attended the last 8 or 9 years
bringing their grandchildren with them. By the way...Thelma

Jett is a great Sunday school teacher, she heads up that
department in our church.

In Christian Love, *Florian Manas*



Dinwiddie, VA,

July 9, 2001

Greetings from the Shereda family,

Robert, we would like to extend our thanks for leading yet
another great convention. The Holy Spirit was truly in that
place filling the people with love and obecnstvi. It is our
desire for Poplar Springs Baptist Church to find a sense of
renewal where the convention is concerned. As long as we
have members who take an interest in their heritage, we
should try to keep their interest in the convention, as well.
We are trying!

Peace and God's blessings, *Kathy Shereda*



July 5, 2001

Dear Marija & George,

Greetings in our Precious Savior's name. Our hearts and
minds are with you and wishing we were there in person.

We pray God's special blessing upon you all at the
Convention. We are with you all in spirit.

"Let the Word of God dwell in you richly..." (Col. 3:16)

In Jesus, *Ed and Evg Evenhuis*



To Whom It May Concern,

July 27, 2001

Would you please send old copies of Glorious Hope to
two of my friends.

The three of us belonged to the Czechoslovak Baptist
Church in Berwyn. It brought memories to me. I am 88 years
old and I go back to Brdlik at Troop St. Church.

Thank you so much, in Christian love,

Mildred Hanzelon



July 27, 2001

Dear friends of Czechoslovak Baptist Convention:

Enclosed please find a check for Glorious Hope in loving
memory of Rev. and Mrs. Ernest Ronk (Ruth Pilot). Ruth
has been a member of Scranton Rd. Baptist Church and
Czechoslovak Baptist Convention for many years.

Thank you for sending Glorious Hope. It is a fine Baptist
periodical, very attractive and interesting. I enjoy reading
Slovak-Czech articles (most of them) for I have not had the
opportunity to speak or hear Slovak for many years. I do enjoy
all of it. The July issue is beautiful and very interesting.

I do remember the wonderful conventions. I enjoyed the
convention pictures. I recognized a few.

Greetings from sunny Florida. Sincerely,

Emily Kubic



Dear George,

August 1, 2001

Greetings!

Enclosed you will find a check in memory of my dear
sister-in-law, Beatrice Fort. She passed away July 17, 2001. We
were members at the church in Chicago, Illinois. (Emmanuel
Bohemian Baptist Church).

We later moved to a new church building and the name was changed to Lawndale Baptist Church.

I am sorry to have missed the Convention!! I am finally getting my strength back- PTL!

Love to Marija! In Christ,

Lillian Adam



Dear George,

July 28, 2001

Had a wonderful time at the Convention. It's just a little bit of heaven.

I must tell you about our trip back home. We left about 3 p.m. and heard of the hard rain back in WV. We got to a town called Mt. Sterling. Police were all over. They told us a tornado had come through about an hour ago. We wanted to go on to Lexington but they said a tornado was headed that way. We got a motel and all lights in town went out. They came on again an hour later. We thanked God for our motel and with lightning and thunder we slept. The next day we went toward Lexington. We saw a few trees blown down, but praise the Lord all seemed calm. We enjoyed God's beauty on the Blue

Grass Parkway and we arrived home safely. We thank God for traveling mercies.

May God bless you for all you do for the Convention.

In Christ, Marie Ferrett



Dear friends in Christ

8-9-01

So sorry to have missed the convention again We have heard (from cousins and friends) of the wonderful time they all had and what a great blessing was received at every meeting and Bible study. Praise to our loving heavenly Father. Hoping to be there with you all next year, Lord willing.


Enclosed is a gift for Glorious Hope in memory of Beatrice (Adam)Fort, a dear friend and relative (sister-in-law of my sister, Lillian Adam).

May the Lord Jesus continue His blessing upon you and our wonderful convention.

With hearts full of love and thoughts and blessings and prayers,

In His love Ed and Evy Evenhuis



 Continues on page 99

Prayer Corner

Modlitební koutek

Approximately five years have passed since the death of Paula, the daughter of Jan Viktorin, who is our fellow worker and board member at TWR-CZ. Since that time, the Viktorins have had another daughter, named Anna, who is now four years old. About a year ago Anna was diagnosed with signs of the same disease that her sister died of. Thanks to God's mercy and your prayers, Anna is still alive today. We have just heard that a lump has appeared on Anna's throat and that she can't move her head. Anna is currently undergoing medical examination. Her parents and all fellow believers are very tense. Please pray with us for God's mercy, so that the problem will not be serious and the Viktorins will not have to endure the suffering they experienced five years ago. Jan Viktorin is very actively involved in the work for TWR-CZ.

Thank You, Aleš Bartošek

Dear friends!

August 24, 2001

Two days ago we asked you to pray for Anna Viktorinova's health. Today we have received the initial results of the medical examination. Nothing serious has been confirmed. The doctors do not know what it is (or was). Anna's condition appears to be improving. The same symptoms that appeared two days ago in Anna resulted in the sudden death of Anna's sister five years ago. Today we are able to witness God's amazing power and mercy.

Thank you very much for your prayers and support. The Viktorin family is deeply moved. We believe that Anna's condition will continue to improve. In any case, situations such as this one are a good opportunity for us to think about who the Lord and Master of life is. We are capable of many things; at times our abilities seem almost without boundaries... but who among men can influence the breath of life? To God belongs our gratitude and admiration!

God bless you all.

Your friends from TWR-CZ



Je to asi pět let co našemu spolupracovníkovi a členu rady TWR-CZ, Janu Viktorínovi, zemřela malá dcerka Pavlinka. Pak se manželům Viktorinovým narodila dcera Anička, která má asi čtyři roky. Už jednou—asi před rokem—se u Aničky objevily stejné příznaky nemoci, na kterou Pavlinka zemřela (zablokování hlavy—nádor). Díky Bohu i díky Vaším modlitbám Anička žije. Dnes jsme se dozvěděli, že Aničce se objevila boule na krku a nemůže otáčet hlavou. V těchto hodinách jsou prováděna vyšetření. Rodiče i všichni spoluvěřící jsme velmi napnutí. Modlete se spolu s námi, aby tento problém nebyl vážný a aby Viktorinovi nemuseli prožít to co před pěti roky. Jan Viktorin se velmi aktivně zapojuje do podpory české práce TWR.

Děkujeme, Aleš Bartošek

Milí přátelé!

24.8.2001

před dvěma dny jsme Vás prosili o modlitební pomoc za zdravotní stav Aničky Viktorínové. Dnes jsme dostali zprávu o prvních výsledcích vyšetření. Nic vážného se nepotvrdilo. Lékaři nevědí co to je (bylo). Je vidět, že i její stav se lepší. To co bylo viditelné před dvěma dny, znamenalo před pěti lety rychlou smrt její malé sestřičky. Dnes můžeme vidět úžasnou Boží moc a pomoc.

Moc Vám všem děkujeme za modlitby a za projevenou podporu. Viktorinovi si toho velmi váží a jsou dojatí. Věříme, že dobrý vývoj bude pokračovat V každém případě jsou pro nás takové momenty rázným zastavením v čase a jistou příležitostí k přemýšlení, kdo je Pánem života. Zařídíme spoustu věcí, šikovnost nezná hranic...ale dech života kdo z nás ovlivní? Bohu patří naše vděčnost a náš obdiv!

Bůh Vám žehnej.

Vaši přátelé z TWR-CZ



Marie Elizabeth Pavelda

June 25, 1914 – March 13, 2001



Marie Pavelda radiated a rare beauty of spirit that came from a heart devoted to God. In her eighty-six years on earth, she developed a strong faith and focus on her Lord, Jesus Christ, that shone through all she did. She did this through her lifelong practice of daily prayer and Bible study. It was the foundation for a life of commitment, courage and joyful service to all who knew her.

Marie was a listening heart for the Santner family into which she was born. Her parents, Anna and Simon, immigrated from Slovakia to Cleveland, Ohio, where Marie was born on June 25, 1914. Sisters and brother, Angeline Gregory, Ruth Hitchcock, and Steve Santner, will miss her greatly as she joins their parents and brother, Sam, in heaven.

Marie married the love of her life, John Pavelda, on May 18, 1940, and with him created a lively family that depended on her for inspiration, encouragement, and love. As Marie grew spiritually, a reliance on rules and regulations blossomed into a freedom of spirit that amazed and delighted her children and grandchildren. A faithful, pure heart and unconditional love are the legacies she leaves for her beloved husband, John, and her devoted children, Jan and Dudley Newman, Sharon and David Lukens, Susan and Glen Estabrook, Ruth Ann and Dick Bacon, and honorary daughter, Beth Ells. As she did with her children, Marie introduced all her grandchildren to the joy of Jesus through stories and songs and a love for them that will never end. She nurtured them with kolachki and caring, picnics in the park and prayer. Those who rise up and call her blessed are Chad and Becky, Cal, Neil, Lauren, Brian, Mark and Nikki, Adam, Ashley and Dan, Meagan, Sara and Richard.

Marie knew that family meant more than relatives, and opened her heart and her home to her neighbors and friends of thirty-five years in Scottsdale, and then to all in her much-loved Chris Ridge Community for the past four years. As a founding member of Camelback Bible Church of Paradise Valley, Marie welcomed many into her beloved church family over the years, serving happily there until her last days. It was there that she was nurtured by the teachings and music she loved, and where she exercised her gifts of encouragement and intercessory prayer.

From arranging lovely flowers for shut-ins, to skating in socks on the kitchen floor with her grandchildren, Marie shared her joy in the Lord with all who knew her. She used her homemaking artistry and her gift of hospitality to minister. Heart-shaped cakes carried Bible verses piped in frosting and coconut-covered lamb-shaped cakes were given with love and the Easter message of Life after death. She never stopped telling everyone about Jesus. Better yet, she never stopped being the light and love of her Lord. On March 13, 2001, she peacefully and happily went to be with Him, as she always knew she would.

Beatrice H. Fort

May 23, 1908 – July 17, 2001



Beatrice H. Fort died on Tuesday, July 17, 2001, at her home in Morris, Illinois. She was born on May 23, 1908, in Chicago, Illinois, to Anton and Mary (Tomanek) Adam. Bea was employed as an executive secretary with Sears Roebuck for 40 years. Many lives have been touched by her example and testimony of her deep love for her Savior. Bea's prayer life was exemplary, keeping a notebook with requests and answers,

and diligently praying for those in need. She disciplined herself to pray daily for her family, friends, church, and yes, for her cousins and for all Christians in the Czech Republic. She prayed for "those who were experiencing freedom or independence, that they might always be dependent on the Lord. They need wisdom and guidance from above," as she wrote in her prayer notebook.

Surviving are her brother and sister-in-law, James S. and Josephine Adam, of Morris, Il.; two sisters-in-law, Lillian Adam of Kalamazoo, Mi., and Bess Adam of Lemont, Il.; a stepdaughter-in-law, Grace (Fort) Siml; a brother-in-law, Joseph Palma, of Carol Stream, Il.; five stepgrandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and -nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband (January 1966), four brothers and one sister.

Beatrice was a member of Faith Baptist Church in Morris, Il. She is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Morris, Il. She will be remembered for her steadfastness in the Faith!

Diane (Adam) Brandon

Memorial Service

at 92nd Annual Convention in Philippi

A memorial service was held on Sunday, July 8, 2001, during the 92nd annual convention in Philippi, West Virginia. We remembered the following, who went to be with the Lord during the last convention year (July 2000-June 2001):

Betty June Boston, Cuyahoga Falls, OH.....	6-15-01
Ann Sabados Chovan, Cleveland, OH	2-3-01
Sabina Galat Cook, Akron, OH	6-19-01
Emily Duricka, Cleveland, OH	7-10-00
Martha Sochor Feryance, Chicago, IL.....	Feb. 01
Angeline Santner Gregory, Boca Raton, FL	5-1-01
Robert Lee Heaton, Jr., Richmond, VA, 43 yrs.....	5-3-01
Jim Hernyk, Cleveland, OH.....	5-5-01
Stanley Hynek, Toronto, ON	7-9-00
Wensel Hynek, Toronto, ON	3-14-01
Emilie Jarison, Windsor, ON.....	2-9-01

Continues on next page

From the Executive Secretary



Dear readers of Glorious Hope. Here are a few important dates to remember and for you to plan ahead:

- 93rd Annual convention will be held on July 4-7, 2002.
- 94th Annual convention will be held on July 3-6, 2003.
- 95th Annual convention will be held on June 30-July 4, 2004. All sessions

will be held at Alderson-Broadbudd College, Philippi, West Virginia. You can find more information on convention web page:

www.ab.edu/czslbaptconv

The midyear meeting of the General Board will be held on November 2, 2001 at 1 P.M. at Scranton Road Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio. There also will be an evening service.

There will be second annual fireworks at the next convention.

George Sommer



Children and Youth Page ... Continues from page 116

The reason why I like the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention is partly tradition. We started going with our family a long time ago. It's a great time to get away from the rush of our busy lives and join in fellowship with people who have the same interest, that is our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is four or five days of praising the Lord with other Christians. And even though we usually fall short of our nightly sleep, I feel refreshed and revived when it's all over. Then you can always look forward to next year.



I would like to thank the older generation for sharing their testimonies with the entire convention. It is more encouraging than you know to hear about the struggles you've been through in your spiritual life and to see that others have been victorious with the Lord's help and we are now strong and beautiful witnesses of Christ's love.



It is a great experience that is very unique. There is nowhere else where fun and fellowship come together so well. The people are always great and the activities are always interesting.



From the President ... Continues from page 118

we have the opportunity to concentrate our prayers, giving, and heart on a well-defined and manageably small portion of the world's whitened fields meaningful to us.

What will become of this convention in the years ahead? I am raising a question really about mission... whether it might be that the glue holding us together for this next stage of this convention's journey will be not so much 1) the fellowship of meals commonly shared, 2) the friendships we have come to treasure here, or 3) even our worship and instruction in the Word at convention times, but rather a new hearing of the Voice which calls us to activity and productivity in building the Kingdom of God in that part of the world we know something about, supporting in the most earnest possible way evangelism outreach in the countries of our heritage.

Do not misread my intent. I desire no diminishing of the meals, the friendships, or the spiritual feasting that goes on at conventions. Absolutely not! I ask only that a conviction gain primacy among us that, under the Lord and borne of his Spirit, our purpose is to do all that it is in our power to undertake, so that new day of life in Christ may dawn inside the lands of Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

In addition to prayer and sacrificial giving, it will take downright energy of heart and mind to learn and study the ways that will be most effective in accomplishing this mission. It will take also faithfulness across the whole convention, lest we squander our heritage and waste resources God has lavished on us, ill-spending the grace that brought us ourselves to new life in Christ.

Robert Dvorak

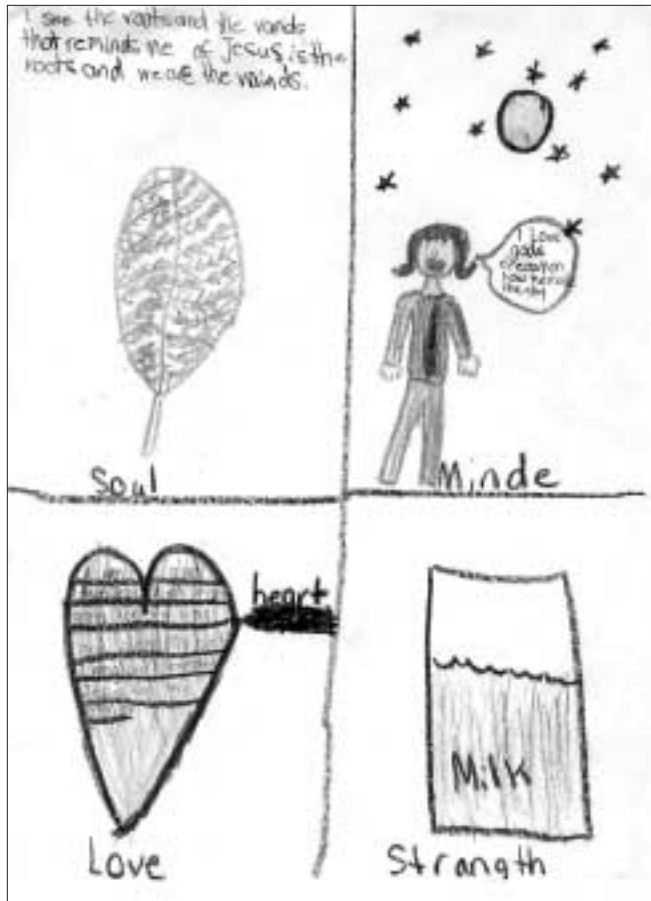
Memorial Service ... Continues from page 114

Michael J. Karhan, Port Charlotte, FL.....	2-8-01
Mary Kerr, Cleveland, OH.....	2000
Ethel Kubik, Cleveland, OH	2001
Elsie Luksa, Toronto, ON.....	2-24-01
Fred Mazanec, Portland, TN, 71 yrs	10-7-00
Julia Megat, Hatch Hollow, PA, 92 yrs	
Joseph Mesko, Fayetteville, AR.....	8-19-00
Ivan Moncol, Cleveland, OH	June 2001
Ruth Oestreicher, Berwyn, IL	10-11-00
Marie Santner Pavelda, Phoenix, AZ	3-13-01
Olga Rand, Toronto, ON	3-25-01
Ernest Ronk, Millville, NJ.....	2-6-01
Michael Sivulka, Fullerton, CA, 91 yrs	11-12-00
Antonin Springle, Toronto, ON	8-8-00
Freda Stevison, Cleveland, OH	6-4-01
Helen Struharik, Campbell, OH	11-23-00



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**.





Nicole Lamos

It is wonderful that all of the people from all the different countries are here on this weekend united in Jesus Christ.



I love coming to this convention each year. There is such great fellowship here and everyone is so warm- hearted, kind and faithful. When I look back on the convention pictures from a few years ago, I notice how many more youth we had then. I think that it is important to encourage more youth to join or re-join us every year.

Jodi Nesvadba



In a world where individuality is stressed, there is an ever-increasing desire by today's youth to also sense a feeling of being part of something greater. I thank God for the friends I have made through the convention and pray that as long as it's God's desire we will continue the tradition.

Brian Dors



We learn, love, and worship as a group with God. We become friends with our God. Although we are youth we can become

faithful servants of the Lord's will. The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention has been a wonderful experience for me. Thank you.



The convention is a place of spiritual refreshment for me. It is quite a special thing to be able to greet people we meet on campus, some of whom we have perhaps never met, and yet feel like they are brothers and sisters. The place has a unique sense of community.



I think this convention is a wonderful place to come to know God and learn more about his word. We come together to praise God and teach about his salvation. God gave us his only begotten Son that we might have everlasting life. This convention supports missionaries who teach others about Jesus Christ and so we might know how we also are helping spread the word of God. This is a wonderful convention.

Nicole Paserin



Our annual convention here in Philippi is an experience I look forward to every year. Being in contact with so many believers in one place is very powerful. The one thing that stands out above all is the wonderful worship services in the evenings. I see and I feel the powerful love that God gives us through singing and the word we hear. My heart is always overflowing with joy for the great time I have here.

Amy Nesvadba



I like the great preaching and each year they have a wonderful theme. The guest speakers are wonderful too. Everyone is family here, no one is left out. The chapel, dorms, inns [cave—pizza place], and the dining hall are all clean and very nice. The convention is fun but at the same time it's interesting and makes us more knowledgeable.

Dan Chipka



Children and Youth Choir at the 92nd Convention



I think that there is a large gap in our convention between the young and the older. The older have had their chance to express their joy in the Lord and with each other throughout the years. Time is moving on and I think we need to bring ourselves together, share experiences that we can all learn from, inspire each other, share our joy and lives. We can all teach others and learn from each other. We need to strengthen ourselves and our relationship with the Lord. We also need to move on and bring new ideas and new leadership from the young so that we can continue. We can continue to sense the Lord and be joyful. We need to know how to continue. We want to feel God working.

LG



I like coming to conferences especially this one in West Virginia because we can come together and praise, worship, and give glory to God from all parts of the world. Here is where a lot of people of different ages come and we can meet new people and reunite with others as well. This is just one great place where people can come to know God. And that is what is excellent! I think the activities are very fun and we do lots of things at the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. This year we added a great feature, fireworks. We have the ice cream social, picnic, swimming, sports, and other great things, and we should continue to praise the Lord. I love the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention!

Andrea Lamos



I think that this is a great place to come and worship God. It is also good that we have a mix of different cultures in the convention. I also think that it is good that we have so many different age groups in this conference.



Directed to all those who are older than us: We are the youth. We are young, adventurous and excited for life. But



Youth Class

most importantly we are looking for direction. Although we may not always listen, we constantly hear you. That is, the voice that is the loudest. If we are surrounded by those who love God and will guide us to a future pleasing to him, although

at times we may seem to be going down other paths, we will end up where you want us to, and where God wants us to. But when your voices are drowned out by the world's and by the lies it preaches, we ourselves will probably end up the wrong way. That is why conventions like these need to stay alive. As the youth, we need to hear and see God through you.

S. Dudok



I think it's a good idea to come out here like a big family and worship God together. It's important to learn about God and what he wants us to do so that we can be better people, and so that afterwards we are confident where we are going in the end. That's why it is good to come here, so that we may invite Jesus into our hearts to be saved



Special Music with:

Eva Branda, Elizabeth Legierski, John Alac, and Jana Branda



Well I think that it is a good time to get together and share what we really know about the word of God! It is great that there is a mixture of all sorts of people and their ages! This is actually my first year here and so far I am enjoying it very much! I would recommend this place to a lot of people, especially non-Christians! Also, my parents weren't here this year, but I am definitely making them come here at least one time in the years to come! Then the preachers and teachers are excellent examples as they preach God's word to believers and of course non-believers! The elderly people should just lean back and have fun and not be so strict! They need to realize that youth and young ones came here to hang out and have fun! Ok, well I'll talk to ya later!

Andrew Mantle



I have never seen a group of people (Christians) so enthused about their heritage. I think it's great that people will travel from all over to represent their past. It's a very nice convention. I am having a lot of fun, and the food is great!!!

Dave Devine



I have been going to the convention ever since I was little, and it was something that my friends and I always looked forward to, something that was always part of our summer. There was a lot of youth in the past as well, but what's a little disappointing is that fewer and fewer of them come each year.

[Editor's note: In recent years it has become customary for the president to address delegates during convention week concerning the state of the convention. What follows is the statement brought by President Dvorak on Saturday evening, July 7, 2001, in Philippi, WV.]



Remarks about our convention—its past, present, and future, its achievements and problems—are fully appropriate in a convention setting of worship, since all that we say and do, and everything that we have, or have not, become are lived out before the Lord anyway. The whole of our life together, and all of our lives independently lived, belong to him. So why not speak of such things when gathered in his name?

Nothing is of our own selves. This a fundamental Christian conviction. Regarding the convention specifically, we live on spiritual capital bequeathed to us by many who learned how to be faithful long before we knew anything at all about faith, or maybe even existed. And we live now as a convention only by the grace of God who has bent our hearts toward each other and opens the door to any meaningful future that we might have.

This convention owes its very being to God. It was the Lord who raised up committed souls to start this whole association in the first place back in 1909. Likewise, it is the Lord who has issued the call, felt in some way or other by every one of us, to carry on. (And carry on we certainly do, plenty! Some of us more than others! We do have a great time annually at convention week.)

But how, exactly, is it that we are carrying on with what was once begun as the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention? What is it that we are doing? Lots of things, probably. We are going down a number of paths, and there are persons among us who would answer the question in widely varying ways.

What are we doing? In years past, members of this convention would have said, We're doing organizational work for the churches of our fellowship. Once upon a time this was a convention of many churches. Pastors needed to be placed. Youth programs had to be planned and attended in various regions. Missionaries had to be called and sent to cities where Czech and Slovak people lived, and churches planted in many of those same places thereafter. That period of our history is now over and done. Its time has come and gone. The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of the USA and Canada is no longer a denomination-like organization.

In years somewhat more recent, the convention was a place for celebrating faith roots very much culturally conditioned, coming together to sing "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" while consuming knedlíky and zeli by the pressure cookers full. It was a heritage slice of life—a Christian heritage, baptism-by-immersion heritage, and nationality heritage. The underlying spirit was, "If you can't trust a Czech, who can you trust?" A

Slovak maybe. And if you cannot trust a Slovak, you're probably out of luck. (But at least try a Czech before giving up.) In the last series of years we came into the convention experience for fellowship and for memories of loved ones gone and moments of time grown all the more precious by the accumulation of intervening years. We came also for the challenge of a bold reach of radio evangelism into a Czechoslovakia internally prohibited from open, free contact with the gospel. Furthermore, friends and relatives in that country were iron-curtained off

from real, genuine interaction with us, and so we found comfort in meeting with each other here and telling the stories of loved ones abroad and the dark night of their political distress. Well, we did what we could. We supported TWR broadcasts faithfully, although vital engagement with Christian congregations and persons in that part of Europe was not much of a possibility.

A new day is now rising. We have quite easy, even instant, contact with people everywhere in the world, including with Slovakia and Czech Republic. In our own midst, things are rapidly changing. A younger generation is coming to the fore. Their memories are less centered on central Europe and substantially more fixed on North America. To prove it, they eat McDonald's and Burger Kings in quantities far exceeding svickova or halushky.

So what of the convention now? Emergence recently into a new century reminds us of the rapidity of change. Our own convention, even, is only a few years away from entering another century of organizational life. Some may think of this convention as getting a little "long in the tooth." I prefer to think of us as maturing: getting wiser, more reflective, and able to do self-criticism. But, where do we go from here?

Let me transfer to the convention a question that I frequently ask my own small brain to mash: "What am I doing?" (Well, actually the emphasis goes this way: "What am I doing?")

Until we ask of this convention, "What are we doing?" we will likely be unprepared to follow where the Lord may be leading us in our future. God has given us a heritage. And heritage is good, but not if you do not build on it. The responsibility always is to do something constructive, expansive, and timely with one's heritage. Otherwise it is little more than a museum piece.

If God has give us a heritage (about which there should be no question), in this particular case it means God has also given us a territory with which we are quite naturally linked—Czech Republic and Slovakia. It is a part of the world that today, a decade after the Velvet Revolution, is coming alive with political and economic opportunities, with developments of culture, government, and society. A vigorous new market place of ideas, as well as goods exists there. I think it is now or never for these two countries: either Christianity now, or materialism and secularism ever after (or at least for the foreseeable future). And

Continues on page 115

Christ Our Life



Throughout our convention's history, the sisters' organization has always been helping where help was most needed. As we leaf through old *Glorious Hope* magazines, we are amazed at all that the sisters accomplished. A comparison of the past with our present situation shows that today our ability to help has increased due to the more sophisticated

communications system.

Praise be to God for everyone who has the desire to contribute to God's work. It is certainly the fruit of God's love that brings many blessings. Through sincere practical help, Christ reveals Himself in us.

You may use the supplied envelope with the pre-printed address to send your contribution. In the USA please use Sister J. Rotar's address and in Canada use the address of Sister D. Nesvadba. You may also specify which type of work you would like to support (a missionary worker or an organization such as the Senior Center in Ostrava in the Czech Republic, or the work with children in Petržalka in Bratislava, Slovakia).

"God loves a cheerful giver!" – to Him belong all glory and praise.

Natasha Legierski



Testimony at Czechoslovak Convention 2001

I am so thankful for my heritage. In fact, I am very proud of my Czechoslovak heritage.

I want to thank the Lord for the Hamlin Street Sunday School Mission where my mom, Helen (Skula) Sivulka, was led to the Lord as a young girl.

I thank the Lord for the Trumbul Avenue Czech Baptist Church where my dad, Michael Sivulka, found the Lord under the leadership of Rev. John Fort.

I am thankful for my parents who lived a godly life before their children and taught us to love the Lord, and even though we all went through periods of rebellion as young people, all three of us came to live for the Lord.

I am thankful to the many, many folk from this convention who wrote, called, or spoke words of encouragement to us at the time of my Dad's home-going this past year.

And I am thankful to the Lord to be able to be at this wonderful convention and renew friendship and fellowship with all of you dear people.

God bless and keep you all in His care.

Judy (Sivulka) Shoff



Kristus život náš

Organizace sester se do historie konvence zapsala praktickou pomocí tam, kde byla největší potřeba. Stačí zalistovat ve starých číslech *Slavné naděje* a žasneme, co všechno sestry dokázaly. Srovnáme-li období minulé se současností, zdá se, že možnosti pomáhat jsou usnadněny, díky vyspělému komunikačnímu systému.

Chvála Pánu Bohu za každého, kdo má touhu přispívat na Boží dílo. Je to jistě ovoce Boží lásky, nesoucí mnohá požehnání. Upřímnou praktickou pomocí se v nás zjevuje Kristus.

K zaslání příspěvku můžete použít obálku s předtištěnou adresou. Ve Spojených státech to je adresa sestry J. Rotarové a v Kanadě sestry D. Nesvadbové. Můžete rovněž specifikovat, kterou práci chcete svým příspěvkem podpořit (misijního pracovníka nebo organizaci, jako např. Senior center v Ostravě, v České republice nebo práci s dětmi na Petržalce v Bratislavě, na Slovensku).

„Ochotného dárce miluje Bůh!“ – jehož jménu buď vzdána čest a chvála.

Nataša Legierská

Contributions may be sent in the enclosed envelopes:

US residents may send their gifts to Joan Rotar, 4 Lee Drive, Poland, OH 44514.

Make checks payable to Czechoslovak Baptist Union

Canadian resident may send their gifts to Donna Nesvadba 2029 Laurelwood Drive, Oakville, ON L6H 4P2.

Make checks payable to Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of Canada



Antonia Springle,
Esther Tarr,
Anne Opocensky

Corrections for the last issue of *Glorious Hope*—July 2001

Page 74 English editorial—The last sentence should be: *May the memory of July 6, 1415 be a manifestation of our love for God.*

Page 93 Always Running—the first verse should be: *Always running, but ever behind.*

We apologize to our readers.

The Editors of *Glorious Hope*