

Glorious Hope

Slavná naděje

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Faith
Hope
Love

Viera
Nádej
Láska

Víra
Naděje
Láska

Convention Mission Statement

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

Misijní posláni konvence

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

Contents:

Editorial - Natasha Legierski.....	26
Christmas Blessings - Joza Novak.....	27
Woman of Samaria - Jan Banko.....	28
Bible Study, part 2 - Donald Shoff.....	30
News from the Mission Field.....	32
Grace Baptist Summer 2007 Mission Trip - Stan Mantle.....	34
Nicaragua Trip - Debbie Lev Mulder.....	36
In Memory - Dušan Jančula.....	38
From Our Readers.....	38
BWA: Coffey Honored by Queen.....	39
Youth Scene - Michelle Sury.....	40
Youth Conference in Munich, Germany.....	41
Children's Corner: A Christmas Memory - Natasha Legierski.....	42
Dětský koutek: Vánoční vzpomínka - Nataša Legierská.....	43
From the President - Robert Dvorak.....	44
From the Executive Secretary - George Sommer.....	44
Ladies' Page: Giving Thanks!! - Grace Niswonger.....	45
Báseň: Zázrak století - Nataša Legierská.....	46
Convention Echoes in Pictures, part 2.....	47

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Editorial



The Season of Advent

According to the church calendar, the theme for the first Advent Sunday is faith. After faith comes hope. Hope causes joy, and the joining of these three themes culminates in love. Love manifested itself in the birth of a little child who became the Saviour of the world.

These are the glad tidings of Christmas which we remind ourselves of each year. Yet many people don't give it very much thought. Christmastime is repeated year after year, and though a year is a very long time to children, this time is shortened with the advancement of years, until it seems as if one Christmas follows almost on the heels of another. In the effort to manage all our responsibilities, there is hardly time to stop and breathe. In this stereotypical busyness, the good news of Christmas gradually fades. One does not meditate on faith, does not concern oneself with hope, and thus seldom experiences joy. Love is reduced to a mere concept or idea, easily exchanged for an attempt at expressing positive feelings or relationship towards someone.

The word of God says that God is love (1 John 4:16).

How is the term love understood? It is concerned with the relationship of person to person, without an erotic tinge added.

☞ Continues on page 37

Adventní období

Podle církevního kalendáře tématem první adventní neděle je víra. Po víře přichází naděje. Naděje způsobuje radost a spojení těchto tří témat ústí v lásku. Láska se projevila v narození malého dítěte, které se stalo Spasitelem světa. Toto je zvěst Vánoc, kterou si každým rokem připomínáme. Mnozí již nad tím ani moc nepřemýšlí. Vánoce se opakují rok co rok. Rok se dětem zdá velmi dlouhé období. S přibývajícím lety se toto období zkracuje, až se zdá, že jedny Vánoce stíhají druhé. Ve snaze zvládnout všechny povinnosti, není čas se zastavit a vydechnout. V tomto stereotypu se postupně zvěst Vánoc vytrácí. Člověk již nepřemýšlí nad vírou, nezabývá se nadějí a radost pociťuje málokdy. Láska je zredukována na pouhý pojem, snadno zaměnitelný s pokusem o vyjádření pozitivního citu či vztahu k někomu.

Z Božího slova vyplývá, že Bůh je láska (1. epiš. Jana, 4:16).

Co se rozumí pod výrazem láska? Jde o vztah člověka k člověku, bez erotického zabarvení. Tomuto vztahu nejlépe odpovídá biblický verš: „Miluj bližního svého jako sebe samého“ (Lukáš 10, 27b). Bible dokonce staví tuto výzvu před desatero. Je možné zachovávat deset Božích přikázání a nesnášet nebo dokonce nenávidět bližního? Není. Bez skutečné lásky ztrácí desatero smysl. Proto Bible hovoří

☞ Pokračování na straně 37



Front cover Photo: Eva Rehak
Other pictures: Darko Siracki, Tomáš Křiška, Pavel Vraj, Eva Rehak, George Sommer



Christmas Blessings

Rev. Joza Novak

“This very day in David’s town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord!” (Luke 2:11).

(All Scripture references are from the Good News Bible.)

Have you ever stopped to think what would happen if we had no Christmas? Would anything happen if we had no Christmas? Perhaps many of you would be very happy without it; you would especially rejoice if we had no worldly, commercial and materialistic Christmas. That way you, and millions of other people, would be saved from unnecessary worry and expense, which most people have every Christmas. But I am now speaking about real, original and God’s Christmas. Yes, I am talking about that time when we celebrate the birth of God’s Son—Jesus.

I believe that many of you agree with me that Christmas is the most wonderful season of the year. Oh, that magical beauty which is connected with this season! For most people Christmas is a time of joy, singing and sharing. Just listen to those wonderful carols and songs. The oldest Christmas hymn of praise is not that well-known carol *Silent Night*, nor *Joy to the World*, not even *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, but *Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!* (Luke 2:14). This marvellous Christmas hymn of praise was composed and sung by the angelic choir on the night when our dear Saviour, Jesus Christ, was born. Without Christmas we would not have these magnificent carols and hymns of praise. And without them our world would indeed be a much, much sadder and poorer place!

Without Christmas we would not have Christmas trees nor those beautiful coloured lights. No, we are not bowing down to a tree, and neither do we worship these Christmas lights. To all true Christians, a Christmas tree is simply pointing to the Cross where Jesus, Who was born miraculously of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea, later died—on the Tree, on the Cross of Calvary, as God’s Lamb for the sin of the world (John 1:29). All those coloured and beautiful Christmas lights point to Jesus, “the light of the world” (John 8:12), the way to our heavenly Father (John 14:6), and the only Saviour (Acts 4:12).

At Christmas time, families and friends get together, and almost all people are filled with joy, love and good will. It seems that at Christmas, at least for a few days, the whole world is filled with some magical spirit of tolerance and forbearance. Even neighbours who don’t talk to each other for several months, on Christmas Day shake hands and greet each other with that



familiar “Merry Christmas!” Also members of the same family who are not on speaking terms for quite some time, at Christmas start to talk with each other and exchange gifts. Therefore, we may boldly declare that at Christmas time, at least for a while, it feels as if a piece of heaven came to our earth. We would not see that without Christmas.

Without Christmas we would not have those beautiful Christmas cards. Yes, I agree with you, that many of these cards do not say anything about the birth of Jesus, and I am also aware that today’s

Christmas is overshadowed by commercialism and materialism. However, for those people who are ill, or those who are alone and far away from their loved ones, these Christmas cards and gifts show that they are not forgotten, that they are remem-

bered and appreciated. It gives them new encouragement, inner strength, joy and much needed hope for living. I also think that these Christmas cards and gifts do the same thing for healthy people, especially when they come from someone who lives far away and does not keep in touch, except at Christmas.

I also believe that without Christmas we would not have our churches, hospitals, schools, orphanages and homes for seniors. Many of these institutions were first organized by Christian people. Without Christmas they would not be here (Acts 6:1).

Actually, without Christmas we would be without love, without kindness and without understanding, tolerance and respect. It is Jesus, Whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas, Who teaches us how to live in mutual understanding, respect, and tolerance as friends, neighbours and citizens, in

spite of our differences. Yes, Christmas teaches us how to be loving and forgiving people.

Without Christmas we could not truly rejoice or know what true happiness is. Ira F. Stanphill describes it so vividly by the following lines: *“Happiness is to know the Saviour/Living a life within His favour/Having a change in my behaviour/Happiness is the Lord.”*

The deep mystery of true joy is only revealed at Christmas by God’s angel, who says: *“Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all people,”* (Luke 2:10). Perhaps the reason that so many people today are not happy and do not know the meaning of true joy is that they do not know the source of it. Meaningful joy comes to us through that happy announcement by the angel of the Lord, who states: *“This very day in David’s town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord,”*



Continues on page 29

Woman of Samaria: Telling Out What She Knew

Jan Banko

John 4:39-42

Jesus' ministry led Him from Judea to Galilee. To accomplish His journey, He needed to go through Samaria. That's where we find Jesus wearied at Jacob's well near the city of Sychar. Tired and thirsty, He started His conversation with the woman of Samaria.

Now, the contrast with His previous conversation partner in chapter 3 could hardly be greater. Nicodemus was a Jew, a highly learned teacher, a Pharisee, and a member of the Sanhedrin (Council of the seventy Elders founded by Moses), with considerable public repute and authority. The woman Jesus addressed at Jacob's well was by contrast a Samaritan, illiterate, with a lifestyle in flagrant contradiction to the law, and therefore publicly despised.

In both situations, His testimony to Nicodemus and in conversation with the Samaritan woman, Jesus showed a remarkable ability to present the good news of salvation meaningfully and attractively, regardless of national, religious and social background. Jesus' request to the woman at the well was simple: "Give me a drink." Yet this plea invited the following reply from her: "*How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?*" (John 4:9a)

There were two issues that she had in mind, when replying to Jesus' request, namely that:

- a.) she was a Samaritan
- b.) she was a woman

Regarding relations with Samaritans, John's comment in verse 9 says it all: "*For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.*" The reasons were historical, dating from the division of the kingdom after the death of Solomon and the annexation of the northern territory by the Assyrians in 722-721 BC. The Assyrians resettled the area with foreigners, and that meant a loss of both racial and religious purity there. The religious divide was deepened even more when the Samaritans built their own temple at Mount Gerezim around 400 BC.

Regarding the issue of gender prejudice, male Jewish attitudes at the time are reflected in the following rabbinic citations: "One should not talk with a woman on the street, not even with his own wife, and certainly not with somebody else's wife, because of the gossip of men," and "It is forbidden to give a woman any greeting."

Yet, Jesus overcame all these national, religious and gender-based prejudices with His new approach to personal evangelism. Jesus has much to teach us about sharing our Christian faith:

with relevance—using understandable terms talking about



eternal life (e.g. "living water")
in humanity and naturalness of conversation in circumstances of major social taboos, which Jesus was breaking

with knowledge—supernaturally divine and also dedicated to study of the Scriptures and willing to acquaint Himself with the social and religious history

with moral integrity and directness—sin uncovered and God's grace offered

in compassion and sensitivity—treated by Jesus with personal dignity and with empathy

It was because of this loving and merciful yet fully truthful attitude of Jesus that this woman at Jacob's well could have a personal experience with God. And what an outstanding experience it was. Because Jesus uncovered her life, she was persuaded that He was a prophet. (John 4:17-19) And because he called her to experience everlasting life and to worship the Father in

spirit and truth, she confessed that she knew the Messiah was coming, and Jesus confirmed that He was the Messiah. (John 4:25-26)

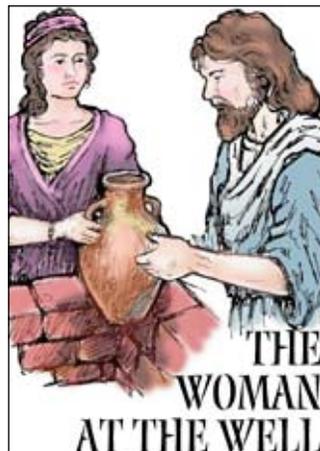
The story of the Samaritan woman created a model situation of Christian testimony. This woman could tell out authentically only what she really knew from her personal experience. She was not creating fiction, she did not make up her story. She simply testified to the inhabitants of the Samaritan city of Sychar that Jesus told her all she had ever done.

What actually compels people to speak openly about God is their personal experience with Him. In such experience God unveils to human beings the true picture of their sinful selves. Then He grants to those who are sincere the gift of

faith. Faith is then used as a heavenly tool for us to understand Jesus' expiation of our transgressions, to receive God's forgiveness and to be adopted as newborn children of our Heavenly Father.

In recent days I have had some beautiful experiences with people who were not only speaking boldly about God, but also living with Him and radiating His very presence. Three of them are indelibly written in my heart:

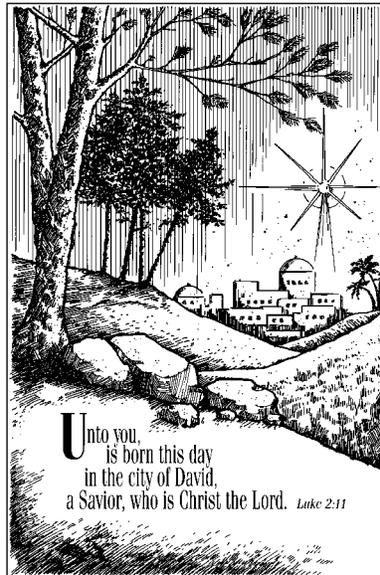
It was with the President of the Baptist Union of the Slovak Republic, Rev. Tomáš Kriška and his wife Ester that I met Rev. Dr. Barry Moore in London, Ontario. Barry Moore Ministries were founded in 1960, and since then over 900 area-wide evangelistic crusades have been conducted to lead thousands to make their personal commitments to Jesus Christ. Rev. Moore is a very



dynamic, sincere and transparent Christian. As we were having breakfast together with him in a Ramada Inn, he was openly discussing with us his experiences with God. He also addressed the waitress in a very open Christian way and she, with a happy smile, confessed to us that she already believes in God. She was apparently strongly encouraged by Rev. Moore's informal approach.

The second experience is from the Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Toronto, where I was watering the garden. Working around the church building, located at a busy intersection in west end Toronto, regularly creates opportunities to speak with those passing by. Peter's ancestors came from the Ukraine, and his religious roots are Orthodox. He was very glad to see me working around the church, and he immediately crossed the street to share with me what he received from God. In just a few minutes Peter was able to communicate to me a biblical message important for my spiritual growth.

The last experience is from Bronte Harbour in Oakville, Ontario, where a small group of believers led by their pastor was involved in street evangelisation. Using a sketch-board, the pastor communicated the biblical message of salvation to the audience. Those who didn't want to receive the message were openly showing their indignation that the pastor was speaking publicly about Christian faith, and finally, shaking their heads, left. Yet others were deeply moved by the pastor's testimony,



and stayed there to discuss the matter further.

These examples portray three different people who were willing to tell out what they experienced with and knew from God. They were eager to encourage, equip and lead to God those who were sincerely seeking Him and also to address those who were, for the time being, refusing God and His message. All of these Christian messengers have done the right thing, and the fruit of their labour will ripen in due time.

The fruit of the testimony of the Samaritan woman was also visible in due time. She was not ashamed of her experience with Jesus, and because of her testimony many of the Samaritans of the city of Sychar believed in Him. (John 4:39) They were so eager to grow spiritually that they even urged Jesus to stay with them for two days, and many of them believed because of Jesus' own words. (John 4:40-41)

Because the woman of Samaria did not hesitate to tell out what she knew about Jesus, many people in that area were able to have the most beautiful personal experience with Jesus: "Then they said to the woman, 'Now

we believe, not because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.'" (John 4:42)

This message was presented at the 2007 Czechoslovak Baptist Convention.

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Christmas Blessing... Continues from page 27

(Luke 2:11). Therefore, we cannot know the true joy of Christmas if we are only thinking about the "holiday season," or about "Rudolf the red-nose reindeer," or "Frosty the snow man," or about those few days away from work and school. The true joy and the lasting and fulfilling meaning of Christmas comes to us from that angelic revelation in Luke 2:10-11. Please read it again; read it carefully and prayerfully.

Finally, if we had no Christmas, today we would still be without the Saviour, and therefore without help, hope or healing. If Christ the Lord had remained with the Father in His heavenly glory, our human race would still be in sin and shame, separated from the Holy God. We would not have any chance to be redeemed from eternal condemnation. This truth is revealed in connection with the birth of Jesus. God told Joseph to name the baby boy Jesus, which means Saviour, "because he will save his people from their sins," (Matthew 1:20). Without Christmas, we would not know this truth. Jesus came at Christmas time in order to make the invisible God visible, and to bring distant God close to us. Jesus also came to show us that God is approachable and can be reached by those who are willing to come to Him, because in Jesus at Christmas, God our Creator became our Saviour.

Actually, Jesus was born in Bethlehem for this reason: that He would later die on the cross, as God's Lamb, to redeem us from our sin. Therefore as we celebrate Christmas this year, let us not only think about the turkey dinner and other good food, about the Christmas tree, gifts, family, friends or winter vacation. Let us rejoice because the Lord has come "to seek and to save the lost," (Luke 19:10).

May I also encourage you to remember someone this Christmas; especially the needy—sick, old, lonely and other forgotten people. Visit them, or invite them to spend Christmas with you. If they live far away, telephone them, or send them a beautiful Christmas card or send them a gift. Tell them that you care and that God loves them and that He is offering unto them His most precious gift—eternal life through His dear Son Jesus Christ. Assure them that if they receive Him as their personal Saviour, they will experience the joy of God's Christmas. God promises us that all who receive Jesus as their Saviour will become God's children, and will not be condemned, but will have eternal life. (See John 1:12 and 5:25.)

Have a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS, as you with your family and friends celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

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Part 2

Principles of Effective Prayer: A Fresh Look at the Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:5–15

Dr. Donald Shoff

Historically, this section of the Sermon on the Mount has been called the Lord's Prayer. As we saw in our last study, a better title perhaps would be The Model Prayer or The Disciple's Prayer, since Jesus never prayed this prayer.

This is a profoundly simple passage. It deals with what we might call the fundamentals, or the ABCs, of prayer. And no matter how proficient we become, we never outgrow the fundamentals.

Vince Lombardi was for many years the head coach of the Green Bay Packers. He was one of the most successful and most respected coaches in football. In a game in the early years of his tenure with the Packers, the team was thoroughly trounced. They were totally humiliated, not just by the score but by their unprofessional, sloppy performance. They had done almost everything wrong. At the next practice, Lombardi got everyone together and said, "Considering how we played last Saturday, we are going to learn the fundamentals of this game we are trying to play." He picked up a football, held it high and said, "Gentlemen, the object that I hold in my hand is a football." A jokester in the back said, "Now, slow down coach, you're going too fast for some of us." At times, even professionals need to relearn the fundamentals. The Lord's Prayer helps us do just that. It introduces us to the basics of prayer.

In our previous study, we observed the first two principles of prayer. Principle One we called The Principle of Motive. We learned that from our Lord's perspective, it is important that we pray but even more important why we pray.

Principle Two we called The Principle of Relationship. It dealt with the statement, Our Father in heaven (9). We saw that we may mouth pious-sounding words



with our eyes closed, but we do not pray unless we can genuinely address God as Father. Today our focus will be on Principles Three and Four.

3. The Principle of Adoration

...hallowed be your name (9c)

Before we seek to apply this principle, let's be sure we understand what it means. Jesus said we were to pray hallowed be your name. Consider the last word in that phrase. Often in Scripture, an individual's name was used synonymously with the person himself. God's name is who he is, his character, His person. David said, "Those who know your name will trust in you," (Psalm 9:10). He was not saying that if a person knows that God's name is Jehovah, he would put his trust in Him. Rather, he was saying that when people truly know God's character—who He is—they will put their trust in Him. So, in the language of the Lord's Prayer, to hallow God's name is to hallow Him.

We are immediately faced with two questions: what does it mean and how do we do it? The word hallow used in the Lord's Prayer is the verb form of the word holy. Jesus is not teaching us that we should pray that God's name become holy, but rather that it be treated as holy. To hallow God's person is to treat Him as separate, apart from the common—as holy.

That brings us to the second question, how do we hallow God's name? We hallow God's name as we show reverence for Him. God is our Heavenly Father. Yet, this does not mean that because we have this relationship we can approach Him flippantly or thoughtlessly.

I once heard a pastor in a public service begin his prayer, "Hey, God." I do not know the pastor's heart, but for me it came across as an irreverent and frivolous approach to God. One of the basics of prayer is that the infinite God is to be approached with reverence. He is not our buddy whom we address with "Hey." We do not pray if we do not reverence.

Not only do we hallow God's name as we show reverence for Him, but we also hallow His name as we praise Him. More than 115 times, Scripture refers to or commands that we praise God's name. Note two examples of this command:

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name (Ps. 100:4).

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name (Ps. 103:1).

We do not praise the Lord because there is some need in Him. It is not that He is vain and we must continually build His ego by praising Him. Rather, we praise Him because of who He is. He is infinitely worthy of praise. Not only do we praise Him because of his infinite worth but also because of a deep need we have. As we praise His name, we are blessed and we are filled with joy. Few activities in the Christian life so strengthen and encourage the heart of a Christian like praising the Lord. Such acts of praise may find expression in singing during times of corporate worship, or perhaps in quiet times of reflection when a sense of gratitude for His goodness and grace overwhelms our hearts. That person is himself truly blessed

who blesses the heart of God through regular praise and worship.

4. The Principle of Lordship

Our Lord also taught us to pray, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven (10). This grammatical construction is called parallelism--the second phrase defines and/or amplifies the first. Jesus is not saying that we are to pray that His kingdom would come and then for His will to be done. Rather, He equates the one with the other. When His will is done His kingdom will come, and vice versa.

It is important that we understand what it is to pray your kingdom come. What are we really asking? We must understand that in Scripture, the kingdom of God is both present and future. The future aspect of the kingdom of God looks forward to that time when our Lord returns to the earth and establishes His kingdom on earth. To pray the Lord's Prayer with understanding is to acknowledge that Scripture teaches that God does have a plan for this world. It is not a planet spinning out of control. Sometime thoughtful people wonder if history is in fact going anywhere. One person said that history is a tale told by an idiot scrawled on the wall of an insane asylum. Historian Edward Gibbon said that history was little more than the listing of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind. But the Bible says that history is His story. God is in control and is moving history toward its final chapter when the kingdom of God will be established on this earth.

Daniel was looking forward to this event for which we pray in the Lord's Prayer when he said:

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all peoples, nations, and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed (Dan. 7:13-14).

The Book of Revelation ends with the triumphant Christ coming in resplendent glory and majesty. Three times in the closing scene, Jesus says, "I am coming soon." The apostle John's response is, "Come, Lord Jesus." This is partially what it means to pray your kingdom come.

However, the kingdom of God has a present tense aspect as well. Actually, God's kingdom has already come in the person of Jesus Christ.

Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "*The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you*" (Luke 17:20-21).

Where the King and His rule is

ness (Matt. 6:33).

Secondly, to sincerely pray this phrase is to profess a concern that others also accept His lordship. It is significant that before we pray for our own needs, Jesus taught us to pray for those who do not yet know Him. Too often, we get caught up in the pursuit of what Jesus called "all these things"—our needs, our family and business concerns. He said that if we would seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness, then all these things would be given to us as well. We need to pause periodically and ask, who am I praying will accept the rule of the King in their life and what am I doing to help others come to faith in Christ?

Then finally, to sincerely pray your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, is to profess a willingness to help bring it about. It is easy to say this prayer from rote memory or as part of a worship ritual, but to pray it from our hearts as Jesus intended is a different matter entirely. To pray it sincerely means that we will be willing to rearrange or, if need be, abandon our schedule in order to do His will. In short, to pray this prayer means that we have come to the point that Isaiah came:

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "*Here am I. Send me!*" (Isaiah 6:8).

It is necessary that we see the Lord's Prayer in the context of the completed canon. God's will for His people in this age is contained in what we call the Bible, the final and complete revelation of His will. God's primary instrument for bringing about His kingdom and for doing His will is the local church. Scripture tells us that "Jesus loved the church and gave Himself up for her," (Eph 5:25). Those who love Jesus will also love what He loves. They will not simply pray for His kingdom to come but will be actively involved with other believers in a local church in helping to make it a reality.

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Slovak Bible Study
Zuzka and Rudy Tomek, Viera Banková, and Natasha Legierski

acknowledged, there is the kingdom of God. It is not a territory but rather the rule of God in the hearts of mankind. We enter that kingdom by means of the new birth.

Having sought to answer the question, what is the kingdom of God, let's turn now to ask, when we pray your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, what does it mean to us specifically? To sincerely pray this part of the Lord's Prayer is to reaffirm our submission to His rule in our lives. In essence, we are saying to Him, I submit anew to your rule and your will in my life. For most people, this comes about through one great life-changing act of surrender to Jesus as King, and is followed by a daily reaffirmation of that surrender. Jesus said we were to seek first God's kingdom and His righteous-



What Does It Take To Be a Missionary?

Ruby Mikulencak

Recently the RAM CHRONICLE took a poll to find the answer.

- One who loves bugs even the ones that carry diseases
- One who has the Bible memorized
- Loves or needs to wear funny clothes
- Someone who can ask for money
- Doesn't know much about music or movies
- An all-around amazing person
- One who is an evangelist
- A bit eccentric
- Unmarried
- Brave

This is the SIM Ghana director's response to this question:

As director of an area that is seeing personnel dwindle to a skeleton staff, it has been a deep concern to me that so few people want to do cross cultural ministries. It seems like people do not see themselves in the traditional missionary role and so they dismiss missions as a possibility. The other difficulty I hear is, "I don't want to beg for money." Since they don't feel comfortable asking for support, they set aside the idea of being a missionary.

Yet...many people still feel as if they want to make a difference in the world!

If this is true then we need to start thinking outside the traditional box of missions. In today's world how can we encourage people to consider working in a different culture? How can we revive the mission vision once again?

The Bible Church of Africa which partners with SIM Ghana has grown rapidly in the last 35 years. It is full of young people who love Jesus and want to help their church and country but are limited by lack of experience and economic constraints. They would like to help the church financially but struggle themselves to make ends meet. They are trained but have little capital and lack a mentor/advisor on how to establish a business or get things moving in a business venture.

Why not come out and help these gifted young people make something of their lives?

Ok so...you're thinking, "Well that really is not my style."

What about using your training or skills as a teacher, nurse, doctor or engineer to work with a local company or the government and be paid for your work? No fund raising to worry about yet you could be using your skills intentionally to help make a difference in the world. Best of all you would be free to share your faith and trust in God with your colleagues by word and also be an example of a good worker. Got you interested??

Do you have a passion for children and youth? In many countries of the world a large percentage of the population are children. You really don't have to be gifted in a particular area. All you have to have is a passion for Jesus and a desire to show children His love. You can be trained on the spot to fit into the program of the Bible Church of Africa who partners with SIM to help reach the children of Ghana. **Would you consider a cross cultural experience working with children?**

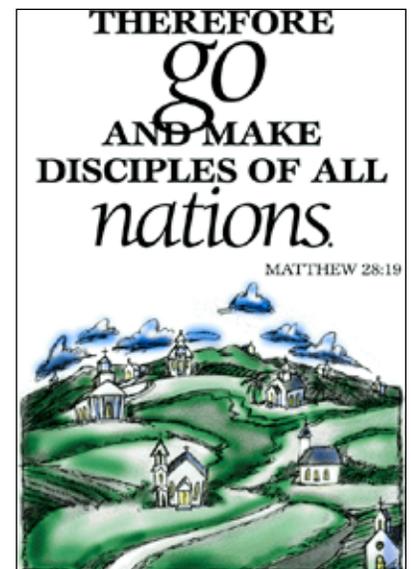
What about working with youth? In Ghana, the potential for working with youth is unlimited. Again, you do not have to be a youth leader or have your degree in youth ministries. All you need is a passion for the Lord with a desire to share Him with youth around the world. You do not need to be this all around amazing spiritual person. All you need is a love for Jesus and a desire to see young people hear of Jesus love. **If you like to just 'hang out' with kids won't you consider a ministry overseas with youth?**

In reality, anyone can be a missionary—even you! If your heart has been stirred by these few thoughts, consider contacting SIM and check out the possibilities for ministry. Why not check it out at www.sim.org?

Serving in Mission,
Ruby Mikulencak
August 2007
Field Address:
SIM
Box 9962 KIA
Accra, Ghana

Home Address:
SIM International
Box 7900
Charlotte, NC 28241

Email:
ruby.mikulencak@sim.org



Mark & Gretchen Potma
Church Planting
through Evangelism
August 2007

Pray for us, that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored.

2 Thessalonians 3:1

When we were on our home ministry assignment last year in North America, we asked you to pray for the “Four P’s” for the future 10th district church: people, place, provision, and pastor. We’ve been back in Prague for a year, so now is a good time for us to update you on the progress of the “Four P’s” and to thank you once again for your partnership and your prayers.

People

We asked you to pray for “10 people from the 10th district for the 10th district” to form a core group of a future church in the 10th district of Prague. Let us introduce some of these potential core group members:

- Petr lives in the 10th district and attended our spring Alpha course. He became a follower of Christ seven months ago and was baptized this past June, along with four others from South City Church. He has a desire to reach out to unbelievers through dialogue about creation and evolution.
- Lenka, who became a believer during her time in England, returned to Prague with a desire to find out more about her new-found faith. She attended our outreach in the 10th district and was also baptized in June.
- Gabriela found out about our Seniors’ Club and although she had never been part of a church before, she began attending 10th district outreaches regularly as well as services at South City Church. She has also recently begun to support the work financially from her small retiree’s pension.
- Pat Foster will be the first TEAM missionary to live in the 10th district of Prague. She has served with TEAM for over 30 years, first in Taiwan and then in Austria. Lord willing, Pat will spend the next seven years partnering with us to help establish the future church in the 10th district of Prague.

Place

We asked you to pray for “a strategic place to meet and minister in the heart of the 10th district of Prague”. God wonderfully and providentially answered these prayers. Since the Hotel Astra conference room we used last year was no longer available to us, we began to look for something more permanent. At that same time, an ideal rental location opened up just a few steps from the Skalka metro (subway) station in the heart of the 10th district. Although the rent is more than we anticipated, we took a step of faith and signed a five-year lease which started on July 1st 2007.

Before classes begin on September 17, we need to install a mobile dividing wall and vertical blinds, build a serving area,



furnish the two rooms, and install a white board.

Provision

We asked you to pray that “God would provide the necessary start-up costs for the first five years” so that the new daughter church in the 10th district would not be a financial burden on the fledgling South City Church. We praise God that 41% has already been given, and we are trusting God to provide the remaining 59% of the necessary funds toward this project.

Pastor

We asked you to pray “that God would provide a Czech pastor/church planter for Mark to work with from the very beginning.” We are thankful that Pastor Robert Filip of South City Church continues to serve as our advisor and Czech partner for the 10th district until the Lord provides a pastor or pastoral intern. One young pastoral intern has expressed interest in working with us full time. Please pray for him as he seeks God’s will regarding the possibility of partnering with us.

Prague 10th District Fall Plans

During the first week of September we will be distributing flyers in the densely-populated area surrounding our new ministry center in the 10th district of Prague. This is what we will be offering to the 10th district residents:

Monday

3:30 English Club for kids

5:00 English for advanced + Bible class 7:00 English for lower int. and Bible class

Tuesday

9:30 English for intermediate and Bible class

3:30 Teen Club (in English)

5:00 English for intermediate and Bible class 7:00 English for beginners and Bible class

Wednesday

3:30 Senior’s Club (in Czech)

5:30 Bible Study (in Czech)

7:00 Modified Alpha Course (in Czech)

Sunday

10:30 Church service (Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9)

Pictures from English Camp

Our experiences from this summer’s Family English Camp could easily fill up this whole letter! Instead, we would like to invite you to take a look at pictures and videos from this year’s camp on South City Church’s website. Just go to: www.cb.cz/jizni.mesto and click on “Letni English Camp.” Praise the Lord with us for spiritual growth among many of the participants, including some from the 10th district of Prague.

Prayer Letters in PDF Format

Did you know that we also send our prayer letters electronically

✉ Continues on page 39

Grace Baptist Summer 2007 Mission Trip to the Czech Republic

Pastor Stan Mantle



Pastor Stan
at Janske Lazne English Camp

On June 28, 2007, five members—Mandy Croppo, Adam Green, Bob Jarison and Stan and Heather Mantle—of the Grace Baptist Summer 2007 Mission Team flew out of Toronto. Two others, Svetlana Gruevski and David Dudok, had left earlier. On June 30 they all met together with Czech believers and a team from Kansas City at South City Church in Prague for orientation. The mission was a week-long English camp outreach of South City

Church which was held July 1–7 at a ski resort in Janske Lazne, about two and a half hours outside Prague.

Throughout the year South City Church provides English classes to interested persons with the opportunity of staying afterwards for a Bible study. Many do stay. The English camp provides the chance for a week-long study of English with lots of opportunity to practice English conversation. Afternoons are free for hiking, crafts, coffee in the village or short trips. This year a trip to a nearby zoo was organized for one afternoon. Each evening there is a lively time of songs and a skit or testimony as well as a Christian message. A discussion time follows where students can explore with their teachers and classmates any questions which arise from the message. The goal and desire is that students will hear the gospel and be drawn closer to personal faith in Christ.

It was our wonderful privilege to work together with the Czech believers and the Kansas City team toward this goal. Bob, David and Svetlana served as teachers for adult classes. Additionally, Svetlana shared her testimony one evening. David stepped up to the plate as an occasional MC and did an outstanding job as “little person” in some hilarious skits. Did I mention that shaving cream was involved and found its way into places it really shouldn’t go? Adam and Mandy worked with the youth, both teaching English in the mornings and sharing their testimonies and taking a turn bringing the message in the evening. Heather worked



Heather Mantle & Czech children singing at English camp

mornings and evenings with the children. Stan brought the evening messages for the adults (except on Wednesday night when Robert Philip, the South City Church pastor, spoke) and was available each morning for “Table-talk with Stan,” an opportunity for questions or discussion about the evening messages.

It was such a delight to get to know the Czech people. They were friendly and open to listening and discussing spiritual things. We ask your prayers for the seed which was sown, and the continuing



Group shot at Janske Lazne English camp

ministry of the believers at South City Church as they seek to nurture and water it. Some of the workers at camp were Czech



people whose journey to faith had been helped along through previous English camp missions. Our prayer is that some of the students we were blessed to get to know and share with will be back to

future camps as new believers sharing the Good News about Christ, which has now become personal and real to them.

Team missionaries Mark and Gretchen Potmas welcomed us royally and kindly took care of our every need. After a few days of sightseeing in Prague and Vienna, we returned home on July 13, tired but with a keen sense of privilege in being allowed to have a part in something wonderful and exciting that God was doing. To Him be all the praise and glory, as well as the coming harvest.



Czech Youth and leaders at English camp



Grace Baptist Mission Team outside FBC Prague
From left: Bob Jarison, Adam Green, Stan and Heather Mantle, Mandy Croppo, Svetlana Gruevski, David Dudok



Evening program at Janske Lazne English camp

Donation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

USA:

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

Canada:

Henry Pojman
1270 Monks Passage
Oakville, ON L6M 1R4



Nicaragua Trip

Debbie Lev Mulder

We arrived at the Skylark Discipleship Centre in the dark—the moon and the stars were shining, but there was little light on the compound as we were taken to our dorms. As we walked through the doors, we were pleasantly surprised to see lovely clean new dorm rooms, electricity, running water and flush toilets. Just like home – everything that we’re used to having, everything that we take for granted. I suppose we were surprised because the nation of Nicaragua, in Central America, is the second-poorest country in the Western Hemisphere (second only to Haiti), and a nation where 50% of the population live below the poverty line. Most Nicaraguans have not experienced this luxury in which we were to spend the next ten days.

Our team of seven, mostly from the small military town of Trenton, Ontario, were called by God to this outreach, to this beautiful but desperately poor country. We came from many different walks of life, with many varied backgrounds and spiritually in different places in our relationship with our Lord, but we all came because of 2 Corinthians 4:5, *“For we are not proclaiming ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves because of Jesus.”*

We were here to serve the Nicaraguans, proclaiming Christ’s love and his grace and mercy. Our mission was multifaceted: we were going to paint the outside of three large dormitories at the Skylark Centre, as well as deliver medical and educational supplies. The educational supplies were delivered to a neighbouring school, as well as to a school built in a slum outside of Managua. The slum is called Ciudad Sandino, a place that I must describe to you, but a place that most people would never want to see. In 1998 Hurricane Mitch leveled a small town on

Lake Managua, near the capital city of Managua. The people lost everything. The government’s solution was to pack these people into buses and transport them to the garbage dump to the west of Managua. Here, on this garbage dump, 45,000 people built a new “town,” and they still live there today. Within the squalor, a man named Adan listened to God’s prompting and began a church, and with the assistance of a few congregations from Ontario, began to build a school.

There were no services available for the inhabitants of Ciudad Sandino because there was no money from the government to build schools, clinics or churches. Today, brothers and sisters in a number of small congregations around Ontario pay some of the teachers’ wages in this school, and supply materials and resources for the teachers and for the students.

As for the medical supplies, we were to deliver them to a children’s cancer hospital, to a women’s hospital (the oncology ward) and to a doctor who has opened a clinic in the northwestern part of Nicaragua where there was no medical assistance for the local people.

The appreciation that the doctor expressed upon receiving the two medi-packs, each containing \$5,500 worth of medical supplies, was deep and heartfelt gratitude, and already we felt that we had made a difference. But that was not to compare to the feelings that we experienced when we went to the hospitals to deliver not only medical supplies but toiletries for the women and toys for the children. To each woman in the oncology ward, we were

able to give a towel, as well as a packet containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo—just a small gesture, but received with such gratitude that it was extremely humbling. To see the children’s eyes light up, especially when their little bodies were



Distributing donated school supplies to a local school



Local village children



Visiting patients at the Women’s Cancer Hospital



A grateful mother, and her daughter



A young girl undergoing chemotherapy in the Children’s hospital in Managua

too ill to respond, was all the thanks that we needed, and again we were reminded that we have been blessed to be a blessing. This was a phrase that resonated within my head over and over and over again. We have the responsibility, because God has given us much, to share and give to those who have little. But for the grace of God, that could easily be me thanking a stranger for a towel and some bandages. These experiences in the hospitals in Managua were a huge stretching experience for all of us—harder for some, emotionally draining for all, but an incredible opportunity to share the love of Jesus.

The Skylark Centre is a discipleship centre where Nicaraguan Christians can come to grow, to be fed the Word, to be challenged, to be trained. In a country where Evangelical Christians have grown from 1.8% in 1960 to an estimated 21.4% today, there is a huge lack of trained leaders, and opportunities for such lay people are offered at the Skylark Centre. The Centre is also used as a retreat centre for believers and non-believers to come together to learn about our awesome God. We were privileged to

be present for the first youth retreat at the Centre. Despite the fact that we were still painting the dorms, over 60 youth from Managua spent the weekend at this wonderful facility. What an incredible experience for us to see their “first” experiences—for many the first time that they slept in a bed, the first time they experienced running water, the first time they splashed in a swimming pool.

And in the evenings, for some, the first time they heard that there is a Lord and Saviour who loves them unconditionally and will meet all of their needs in all circumstances. Adan, from the slum town of Ciudad Sandino, preached energetically about salvation. The youth offered their “gifts” to the Lord in the form of rap and hip hop and the dances of the streets from which they come. It was wonderful to see the joy in their smiles and the sparkle in their eyes, and it was even better to realize that with God’s help and help from many individuals, as well as the Convention, we were able to make a tiny difference.

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Editorial... Continues from page 26

This type of relationship is best described in this Bible verse: “*Love your neighbour as yourself*” (Luke 10:27b). The Bible places this command even above the Ten Commandments in order of importance. Is it possible to keep the Ten Commandments and yet be intolerant or even hate other people? No, it is not. Without true love, the Ten Commandments lose their meaning. That’s why the Bible speaks so extensively about relationships between people. It is necessary to examine the kinds of relationships that exist between us. How is our relationship with ourselves, our neighbours, and also with God doing? It is good to answer the question to who is at the centre of your life.

Today, Jesus Christ is found on the fringe of our society’s interests. He is not at the centre of Christmastime events the way he used to be. The true glad tidings of Christmas fade, especially in the multicultural environment, as new dimensions are added to the celebration, year after year, until the good news disappears. If it did not happen this way, people would behave quite differently toward one another. They would be kinder to each other. Love would be at the centre of Christmas celebrations, which would then be reflected in the course of the rest of the year. Love between people would last. Under the movement of quickly passing time, love would not have the chance to vanish. What would the lives of societies, and of individuals, look like? Surely every human being longs for love. With the Lord Jesus Christ, love stepped down on earth, love which lasts forever: “*And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love*” (1 Corinthians 13:13 NKJV). Did this love step into the life of human beings? If it has, it must be reflected in one’s immediate surroundings.

Editor In-Chief *Natasha Legierski*
Translated by *Elizabeth J. Fields (Legierski)*

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Editorial... Pokračování ze strany 26

obsáhle o vztazích mezi lidmi. Je potřeba zkoumat, jaké vztahy jsou mezi námi. Jak je to se vztahem k sobě samému, k bližnímu a také k Bohu. Je dobré si odpovědět na otázku, kdo je centrem života.

V dnešní době se Ježíš Kristus nachází na okraji zájmu lidstva. Již není centrem vánočního dění, jak tomu bývalo kdysi. Zvláště v multikulturním prostředí se pravá zvěst Vánoc vytrácí. Oslavy nabývají rok od roku rozměrů, zvěst však zaniká. Kdyby tomu tak nebylo, lidé by se k sobě chovali jinak. Byli by na sebe hodnější. Láska by byla centrem vánočních oslav. Odráželo by se to potom v průběhu roku. Láska mezi lidmi by přetrvávala. Pod dojmem rychle plynoucího času by láska nestačila vyprchat. Jakou podobu by měl život společnosti, jednotlivců? Snad každý člověk po lásce touží. S Pánem Ježíšem Kristem sestoupila na zem láska, která má věčné trvání: „*Nyní pak zůstává víra, naděje, láska, to tré, ale největší z nich je láska*“ (I. Kor. 13, 13—kralický překlad). Vstoupila tato láska do života člověka? Jestliže ano, musí se to odrážet na bezprostředním okolí.

Šéfredaktorka *Natasha Legierská*

□

MOVING ?

Please write to:
Glorious Hope
Rt.4, Box 58D

Philippi, WV 26416 USA

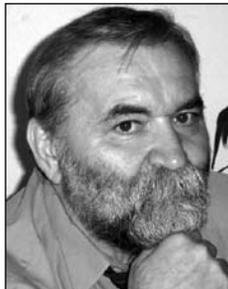
Include your mailing label from a recent issue of **Glorious Hope** for faster service.



In Memory

RNDr. Dušan Jančula

1947–2008



So zármutkom v srdci, ale v nádeji na stretnutie u nášho Pána oznajmujeme, že náš milovaný manžel, otec, dedo, brat a strýko RNDr. Dušan Jančula dňa 13. januára 2008 vo veku 61 rokov náhle odišiel do nebeského domova.

Rozlúčkové zhromaždenie bude v sobotu 19. januára 2008 o 14,00 hod. na cintoríne v Bernolákove. Národného oslobodenia 19, 900 27 Bernolákovo

Manželka Ružena, deti Beata, Rado s manželkou Ingrid, vnúčatá David, Jakub a Marína, brat Stano s rodinou, sestra Luba s rodinou,



Dušan Jančula, member of Matuzalem singing quartet (Metuzaleh) went to be with the Lord on Sunday, January 13th, 2008. The group participated at the 2003 Convention in Philippi, W.Va. He is second from right on the picture.

We will bring more information in the next issue of *Glorious Hope*.

George Sommer

From Our Readers



Dear Christian Friends,
Dec. 28, 2007

My brother Rudy and I are enclosing a gift for *Glorious Hope* in memory of our parents, Paul and Christine Durkovic. God bless you all.

Sincerely, Rudy Durkovic



Dear Christian Friends, Dec. 26, 2007

Had a wonderful visit in Windsor, Canada. Bill Smith (son) had the favor of being on the program. What a great time of fellowship we had - God bless to all.

Love in Christ, Shirley Smith



Dear *Glorious Hope*, Dec. 21, 2007

In remembrance of my family, the Djeskas and Siskas, I've enclosed a check for convention work. God bless you all.

Sincerely, Elaine La Miaux



Dear Christian Friends,

I really enjoy reading *Glorious Hope* magazine, which is sent to me, and want to contribute to its publication, so future ones will keep coming to me.

P.S. Is there anyone else from the Ft. Worth area that gets your magazine, too? I'd like to talk to them, also.

Thanks, Joanne Crawford



Dear Christian Friends,

Enclosed please find a check to help send Bibles to the Czech people. God is so good to us here in the United States. I'm sending this offering in memory of Emil and Lillie Vejr, who have gone on to be with God.

Sincerely, Lillie McGee



Dear Ones, Dec. 2007

Thank you so much for *Glorious Hope* magazine. We do appreciate it, and maybe the Lord will work it out for us to attend your great Convention in Philippi, WV. About 17 years ago, my husband and I were privileged to travel to Czechoslovakia (then one country) and to minister in many churches. He is now 90 years old, but we have not forgotten the precious ones we met there, staying in many of their homes and ministering in their churches, just after the "walls came down." Andy's roots are in Slovakia, his parents having come over in 1902 to the U.S.

We were excited to read about Tomas and Ester Kriska and their ministry at the Convention. We met them when their children were still very young. They gave us their bed and they slept on the floor. Could you please send us their current address, as we have not been able to keep in touch with all the ones we met in 1990 and 1991. We do have their picture - colored slides which we shared with our Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches when we returned home.

Bye for now. Thank you again for sending *Glorious Hope*. It's a great magazine.

Love in our Lord, Maurine Berkner

Continues on page 45

Missionaries - Potmas... Continues from page 33

in PDF and text format? We are happy to send our letters by postal mail, but if you would prefer to receive our letters in full color to your computer's inbox, please let us know. You will need to add us to your email address book and "safe senders" list to ensure delivery. Also, please keep us updated when your email address changes!

Potma Summer Happenings

In addition to English Camp, our summer was also filled with organizing and hosting our regional TEAM Summer Conference. TEAM missionaries from Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic were blessed by speakers, both live and on DVD, while the kids enjoyed their own program thanks to volunteers from the USA. Rounding off our summer travels, we enjoyed a week of family vacation in the quiet Dutch countryside.

Prayer Points:

1. Keep PRAYING for the four P's for the future church in the 10th district of Prague: people, place, provision, and pastor.
 2. Please PRAY for Boris, our TEAMServe co-worker, as he and Mark teach English and Bible classes, lead clubs for kids and teens, and develop friendships with people in the 10th district of Prague. PRAY also for Pat as she adjusts to a new language and culture.
 3. PRAY also for the ongoing outreach of South City Church and for the Czech believers who are taking on more and more responsibility in many areas of ministry. Please PRAY for us as we balance our involvement in these two ministry initiatives.
- Praying with you for the four P's,

Mark, Gretchen, Luke, Noemi, Ben, Elise Potma

September 2007 Prayer Update

*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!*

Using Psalm 57:11 as our guide, let's PRAY that God would be exalted in our new "Skalka" ministry center in the 10th district of Prague. PRAY that God's glory would be evident in all that we say and do in reaching out to residents of the 10th district of Prague.

- Over forty people have already signed up for six various conversational English and evangelistic Bible classes at "Skalka", our new ministry center. PRAY that hearts, minds, and lives would recognize God's glory.
- Our outreaches to teens, kids, and seniors starts next week, as well as a new modified Alpha course and a Czech Bible study in Galatians. PRAY that God would be exalted through all these efforts.
- On Sunday, October 14 we will conduct the first monthly worship service at our new "Skalka" ministry

BWA release

Coffey honored by queen

January 26, 2008

Eron Henry, Associate Director of Communications
Neville Callam, General Secretary
Baptist World Alliance
January 2, 2008



Washington, D.C. (BWA)-- Baptist World Alliance (BWA) President David Coffey was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Coffey, BWA President since 2005, was honored with the OBE for his services to inter-faith relations.

He previously served 15 years as General Secretary for the Baptist Union of Great Britain and was Moderator of the Free Churches in Britain for several years. The Free Churches is a grouping of Protestant and Evangelical churches that includes the Baptist, Methodist, Salvation Army and the Assemblies of God churches, among others.

Coffey was also one of the four presidents of the ecumenical group, Churches Together in England, along with the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, and the Primate of the Armenian Church of Great Britain.

The BWA leader stated that the honor given by the queen is "recognition of great work that is done by the thousands of Baptists and unsung heroes who will not appear on any honors list, but who we would be lost without."

BWA General Secretary Neville Callam said, "David Coffey is a worthy beneficiary of the distinguished honor bestowed on him. His has been a life of service built on the foundation of vocational self-understanding and fueled by a keen mind, an uncompromising commitment to excellence, and a readiness to serve for the sake of Christ and the Church.

"The Baptist World Alliance holds David in very high esteem and we dare to entertain the thought that we have a share in the honor he has received."

The OBE is one of several honors awarded by the queen, with persons named to the queen's New Year's Honors list.

□

center. PRAY for those who will attend as well as those who will participate, that in all things God will get the glory.

Giving thanks for God's love and faithfulness,

*Mark & Gretchen Potma
Luke, Noemi, Benjamin, Elise*

□

Summer Story

Michelle Sury

So I am finally able to sit down for a few moments to write a few lines of what has been happening in my life the past few months. It's actually Thanksgiving weekend here in Canada, and as I'm thinking about what to write, so many things come to mind that I'm thankful to God for! I really want to share with you what God has been doing in and through my life, especially in the summer months of July & August. My "Summer Story" has made a HUGE impact on my heart, and it's definitely changed me! My mind continues to recall so many images of what I experienced in Europe and Africa...

I had the incredible opportunity of returning back to my "home" of four years—the Czech Republic—and reunite with my school colleagues, students, friends and family. My Czech mom picked me up at the airport & we headed straight to the end-of-school assembly & BBQ, where I had a chance to visit with so many I had taught or worked with while I was in Prague. Every day I was in the Czech Republic, I had meals or coffee with people that God had put into my life while I lived there...it's amazing how small the world gets when you sit down with someone from England, Australia or Korea and yet are able to relate to situations and issues that are going on in your own life. That was one of the most cherished moments of my time abroad—the opportunity to connect with people from so many different cultures & backgrounds and enjoy a "life moment" with them! I'm so thankful to still be able to maintain contact with so many people I met during my travels.

I sensed my time in Africa would be one of significance for my life and WOW, was it ever!!!! Right from the first day, as the airline lost our luggage, my friend Veronika & I encountered quite our share of extraordinary and

unforgettable experiences—from almost drowning in the Nile (we were white water rafting), to riding on boda bodas (motorcycle taxis) to flying in a 9-seater plane and seeing 'chicken-on-a-stick' pit stops! Those three weeks seemed like two months, but we seriously learned so much while we were there, and God revealed so much to me. Not only was I able to thoroughly enjoy HIS creative beauty in the natural landscape of the land (e.g. on a safari in Kidepo Valley in the north, we saw the most GORGEOUS sunset!) and see African wildlife in the wild (giraffes, zebras, crocodile, families of elephants, etc.) but we saw how other people live their everyday lives and compared our Western lifestyles with theirs—to see the little some people had, materialistically speaking, and yet such JOY and EXUBERANCE on their smiling faces and in their hearts...I was very humbled.

One experience I will never forget was going to teach English & Bible at a couple of schools where my friend Georgia and her husband Jacob live, in the Kaabong district, in the north-eastern part of Uganda. We don't realize how much we take for granted and how blessed we are in the countries we live in until we experience something so contrary to what is "normal"...

I'll never forget the beautiful children giving me the BIGGEST smile and hug for getting a blue pen. A pen—what is that to us? Something so minute, so trivial, yet for them it was something so precious. Many children don't attend school if there's no food available for them. In fact, the week we were there, food ran out and the convoy still hadn't come—so 75% of the registered students were NOT at school). No posters on the walls, no windows—only rustic desks, chairs and a blackboard. YET—we met some BRILLIANT teachers who are putting in so much of their time, energy and knowledge

to help train and educate these lovely children, and it totally shows! Praise God for those teachers!



Veronika and I also worked in a Christian-based orphanage in Jinja (near Kampala) for a week. Such darling babies and children—I would've loved to adopt them all! Many of the women working there came from very difficult circumstances—ladies who left their homes so they could earn some money for their starving families. Most of the workers are from the Acholi region in central Uganda where the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) has been targeting children and recruiting them as soldiers. The husbands of many of these women had been killed. It broke my heart as I heard some of their stories and situations, but to see the HOPE and STRENGTH that God is giving them each day...to hear them PRAISE and SING to God each new morning before they start working...I was, yet again, humbled and in awe. How many of us are living in those kinds of circumstances? I know we all have our troubles and difficulties, but it definitely put a lot of things into perspective for me.

How do I move on from that kind of experience? It's so easy for me to come back and slip into the easy, comfortable life I have. It did hit me a few days after I came back: I was in a food store walking down one aisle and I suddenly stopped and looked around at the stocked shelves with all the different types of products—more than I could ever need or desire. With tears streaming down my face, I realized we are a society of overabundance. We have so much—too much, I'm afraid. I want to do more to reach out to those who are living in need. I don't have to go to another continent to see that people in my own local community are living in poverty. My church is actually encouraging us to get involved in various Compassion initiatives, and my home group has already started volunteering in some projects. It's been a time of self-reflection and determining where God wants me to invest my time, energy and heart—into something that matters for HIS kingdom!

"Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart."

Philippians 1:3 (The Message)

Michelle Sury is teaching grade 7 and 8 science, health & physical education in a public school in Mississauga, playing keys on the church worship team and enjoying playing on volleyball & indoor soccer rec teams.

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Baptists Plan Major Youth Conference in Germany

Washington, D.C. (BWA)--"The world coming together," is how Baptist World Alliance youth and conference director, Emmett Dunn, describes the Baptist Youth World Conference, held every five years.

Thousands of young people will converge in Leipzig, Germany, for the next conference, the fifteenth, to be held July 30 to August 3, 2008.

This unique gathering provides opportunities for youth, ages 16 to 35, to join together in worship and in missions and to see what God is doing among youth around the world.

Past youth conferences in Houston, Texas, USA, in 1998



and Hong Kong, China, in 2004 drew 8,000 youth from 87 countries and 4,000 youth from 66 countries, respectively.

The 2008 conference, themed "Dive Deeper," will encourage the attendees to engage in deeper levels of commitment to Christ, in the study of God's Word, in missions, and in fellowship.

There will be events in the program for collective worship and study, such as morning worship services, concerts, and evening sessions with keynote speakers. There will also be small group experiences including family groups that provide a forum for study, fellowship, networking and cultural exchange.

Missions will be a key emphasis of the conference. Opportunities are available for youth to participate in mission projects prior to and following the conference, not just within Germany, but throughout Europe.

Additional information about the 15th Baptist Youth World Conference can be found at the conference website, www.dive-deeper.org, or at the Baptist World Alliance website, www.bwanet.org.

Online registration is available at www.dive-deeper.org. Registration rates increase after March 31, 2008.

Eron Henry, Associate Director of Communications
Neville Callam, General Secretary, Baptist World Alliance

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A Christmas Memory

Natasha Legierski

This year, it was Grandma who recalled the past during Christmastime. Susan the squirrel always looked forward to these moments. Small birch logs were just crackling in the fireplace, and Grandma, seated comfortably in her rocking chair, brought herself, in her thoughts, back to the previous century. Back then, television was not an item displayed in every household. People visited one another, and shared their joys and sorrows. They also reminisced about times past, when everything was different, as Grandma described. Susan was keenly interested in her grandma's memory of the spinning wheel, on which Grandma's grandmother had spun wool. To Susan's ears, it sounded so mysterious. She very much wanted to go back into that time, to experience for herself what it had been like back then.

The squirrel family lived in the branch of a large oak tree, which creaked and whined under the onslaught of the strong wind. The mysterious wailing song of winter howled beyond the windows. Of course Father checked the shutters twice, and very carefully at that. A snowstorm was sweeping across the land. Come morning, the whole landscape would be blanketed. Susan loved the view of a landscape completely covered in snow. It always filled her with a holiday spirit. At home it was nice and cozy by the fire.

"Boxing Day was always devoted to going on visits," continued Grandma. "That was on St. Stephan's day. The first saint's day we went to church and then, in the afternoon, the whole family usually got together. We sang Christmas songs, ate sweets, and reminisced. We children would show off our presents to one another. There were not many presents, but there was always one that was most cherished. Then we would play all sorts of games."

Grandma slowly sipped from her mug of rosehip tea. "A lot of snow had fallen at Christmastime one year. We lived in the valley of a big river. On Boxing Day we were supposed to go visit a nursing home that was up in the hills, about forty kilometers away from our home. We had to take a train, and then transfer over to a local train. A local train was a short little train with a steam engine. It was a fairly long trip, especially now that all that snow had fallen. That year, a lot more snow than usual covered the landscape. In certain spots the rails were completely covered in snow, and the little train inched forward, meter by meter, with immense effort. For us children it was a great adventure. Frost painted beautiful pictures on the windows of the car. We tried to guess what the pictures represented. We also tried to help the frost out a little."

Susan perked up. How can someone help the frost? "We would breathe a circle of hot air onto the window and observe how quickly the frost would complete the picture," continued Grandma, as if reading Susan's mind. "That day, the local train didn't make it to the train station. So much snow had drifted onto the rails that the little locomotive simply could not force its way through. The nursing home was still a few kilometers away. The adults decided that

we would all walk." Grandma described how they also stopped by the home of an elderly couple. Cut off from the rest of the world by the snow, the couple was celebrating Christmas in solitude.

A vase decorated with a pine twig had been placed on the table. Grandma asked her mother why these people didn't have a Christmas tree. Her mother explained that they had no need for one, because they had Christmas in their hearts. After some light refreshments, the group of visitors continued on their way. The children took the opportunity to have some hearty snowball fights. After a while they looked like snowmen. They finally arrived at the nursing home. "A special heaviness fell upon me," Grandma continued sadly. "Looking at us were the sad faces of old people."

It was a stark contrast.

Grandma's mother always had a smile on her face. The home-nurses led the entire group of visitors into the common room. The elderly men and women trickled in behind them. As they were taking their seats, the visitors' voices could already be heard singing songs about Christ's birth. Smiles began to appear on the residents' faces. Afterwards they also added spiritual songs, full of hope, talking about God's love toward mankind. "We children sang as well," continued Grandma. "We were having fun singing, because the people were smiling at us."

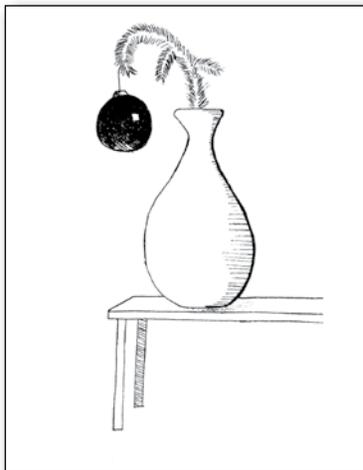
After a short program in the common room, the elderly residents retired to their rooms and their beds. Their eyes reflected

joy. Some of them even began humming the melodies to the songs we had been singing. The children watched in surprise at the change in the faces of their audience. "I will never forget those happy faces," Grandma said, wiping her tears. "At the door of one room, an old man lay on his bed. When I walked past him, he grabbed me by the hand. He was crying, and it startled me. The old man couldn't speak, he only cried. I didn't know what to do. I felt very sorry for him. I kissed him on the forehead and hurried out of the room. I wanted to cry, but fought back the tears because I didn't want anyone to see me. My eyes searched out my mother. She was always such an anchor for me, someone safe, someone I could always rely on. Mother's eyes smiled at me lovingly. She took me aside and whispered to me that the elderly gentleman was very grateful. He was grateful that someone had noticed him. That is why he cried. They were tears of joy."

On the way home, the children asked why the elderly people were in that big building. Mother explained that there are many people who are abandoned. They don't have anyone. Nobody visits them. That is why every Boxing Day was devoted to visiting abandoned people. "In this way God's love is manifested among people," Grandma said in conclusion.

Translated by *Elizabeth J. Fields (Legierski)*

Illustrated by *Ben Nelson*



Vánoční vzpomínka

Nataša Legierská

O letošních Vánocích si zavzpomínala babička. Veverka Zuzka se vždy na tyto chvíle velmi těšila. V krbu praskala právě přiložená březová polínka. Babička, pohodlně usazená v houpacím křesle, se v myšlenkách přenesla do minulého století. Tenkrát ještě televize nebyly běžným vybavením domácností. Lidé se vzájemně navštěvovali a sdíleli se o svých radostech i strastech. Vzpomínali také na doby minulé, kdy všechno bylo jiné, jak se vyjádřila babička. Zuzku zaujala babiččina vzpomínka o kolovrátku, na kterém babička babičky předla vlnu. Zuzčiným uším to znělo tak tajemně. Nejráději by se přenesla do té minulé doby, aby sama okusila, jaké to tenkrát bylo.

Větve velikého dubu, ve kterém veverčí rodina bydlela, skřípaly a vrzaly pod náporem silného větru. Za okny skaučela meluzína tajemné písně zimy. Však tatínek již dvakrát pečlivě zkontroloval okenice. Krajem se proháněla sněhová bouře. Do rána bude celý kraj zachumelený. Zuzka milovala pohled na zasněženou krajinu. Naplnilo jí to vždy svátečním pocitem. Doma, kolem krbu bylo tak útulno. „Na druhý svátek vánoční se vždy chodilo na návštěvy,“ pokračovala babička. „To bylo na Štěpána. První svátek se šlo do kostela a potom odpoledne se obyčejně sešla celá rodina. Zpívaly se vánoční písně, jedlo se cukroví a vzpomínalo. My, děti, jsme se navzájem pochlubily se svými dárky. Nebylo jich moc, ale vždy byl jeden nejvzácnější. Potom jsme hrály různé hry.“

Babička pomalu upila z hrnku šípkového čaje. „Jednou napadlo na Vánoce velmi mnoho sněhu. Bydleli jsme v údolí velké řeky. Na druhý svátek vánoční jsme měli jít navštívit domov důchodců, který byl v kopcích, asi čtyřicet kilometrů od našeho domu. Museli jsme jet vlakem a potom přesednout na lokálku. Lokálka, to byl krátký vláček s parní lokomotivou. Byla to docela dlouhá cesta. Zvláště napadl-li sníh. Ten rok bylo sněhu opravdu hodně. Místy byly koleje docela zaváté a vláček pomalu zdolával metr za metrem za ohromného supění. Pro nás, děti, to byl úžasný zážitek. Mráz maloval na okna vagónů překrásné obrazy. Hádaly jsme, co ty obrazy představují. Také jsme zkoušely mrazu pomáhat.“

Zuzka zpozorněla. Jak může někdo pomáhat mrazu? „Vydýchaly jsme na sklo kolečko a pozorovaly, jak rychle mráz domaluje obrazce,“ pokračovala babička, jakoby četla Zuzčiny myšlenky. „Ten den lokálka do stanice nedojela. Na kolejích bylo naváto tolik sněhu, že lokomotiva neprorazila. Do domova důchodců to

bylo ještě několik kilometrů. Dospělí rozhodli, že půjdeme pěšky.“ Babička líčila, jak se cestou ještě zastavili u jedněch starších manželů. Odříznutí sněhem od světa, prožívali svátky o samotě.

Na stole stála váza s ozdobenou smrkovou větvíčkou. Babička se zeptala své maminky, jak to, že tito lidé nemají stromeček. Ta jí vysvětlila, že oni stromeček nepotřebují, Vánoce mají v srdíčku. Po lehkém občerstvení se skupina návštěvníků vydala dále. Cestou se děti vydatně koulovaly. Vypadaly jako sněhuláci. Konečně všichni dorazili do domova důchodců. „Padla na mne zvláštní tíseň,“ posmutněla babička při vyprávění, „dívaly se na nás smutné tváře starých lidí.“ Byl to velký kontrast. Maminka babičky měla vždy

úsměv na tváři. Pečovatelky zavedly celou skupinu do společenské místnosti. Stařečkové i stařenky se trousili za nimi. Posadili se na židle, a to již zněly z úst příchozích vánoční písně o narození Krista. Na tvářích obyvatel domova se začaly objevovat úsměvy. Potom ještě přidali písně duchovní, plné naděje, hovořící o lásce Boha k člověku. „My, děti,“ pokračovala babička, „jsme zpívaly také. Zpívalo se nám dobře, protože ti lidé se na nás usmívali.“

Po krátkém programu ve společenské místnosti se celá skupina odebrala do pokojů, kde leželi upoutaní na lůžko. V očích se jim zračila radost. Někteří si dokonce začali broukat melodie písní. Děti s překvapením sledovaly proměny na tvářích posluchačů. „Nikdy nezapomenu na ty šťastné tváře.“ Babička si utřela slzu. „Při dveřích jednoho pokoje

ležel stařeček. Když jsem procházela kolem něho, chytil mne za ruku. Plakal. Vylekalo mne to. Stařeček nemohl mluvit, jenom plakal. Nevěděla jsem, co mám dělat. Bylo mi ho velmi líto. Políbila jsem ho na čelo a spěchala jsem ven z pokoje. Chtělo se mi plakat a nechtěla jsem, aby mne někdo viděl. Očima jsem hledala maminku. Ona byla vždy takovou mou jistotou. Maminčiny oči se na mne laskavě usmívaly. Vzala mne stranou a pošeptala mi, že ten starý pán byl velmi vděčný. Byl vděčný za to, že si ho někdo všiml. Proto plakal. Byly to slzy radosti.“

Na cestě zpět se děti vyptávaly, proč jsou ti staří lidé v tom velkém domě. Maminka jim vysvětlila, že je mnoho lidí, kteří jsou opuštěni. Nemají nikoho. Nikdo je nenavštěvuje. Proto vždy druhý svátek vánoční byl věnován návštěvám opuštěných lidí. „Tímto způsobem se projevuje Boží láska mezi lidmi,“ zakončila babička své vyprávění.

Kreslil Ben Nelson

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From the President

We are looking another year in the face right now. Already a number of its days have slipped off the calendar. Time goes too fast—haven't we always said that (at least since we became adults)? Yet God gives us all the time we ever need for what must get done, according to Ecclesiastes 3 in the Old Testament. That is a passage of powerfully impacting truth.

But perhaps you feel a little down, as I often do, when checking back to see how the record of personal growth and maturity has gone. The concern is about how much of life I have not yet truly grasped. Also what things have not gotten taken care of or resolved, even after all this time. The piling on of one's years should result in a far better demonstration of consistency and mastery of life. I should be far more mature by now, and, here is wisdom still operating incomplete, understanding plagued by gaps and questions.

So many folk have done me such favors. Surely I should be able to produce more return on the investments of their confidence, support, and trust over the years.

It is precisely at this point that I am glad to come across a prayer of St. Paul for the Ephesians Christians (3:13) to the effect that they might not lose heart and spirit. In the particular instance



of that verse the issue was their concern over the apostle's own sufferings on their behalf. But the chapter more broadly talks about all that God has opened up for in Christ, things that should lead to boldness and confidence. 'You must not lose heart over anything' would be the message. Of course no loss of heart! For that is where Christ now lives—in the heart. (And I might add, that by a magnificent reciprocal arrangement of God, we live in the heart of Christ!) How could anyone surrender such heart.

So I am working on myself for this 2008. Working on a heart more fixed and focused. Keeping lights on in there. Seeking to get beyond misbeats. God has not forgotten what forgiveness is all about—how it redeems bad times, refreshes the heart for new days (or year, as the case may be), and assures us that everything will be all right in the care of God.

Here's to your heart health, and to a strong convention heart.

Robert Dvorak

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From the Executive Secretary



Dates to Remember

- 99th Annual Convention will be held on July 10-13, 2008 in Philippi.
- Centennial Annual Convention will be held on July 9-12, 2009. Guest speaker will be General Secretary of Baptist World Alliance, Dr. Denton Lotz.
- Check the convention web page for pictures from 2007 Annual Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada: czslbaptconv.ab.edu

George Sommer



Centennial Celebration

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

Czechoslovak Baptist Convention
Rt. 4, Box 58D
Philippi, WV 26416-9717

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

Thank you

George Sommer, Executive Secretary

□



**Check our
Convention
Web page:**

<http://czslbaptconv.ab.edu>

The Still, Small Voice

Grace Niswonger

The road leading to our home is located on a highway curve. If you keep to the speed limit, all is well. Should you happen to go too fast, however, you will miss the curve and end up at the bottom of our road.



When this happens, usually late at night, we can hear the sound of metal crashing into a tree or into the concrete abutment. We phone 911 and then we rush down the hill with a flashlight to see if the people are all right. The distressed driver usually keeps his headlights on and blinks them on and off to alert other drivers that he is off the road.

One rainy, cold winter night, we had just gone to bed when we heard a terrible crash. Jumping out of bed and looking out of the window, we heard only silence. No headlights, not a sound! As the thought of dialing 911 occurred to me, a still, small voice whispered "Do not turn on the light." I dialed 911 in the dark and told the police there was a loud crash on our curve but we could see nothing.

In the meantime, my husband had gotten into his clothes and started out the door with the flashlight. A still, small voice whispered, "Do not let him leave the house." We again looked out of the window and saw a man walking along the roadway, shining his flashlight slowly up and down our hill. The light turned off and once again we saw nothing.

After a long while, we saw a car coming slowly down the hill, apparently looking for the crashed vehicle. Two men walked over to look into the car, and then we heard what sounded like gunshots. The men ran quickly to their car and sped away. A few moments later, there suddenly appeared four police cars, two deputy sheriffs' vehicles and one ambulance. They stayed quite a while, and then a towtruck arrived to remove the car from the road. The ambulance drove away, the police cars and the deputy sheriffs' vehicles also left and all was quiet. But we were very much wide awake.

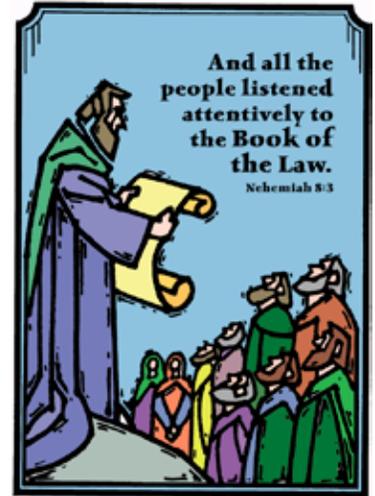
We wondered what had happened. We checked the next morning's newspaper and nothing was mentioned about an accident on Highway 16.

Now, as Paul Harvey would say, "Here is the rest of the story," as we found out several weeks later while talking with a friend. He and his son were told there was a truck crashed at the curve by a friend of theirs, who was driving home from work that night. She thought someone might be hurt. That is why they drove slowly down the road to check it out. When they looked into the truck windows, they were indeed shot at by someone across the road.

They drove directly to the police station and related what had

happened. That is when all of the police and sheriffs' cars suddenly appeared at the scene. No one was around. Then, in the glow of the headlights, the police saw a glimmer of shining metal. There inside the concrete abutment was the man! He had a gun in each of his hands and a knife taped to his leg. The police overpowered him and they discovered he was an escaped convict with a truck filled with jugs of homemade liquor. He was back in jail that night.

So, yes indeed, the Lord does speak in a still, small voice. How thankful I am to tell you that I heard Him that night, loud and clear!



From Our Readers... Continues from page 38

Dear George,

We're sorry we missed this year's convention. Our grandson was being dedicated that weekend and we had to be in Detroit. As Bob said, "Calendars are what they are." We hope to be able to attend next year and look forward to seeing you. Thank you for serving the Lord so faithfully. We appreciate so much all that you do. May God bless you, not only at Christmas but throughout the new year.

In His Love,

George & Connie Kroupa,
the New Ones

Dear Mr. Sommer,

Jan 14, 2008

Enclosed please find a check to use where needed in your ministry. It is given in honor of Bob and Dottie Dvorak, whose friendship we both treasure. They, like you, have invested much time and energy in carrying on the Lord's work through this denomination.

Sincerely,

Lynne Hoden

Dear Marija,

Jan. 2008

My deepest appreciation for the large gift of money the women sent to me. I am looking forward to being with you all for next year's convention in July 2008. It will be so good to fellowship together again.

Love in Jesus,

Ruby Mikulencak

ZÁZRAK STOLETÍ

Nataša Legierská

Svět byl jednodušší
žilo se pomaleji
žilo se s bolestí
bez naděje
hřích
bída
prázdna srdce
člověk se narodil
žil
a zemřel
koloběh života
jaký smysl
zkroušená srdce
prázdna srdce
duše unavená touží po Spasiteli...

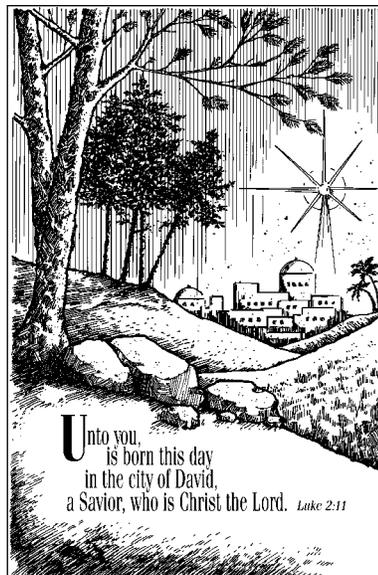
přišel...
nemluvnátko křehké
a něžné
ztělesněná láska
Láska sestoupila do bolesti
do bolesti světa
přinesla vysvobození
naději
neumřel
kdo Lásku přijal
svět zůstal v bolesti
nepochopil
vytvořil legendy
tradice
ověncil bídu pozlátky
zapoměl na Lásku...

Dnes se žije rychle
minuty se předhání
dny nestačí
roky mizí v nenávratnu
žije se s bolestí
hřích
bída
prázdna srdce
člověk se narodí
žije a umírá
koloběh života
jaký smysl
bez naděje

zkroušená srdce
prázdna srdce
duše k smrti unavená
touží po Spasiteli
vědeckými poznatky
vysvětluje smysl
původ života
pozlátky udržuje tradice
pečuje o falešnou lásku
tajemství nechápe...

Boží láska
sestoupila do bídy člověka
topícího se v hojnosti
změnit jeho podstatu...

Pochopil kdo Lásku přijal
Láska překonává bolest
na Lásce postavený svět
Láskou dýchající
žije v naději
víra
naděje
láska
největší je láska
tajemství nového života
zjevené příchodem Ježíše Krista



Convention Echoes in Pictures Part 2



Helen and Henry Pojman, Miriam Vraj



Janko Vlcek, Bob Dvorak



Dottie Kvasnica
at the Organ



Filip Vlasic, Amy Nesvadba, Cassandra Habuda



Madison, Tammy, and Brian Dors



Children's Hour



Oti Alac, Bob and Flo Struharik



Oti Alac, Bob Dvorak



Darko Siracki



Young People



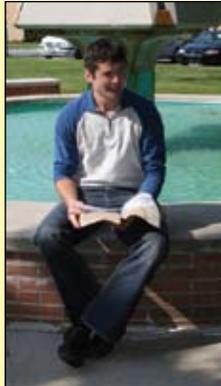
Ruben, and Ema Kralik



Debbie and Nico Mulder Singing



Dottie Dvorak, Esther Tarr, Ester Kriskova



Kornel Bukovec



Fellowship



Toronto Singers



Jan Banko, Vladimir Kralik, Bob Dvorak,
and Convention Choir



Tomas, Ester Kriskova



At the Banquet



The Vladimir Kralik Family



Kristina Vlasic



From left clockwise: Joye Andrs, Gloria & Jerry Andrs,
Larry Rucker, Milo Andrs



Darko Siracki, Kornel Bukovec, Erwin Sijanta,
Petar Vlasic



George Sommer, Bob Dvorak