

# Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

Vol. 36, N° 5, 2010

Ročník 36, číslo 5, 2010

Commit your way to  
the LORD;  
trust in him...

Psalms 37; 5

Uvaľ na Hospodina  
svoju cestu,  
dúfaj v Neho...

Žalm 37, 5

Hospodinu svěř  
svoji cestu,  
doufej v něj...

Žalm 37, 5







# Convention Banquet





## Convention Mission Statement

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

## Misijní posláni konvence

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

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## Glorious Hope/Slavná naděje

Volume 36, No 5, 2010  
(USPS 009334), ISSN 0700-5202  
Published Bi-Monthly by

The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention  
of USA and Canada.

Periodical postage paid in Philippi, WV.

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**Glorious Hope / Slavná naděje**  
Rt. 4, Box 58D, Philippi, WV 26416-9717 USA.  
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WWW.CZSKBC.ORG

# Editorial



## One Moment in History

The year 1982 was being written. In the month of September of that year I stepped into this church for the very first time, captivated. A rather small building from the outside hid a beautifully simple and spacious auditorium. The wonderful

acoustics of the space were made apparent during the countless programs and concerts that took place there.

The year 2010 is being written; 28 years have gone by. It is now September. The church that had me so captivated and that I loved so much no longer exists. It played a very important role not only in my own life, but also in the Greater Toronto Area's Czech and Slovak community at large. I wasn't the only one brought to tears, looking at the scaffolding that now surrounds the old building. As I crossed its threshold for the last time, tears of sorrow, for that which is gone forever, mingled with tears of gratitude,

Continues on page 15

## Jeden z momentů historie

Sal se rok 1982. V měsíci září toho roku jsem poprvé vstoupila do prostor kostela, který mne docela okouzli. Zvenku celkem malá budova skrývala nádherně jednoduchý, prostorný sál. Výborná akustika sálu se osvědčila při nespočítelných programech a koncertech, které se tam odehrály.

Píše se rok 2010. Uplynulo 28 let. Je opět září. Kostel, který mne okouzli a který jsem tak milovala, již neexistuje. Sehrál velice důležitou roli nejen v mém životě, ale i v životě celé československé komunity v Torontě a okolí. Nebyla jsem sama, komu lešení kolem budovy vehnalo slzy do očí. Při posledním překročení práhu této vzácné budovy slzy lítosti nad tím, co odchází do nenávratna, se mísily se slzami vděčnosti nad tím, co Pán Bůh učinil skrze toto obecnství pro jednotlivce, rodiny a celou československou komunitu. Vyrůstly tu moje děti, vyrůstly tu také

Pokračování na straně 19



Cover: Czechoslovak Baptist Church Toronto  
Photography: Dusko Pilic, Donald Shoff,  
George Sommer

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# The Final Service in the Toronto Czechoslovak Baptist Church



**A**fter the battle on White Mountain in the seventeenth century, Czech evangelicals were exiled. Outside its borders, hundreds of churches and congregations formed, mainly in the Caribbean, some of which exist and function to this day under the name Moravian Brothers. Some of these churches still sing the old brethren hymns. At the beginning of the twentieth century, dozens of evangelical churches in North America still existed that spoke Czech. For a long time, the Baptist church at 200 Annette Street in Toronto was the last evangelical congregation that still spoke Czech and Slovak. Unfortunately, even this building will be converted into apartments, and the farewell service will be held on Sunday, June 18, 2010. In one week's time, a sermon, and songs sung by the choir, will be heard in this building for the very last time. Members of this congregation will continue to meet once a month at a different location.

Ales Brezina

*(This news appeared halfway through the month of July of this year, in Satellite 1-416, a Czechoslovak community newspaper run by Ales Brezina).*

For its farewell service on July 18, 2010, the church at 200 Annette Street in Toronto was full. Many from the Czechoslovak community gathered, along with those who had attended this church. Among those present were descendents of the founding members of this congregation. Sister Antonia Springle is the only person who witnessed both the beginning and the end of this church.

This church has lasted 68 years—are these many or few? It is the length of one life. The church's life has been rich and

diverse. After its founding, the church blossomed, declined, and experienced renewal again, as is often the case with ethnic congregations. Throughout these phases the church never lost its missionary goal, focused predominantly on those new to Canada. For many, it became a home after many long years.

In terms of activities, this was among the most musically gifted Baptist churches throughout Toronto and the surrounding area. The choir, which sang each Sunday, during Christmas carol concerts, and at other events as opportunity allowed, had its own specific place within the Czech and Slovak community throughout all 68 years.

The farewell service provided the opportunity for the church, for one last time, to resound with praise. An impressive choir with brilliant singers, as described by Daniel Hynek, one of the choir's former conductors, sealed his immense gratitude for God's direction throughout all the years of the church's existence in song. This gratitude was expressed through other musical performances, the recitation of two poems and a speech.

The main sermon was presented by Joseph Novak, a former pastor for a quarter of a century. Following a brief summary of his work, he concluded his address with these words:

*"Everything has a beginning and an end. Speaking as the vice-president of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada, I wish you all the best wherever you go. Remain faithful and use your talents and gifts wisely. God bless you!"*

The closing word belonged to Pastor John Banko, whose sermon was based on a text from the book of Hebrews. He emphasized what a privilege it is for us to be a part of God's kingdom despite having to live in today's world. We may say together with the apostle Paul, "Christ is our hope." The kingdom of God began with the coming of Jesus Christ, it is in us, among us, and will continue forever. Our future depends on our faithfulness. Everything is changing. We, however, are a part of an unchanging kingdom.

The farewell service was one of celebration and praise. Several favourite hymns were sung. Many missed the contributions that the children and youth would, in times past, make to each program.

Participants in this service were dismissed with the words of the apostle Jude: *"To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."*

Natasha Laurinc

Translated by Elizabeth J. Fields





# Poslední bohoslužby v Československém baptistickém kostele v Torontu



**V** 17. století odcházeli po bitvě na Bílé Hoře čeští evangelici do exilu. V zahraničí vznikly stovky sborů a společenství, z nichž, hlavně v karibské oblasti, některé stále fungují pod jménem Moravští bratři. Někde mají stále při bohoslužbách staré bratrské písně. Ještě v první polovině dvacátého století bylo v severní Americe několik desítek evangelických sborů, kde se hovořilo česky. Dlouhou dobu zůstával takovým posledním společenstvím, kde se hovořilo česky a slovensky, baptistický kostel na 200 Annette St. v Torontu. Bohužel i tato budova bude přeměněna na bytové jednotky a bohoslužby na rozloučenou s činností se budou konat v neděli 18. července 2010. Úplně naposled zde zazní kázání a zpěv o týden později. Členové sboru se budou scházet nadále jednou měsíčně na jiném místě. Aleš Březina

*(Tato zpráva se objevila v polovině července tohoto roku v krajském tisku, Satellitu 1-146, vydávaným Alešem Březinou.)*

Na rozlučkovém shromáždění 18. července 2010 byl kostel na 200 Annette St. v Torontu opět plný. Sešla se široká krajanská veřejnost s těmi, kteří do tohoto obecnství kdysi chodívali. Byli přítomní i potomci zakládajících členů. Sestra Antonie Špringlová se tak stala jedinou žijící svědkyní vzniku i zániku tohoto sboru.

Toto obecnství přetrvalo 68 let. Je to mnoho nebo málo? Je to období jednoho života. Život sboru byl velmi rozmanitý a bohatý. Po založení následovala období rozkvětu, úpadku a znovu obnovení, jak už to v etnických společenstvích bývá.

V průběhu těchto etap však nikdy nevymizela misijní činnost, zaměřená zvláště na nově příchozí do Kanady. Mnohým se tento sbor stal domovem po dlouhé roky.

Co se týče činnosti, patřil sbor k těm nejjobdaranějším baptistickým sborům v Torontě i okolí hudebními talenty. Pěvecký sbor sloužící každou neděli, vánoční koncerty koled a programy k jiným příležitostem měly své specifické místo v životě československé komunity po celou dobu 68 let.

Rozlučkové shromáždění dalo příležitost k tomu, aby se ještě jednou, naposledy, rozezvučely prostory chrámu chválami. Mohutný pěvecký sbor brilantních zpěváků, jak se vyjádřil Daniel Hynek, jeden z bývalých dirigentů, zpěvem zpečetil nesmírnou vděčnost Božímu vedení po celá léta trvání obecnství. Tato vděčnost se promítla také v dalších hudebních příspěvcích, přednesu dvou básní a proslovů.

Hlavní proslov pronesl kazatel Josef Novák, který na půdě tohoto sboru působil téměř čtvrt století. Po stručném průřezu své činnosti svůj projev uzavřel těmito slovy: *“Vše má začátek i konec. Z pozice vicepresidenta Československé baptistické konvence USA a Kanady vám přeji všechno nejlepší kamkoliv půjdete. Zůstaňte věrní a moudře používejte vaše schopnosti a dary. Bůh vám žehnej!”*

Závěrečné slovo patřilo kazateli Jánovi Bankovi. Hovořil na text epistoly k Židům. Zdůraznil, jaké privilegium máme v tom, že jsme součástí Božího království, i když žijeme v dočasných podmínkách. Spolu s apoštolem Pavlem můžeme říci: *“Kristus je naší nadějí.”* Boží království se začalo příchodem Pána Ježíše Krista, je v nás, mezi námi a bude pokračovat na věčnosti. Naše budoucnost spočívá v tom, že zůstaneme věrní. Vše se mění, my však patříme do nepohybnutelného království.

Rozlučkové shromáždění bylo shromážděním oslav a chval. Zazněla celá řada oblíbených duchovních písní. Mnohým však chyběly příspěvky dětí a mládeže, které kdysi byly součástí každého programu.

Účastníci shromáždění byly vyprovocovány slovy Judovy epistoly: *“Avšak tomu, který má moc uchránit vás před pádem a dovést vás do své slávy neposkvrněné a šťastné jedinému Bohu, našemu Spasiteli, jemu buď skrze našeho Pána Ježíše Krista sláva a velebnost, vláda i moc přede všemi věky, nyní i po všechny věky. Amen.”*

Nataša Laurincová





# This Was Our Life



## George Branda

I also am one of this church's former members. This past June we remembered that it was 25 years ago that we shut the door of our home and began the experience called emigration, i.e., we didn't know where we would sleep the following night or what to expect. This church turned out to be a large part of our emigration experience. We know that it is difficult to find a new job, house, etc.; however our biggest concern was finding a Christian family and spiritual community, not only for ourselves, but also for our little children. And so we are very grateful to have been a part of this congregation, or spiritual family, if you will, for 18 years. I am very fond of the term *family*, because I felt very at home here. I remember that often we not only met on Sunday morning church service, but we visited others and welcomed other brothers and sisters into our home. The children always looked forward to these visits, and it brought us joy. The main thing I would like to emphasize is that we were able to be under the influence of the Word of God, which is so very powerful. The Word of God says about itself that *it is the power of salvation unto him who believes*, and so it is my joyous testimony that all three of our children got to know the Lord Jesus as their personal saviour here in this building and acknowledge that in baptism. If I may, I will add some verses because my heart is full of praise, and I would not in my own words say it as well as it is written in Psalm 145: *"My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; and let all flesh bless His holy name forever."* (Verse 21)



## Vera O'Hare (Sury)

I used to come here with my husband Milan Sury, and I was just telling my daughter that we attended this church for 25 years. I am reminded how we painted the ceiling on the scaffolding—I have very good memories here. On the

other hand it is a bit sad, because its time has come to an end, although it has been a very blessed period. My husband Milan and I were baptized here, and this is actually where we met and got to know one another. Although we did not get married here, we did share many wonderful moments together in this place. Milan conducted the church choir and taught Sunday school, and our children also were dedicated here. We are truly grateful to God for those years; they were unforgettable. They enabled us to live the life we lead now, and we are very grateful for that as well.



## Janice Cermak,

assistant editor of *Glorious Hope*

Many years ago I first came to this church with my boyfriend, Bohouš Čermák. I think I spoke about ten words of Czech at that time. Later we married, and I ended up attending many services here, and was very glad to do so. And I'd like to say that I really appreciated the musical support over the years of Donna Nesvadba, who was here playing again today; and Linda Hynek, who was also here playing today; and Natasha Laurinc, who was here again directing and singing today. That musical support meant a lot to me, and greatly enhanced the services over the years.

## Vlasta Hynek

Today, we can praise God together for the last time and say—the Lord has helped us thus far. I have been coming here for the past 65 years with such joy, praising the Lord with songs and poems, praising him in prayer, and witnessing to those in need of salvation. And so, *Heavenly Father, we thank you for this meeting. Please bless everyone henceforth, and bless our lives, so that we would remain steadfastly in your joy, now and forevermore. Amen.*

□



# Žili jsme tím



## Jiří Branda

**J**á jsem také jeden z těch, kteří bývali členy tohoto sboru. My jsme si letos v červnu připoměli, že je to 25 let, co jsme zavřeli dveře svého bytu a začali tu zkušenost, které se říká emigrace, tzn., že jsme nevěděli, kde budeme příští noc spát, co nás čeká a jednou z velikých zkušeností v té emigraci je právě tento sbor. My víme, že je těžké najít novou práci, střechu nad hlavou atd., ovšem to, co nás nejvíce tížilo, abychom našli křesťanskou rodinu a duchovní společenství nejen pro sebe, ale i pro své malé děti, a tak jsme moc vděční, že jsme mohli být 18 let součástí tohoto sborového společenství, nebo chcete-li této duchovní rodiny. Mám hrozně rád ten obrat *rodina*, protože jsme se tady opravdu cítili jako doma, vzpomínám si, že jsme se často vidali nejen ráno ve shromáždění, ale chodili jsme na návštěvy a zvali jsme návštěvy do svého domu, bratry a setry, děti se na to vždycky moc těšily, tak to byla taková naše radost. A to hlavní, co bych chtěl zdůraznit, je, že jsme směli být pod vlivem Božího Slova, které je tak mocné. Boží Slovo o sobě říká, že je *mocí Boží ke spasení každému, kdo věří*, a tak je mojím radostným svědectvím, že všechny tři naše děti směly poznat Pána Ježíše jako svého Spasitele tady v tomto domě a vyznat ho ve křtu, a jestli mohu, připomínám pár řádků z Bible, protože moje srdce je plné chvály a asi bych to nedokázal svými slovy říci tak, jak je to napsané v Žalmu 145.

*„Z mých úst zazní chvála Hospodinu, jeho přestatému jménu bude dobrořečit všechno tvorstvo navěky a navěky.“ (Verš 21.)*



## Věra O'Hare (Surá)

**C**hodila jsem sem s manželem Milanem Surým, a právě jsem říkala mé dceři, že jsme tento kostel navštěvovali 25 let. Vzpomínám na to, jak jsme tu na lešení natírali strop, mám opravdu pěkné vzpomínky. Na druhou stranu je to trochu smutné, protože je to konec. Přesto to bylo moc požehnané období. Byli jsme

zde s manželem pokřtěni, zde jsme se vlastně i seznámili. Sice jsme tu oddaní nebyli, ale prožili jsme zde krásné chvíle. Milan tu vedl pěvecký sbor, učil nedělní školu, zde bylo vyprošeno požehnání pro naše děti. Jsme za to období Pánu Bohu opravdu vděční, jsou to nezapomenutelné roky. A ty nás připravily abychom mohli jít životem dál. A za to jsme moc vděční.



## Janice Cermak,

redaktorka *Slavné naděje*

**P**oprve jsem přišla do tohoto kostela před mnoha lety s mým přítelem Bohoušem Čermákem. Myslím, že jsem tenkrát znala tak deset slov v češtině. Později jsme se vzali a s potěšením jsem navštěvovala mnohá shromáždění. Chci říci, že po celá ta léta si velmi vážím hudebních příspěvků Donny Nesvadbové, která zde byla i dnes a hrála; Lindy Hynkové, která zde dnes také hrála; a Nataši Laurincové, která dnes zde opět dirigovala a zpívala. Tyto hudební příspěvky pro mne velmi mnoho znamenaly a během let ohromně povznášely bohoslužby.

## Vlasta Hynková

**D**nes naposledy zde můžeme chválit Pána a říci—až potud pomáhal nám Hospodin. Chodila jsem sem 65 roků s takovou radostí, slavila Pána písněmi, básněmi, v modlitbách chválila našeho Pána a svědčila těm, kteří potřebují spasení. A tak *„děkujeme ti Otče Nebeský za toto shledání a prosíme požehnej všem nadále a požehnej naše životy, abychom nadále bez pohnutí zůstali v té radosti Boží až na věky. Amen.“*

□

## MOVING ?

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## Part 2

# Lessons from the Life of Joseph

Rev. Donald Shoff

Joseph has been called the most Christ-like man in the Old Testament. He is without question one of the greatest models of integrity found anywhere in the pages of Scripture. More space is given in telling his story than to any other person in the Old Testament.

This section of the Book of Genesis is the record of how the nation Israel got to the land of Egypt. In recounting this part of the history of the nation, it was essential to tell how Joseph fit into the picture and of his part in sparing the nation from starvation.

To understand Joseph it is necessary to understand his family of origin. So, let's first meet his father, Jacob, the swindler. The name "Jacob" literally means *he grasps the heel*, which became a figure of speech for deceiver. Jacob came out of the womb grasping his brother's heel. And, as is the case in many families today, it was one of those nicknames that stuck. Regardless of how it came about, Jacob lived up to his name. He was a deceiver through and through. He grew up in a family where deception and favoritism were standard fare.

Jacob's twin brother, Esau, was the father's favorite and Jacob was the favorite of the mother. Since Esau was the first born, he was to receive the birthright, which meant he carried the family line and would receive twice the inheritance of the other children. True to his name and character, Jacob stole the birthright and blessing from his brother. Because of Esau's threats to kill Jacob, his mother thought it best to send him to live with his Uncle



Laban in Haran until Esau's rage subsided. Jacob had not been with his uncle long before he found himself on the receiving end of deception and came to realize he was living with the master deceiver. Unfortunately, Jacob passed these unsavory characteristics of favoritism and deceit he received from his parents and uncle on to most of his own children.

Next, meet Joseph's mother, Rachel. Scripture says that *Rachel was lovely in form and beautiful*. (Gen. 29:17) She had the unfortunate experience of not only living in a culture where polygamy was practiced, but of living in a household where her husband's other wife was her very own sister. Of course, the result was jealousy, bitterness and rivalry. If this was not enough, she lived with what was a disgrace in that culture—not being able to bear children, at least not for a number of years. Finally, she did have a son, Joseph, and not many years later, she died in giving birth to Benjamin.

Next, meet Joseph's ten half-broth-

ers. Five words describe them: jealous, rude, wicked, violent and irresponsible.

Having met the family, let me introduce you to Joseph himself. Joseph was his father's favorite. And the father made no attempt to hide it from the ten half-brothers. In fact, to show his special love for Joseph, Scripture says,

*Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.* (Gen. 37:3-4 NIV)

The translation of the Hebrew word for "robe" is uncertain. The King James Version translates it *coat of many colors*, the Amplified has it *long tunic with sleeves*, while the NIV renders it *a richly ornamented robe*. However, of this we are certain, it was a garment far more fitting for royalty than for a shepherd. Perhaps the father made Joseph a foreman over his brothers and dressed him accordingly.

Nor was harmony in the family helped by Joseph's dreams that he shared with his brothers. Even as dense as they were, they understood clearly that Joseph's dreams were saying that one day they would bow before him.

One day Joseph went to check on his brothers. They saw him in the distance and their first thought was to kill him, but then they decided they would sell him as a slave to a band of traveling merchants on their way to Egypt. So, the chapter that begins with the introduction of Jacob's family ends with a heart-broken father, ten guilt-ridden



brothers and Joseph, a seventeen-year-old slave in Egypt.

Scripture indicates that the purpose of stories like this one is not in Scripture to entertain or even to teach history. Rather, we study the life of Joseph because:

*...everything that was written [in Scripture] in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Rom. 15:4)*

*Now these things [events recorded in Scripture] occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. (1 Cor. 10:6)*

To learn only the historical facts of Joseph's life is to miss God's intent of including it in Scripture. So, we go the next step, called application, and ask: Lord, what do you want to say to me today from this ancient story?

#### *Passive Fathers Often Produce Troubled Children*

The first truth that virtually screams from the pages of Scripture is this—passive fathers often produce troubled children. Jacob is the classic example of a passive or absentee dad. He was out of touch with his family. He did not really know his sons or else refused to acknowledge the animosity seething from their jealousy. He was too detached to see the effects of his own actions, or else too indifferent to take steps to correct them. One has but to look at the father to understand the source of this family's problems.

Also, it is not surprising that many American families are in trouble because of a passive or absentee dad. America is a nation in search of fathers. Harvard psychiatrist Samuel Osherson, in his book *Finding Our Fathers: How a Man's Life Is Shaped by His Relationship with His Father*, states:

The interviews I have had with men in their 30's and 40's convince me that the psychological or physical absence of fathers from their families is one of the greatest underestimated tragedies of our times.

He then recounts a survey of 7,239 men that found almost none said they had a close relationship with their father. Another researcher stated that his research revealed only 1% of sons described their relation with their father as good.

A Christian lady had a ministry to the women in a jail in her city. It was nearing Mother's Day and several of the women asked if she could get a Mother's Day card for them. She approached a greeting card company that supplied her with a number of cards. The women were very appreciative and took all of them. When it was



nearing Father's Day, she thought they would also appreciate being supplied with cards they could send to their fathers. The greeting card company readily supplied all the Father's Day cards she wanted. The lady said that in three years, not a single Father's Day card had been taken.

Dads need to pause from time to time and ask, what is my influence on my family? When they are grown, will they reminisce about a dad who was there for them and who impacted their lives, or will they remember one who was always too busy to spend time with them? Dad, how long has it been since you gathered the family around for devotions? Have they heard your journey of faith and the accounts of God's faithfulness and blessing on you?

#### *You Need Not Be Crippled by a Difficult Past*

Not only do we gain insight from this chapter about the importance of fathers, we also learn that we need not be crippled by a difficult past.

Joseph grew up in one of the most dysfunctional families in history. At the most critical time of life, he was torn from what little security he knew and was sold as a slave to foreigners—by his own brothers. From a human viewpoint, if anyone were ever justified in being bitter toward God, family and life in general, it would have been Joseph. But instead he chose to believe that God was in control of his life and refused to let the past rob him of the future.

It is fashionable to blame others for our failings. But in reality, it is not what happens to us that hurts us, but rather how we respond to what happens to us. Those, like Joseph, who find joy and fruitfulness in life, are people who have embraced the truth that a positive response to the negatives of life is absolutely essential. This, I believe, is one of the key insights into Joseph's life. In essence he said, this isn't what I would have chosen, it isn't what I wanted, but here I am. I'll do the best I can to handle whatever comes my way and trust God for the results. Many years later than the events recorded in this chapter, Joseph looks back over his life and says, *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. (Gen. 50:20 NIV)*

One of the greatest truths that can grip us is this: I do not have to be bound by my past. Jesus said, *...if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:36)* In Jesus Christ there is freedom, not only from the guilt and bondage of sin, but also from the bondage of a difficult past.

*This Bible Study was presented during 2010 Convention.*

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# Ministers of Grace

Rev. Stan Mantle

I Peter 4:7-11



Our text for tonight is 1 Peter 4:10: *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*

This is wonderful, tremendous, exciting. But to appreciate its richness and better grasp its power, we need to set the scene, explore the context. Peter is writing, as he puts it, to “God’s elect, strangers

*in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.”* (1 Peter 1:1) He is writing to people who in a sense don’t belong. They may have always lived where Peter’s letter finds them, yet their experience is that of a stranger and outsider. Have you ever felt like that?

A natural reaction to that kind of feeling is to withdraw, turn inwards, circle the wagons, form a social ghetto abjuring the world and bravely hold on to the end. This is a strong temptation for the church. But Peter presents a different approach. He reminds his readers that they have been chosen by God *“through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood.”* (1 Peter 1:2b) Peter would have his readers know—and the Lord would have His people today know—that there is a plan and purpose underway which involves a more splendid and greater purpose for us than waiting in the fortress for eventual rescue. To be sure we are to praise God and rejoice for the *“inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven”* (1 Peter 1:4) for us. *Furthermore, we may very well for a little while have to suffer grief in all kinds of trials... in order that our faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.* (1 Peter 1:6b-7)

Through all this we are to understand we are receiving the goal of our faith, the salvation of our souls. We often think of salvation as something which occurs in an instant when in repentance and faith we put our trust in Christ. But it is also a process. We are saved and are being saved.

Peter tells the believers to whom he is writing that the prophets who came before were serving them when they spoke. Similarly, Peter as he wrote was serving not only his 1st century readers but even ourselves, twenty centuries later. This is such a grand mystery—*“Even angels long to look into these things.”* (1 Peter 1:12b)

So, connected to the past, headed for a glorious future, how are we to live in the present? Is the present just an insignificant blip, a tedious tribulation, a tiresome intermission? Not according to Peter. *“Therefore,”* he proceeds, *“prepare your minds for action...”* (1 Peter 1:13) So much for waiting inactively. This is the “Get ready” at the start of a race.

Peter goes on: *“Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”* (1 Peter 1:13b) Look toward the goal. See yourselves crossing the finish line. This is the “Get set” as the runners rise into position, muscles tense, primed to burst forward at the starter’s signal.

“Go!” What is the action that the “Go!” unleashes us to pursue with pumping legs and gulping breath here in the present? *“...just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do...”* exhorts Peter in Chapter 1 verse 15.

Being holy is the race we are called to run, and immediately pictures of pale piety, sour-faced disapproval and frowning rigidity come to mind. But this just shows how successful the enemy’s propaganda has been. The holiness Peter is talking about, the track we are called to run on, is not one of aloof standoffishness. It is not a perch of superiority nor a podium of censure. Interestingly, being holy is presented in such practical down-to-earth terms as: loving one another deeply (1:22), growing up (2:2), doing good (2:12,15), living in freedom (2:16), serving God (2:16), showing proper respect (2:17), submitting to authority (2:18,3:1), suffering for doing good (2:20), having a gentle and quiet spirit (3:4), being considerate (3:7), living in harmony (3:8), being compassionate and humble (3:8), repaying evil with blessing (3:9), keeping our tongues from evil (3:10), turning from evil (3:11), seeking and pursuing peace (3:11), having the same attitude as Christ. (4:1)

This is quite a list, indeed a wonderful list, but it is still general. Specifically, what is holiness to look





like as it is applied and practiced individually? It is here that the theology of gifts supplies an energizing and exciting answer.

The same course, the same areas of service, the same form of ministry is not expected of everyone. To the contrary, each of us is called to make our own unique contribution. The life of holiness, it turns out, is marvellously varied, as varied as the spectacular range of instruments in an orchestra. We all have a part to play, but not the same part.

Considering the action on the field the Lord has in mind for us, as long as it is day, we will observe that in Christ

we are recipients of gifts  
we are ministers of grace, and  
we are revealers of God's glory.

Let's look at each of these in turn.

First, each Christian is the recipient of a spiritual gift or gifts. The Scripture speaks of believers as members of the body of Christ. Just as in the physical body there are many different parts with different functions, so in the body of Christ, each believer has a particular identity and function. And we are equipped to carry out that role.

In his book *S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life*, Erik Rees defines a spiritual gift as "a God-given special ability, given to every believer at conversion by the Holy Spirit, to share his love and strengthen the body of Christ." (p. 34)

The Bible mentions a wide variety of spiritual gifts, and people have developed different lists of them. One such list includes:

*Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discernment, Tongues, Interpretation, Apostleship, Teaching, Helps, Administration, Encouragement, Giving, Leadership, Mercy, Evangelism, Shepherding, Hospitality, Craftsmanship, Intercession, Creative Communication.*

The compiler of this list mentions that it is not considered to be an exhaustive list and that other lists of Spiritual gifts include celibacy, counselling, martyrdom, voluntary poverty and others. Certainly further additions to or deletions from those mentioned might be proposed, but for our purposes tonight the point is that for a believer in Christ, a spiritual gift or gifts are part of your spiritual DNA. "Now to each one the manifestation of the spirit is given for the common good," writes Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:7.

I love the way C.S. Lewis expresses this in his children's classic, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. On their journey the children Peter, Susan and Lucy come across Father Christmas. (Or is it that He comes across them?) "Now for your presents," Father Christmas says (p.108): "They are tools, not toys. The time to use them is perhaps near at hand. Bear them well." To Peter he gives a sword and a shield for fighting in the battle ahead. To Susan he gives a horn to blow in order to summon help when needed. And to Lucy he gives a glass vial containing a special liquid, a few drops of which will revive and restore someone when they are hurt. As the story unfolds we find Peter fighting valiantly and effectively with the sword, Susan sounding the alarm on her horn when danger draws near, and Lucy ministering to the wounded with the precious vial of medicine she has received.

As a Christian you also have been given a special gift. Recipients of gifts, we are to be ministers of grace. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

Here is where the rubber hits the road. In so many areas of life we are eager to get on with things. In childhood, being able to cross the street is a big deal. In adolescence, getting your license and learning to drive is a top priority. A few years later students eagerly anticipate graduation and getting a job. And somewhere in there, the prospect of finding a husband or a wife appears on the radar screen. For Christians the discovery, development and deployment of our spiritual gift or gifts should be right up there with these other milestones. For various reasons, however, this may be blocked or forgotten.

I remember as a teenage boy when my strength came in. With a kind of wonder I found I could do things which would have been completely impossible a short time earlier. I took great pleasure in counting the number of push-ups and sit-ups I could do. For a short time I plied my strength on the wrestling team at school. Discovering and learning to use our spiritual gift should have something of this wonder and enjoyment.

"How do I know what my spiritual gift is?" is a common question. Two ways, I would propose, are experience and feedback. By trying different things, you soon learn what you are good at, and most of us enjoy what we are good at. What do you like doing? What kinds of jobs give you satisfaction in completing and carrying out? Be open to different opportunities and challenges, and see which ones work out the best.

A second way of discovering our spiritual gift or gifts is by the feedback we receive from others. It is





often much easier to recognize other people's gifts than our own. We know when we see someone excelling in a particular area, when for example we see the love of Christ shining through as someone sings or teaches, or the patience and grace with which another organizes an event, or the kindness and compassion with which someone visits the sick, or the sincere warmth and welcome of someone with the gift of hospitality. We readily see the giftedness of others while our own area of blessing may be less clear. Thus the honest feedback of others can help to identify your spiritual gift.

Next, we come to the how of utilizing our gift. We need to remember that our gift is God's grace given to us for a purpose, and that purpose is serving others. Therefore, there is no room for pride in expressing and using our gift. Pride sours the taste, lessens the beauty, ruins the result.

On the other hand it is most appropriate and right to appreciate and be grateful for your gift. Strangely, we are very attracted sometimes to others people's gifts, and wish we had that ability or talent, while downplaying and discounting our own. The Lord would teach us that all the parts of the body are important. Maturity and fulfilment come with accepting our gift and using it on cue as the Lord directs. In an orchestra, the strings, the brass and the woodwinds all have a major role, but what can compare to the tiny triangle, when at just the right moment its exquisite tinkle comes in?

In a very true sense our gift is our assignment. To the Ephesians Paul wrote, *"But to each of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it."* (Eph. 4:7)

There are very real needs in the church and the world to which your gift applies. There are situations which you are shaped to solve. You are made with lines and furrows, grooves and indentations, which precisely correspond to the contours of certain needs or problems. Your configuration is part of the solution to somebody's

puzzle; your key, the one which can help unlock the chain which is keeping another from running free.

Last month at our denomination's annual assembly at a workshop I attended, a man shared an example of what can happen when someone uses their spiritual gift. He said at his church some years ago they needed someone to work with the boys. There was no one to serve, so in desperation rather than conviction, they asked a rather ordinary man if he would run the boy's program for one year. The person telling the story made the point a couple of times that the individual who was asked had no obvious gifts for the assignment. However, he agreed he would do it for a year. After the year was over he said if they liked he would be willing to take it again. And so the man continued to serve year after year for over 20 years. Over the years this humble servant quietly led the boys in his charge to know the Lord. Eventually the deacons' board of that church came to be composed of men this simple boys' club leader had faithfully discipled. By being willing to say, "Yes, ok, I'll give it a try," this man found his gift. And by faithfully sticking at it over the long haul, he made an eternal difference for the boys he served and the Kingdom of God.

Peter writes that we are to faithfully administer God's grace in its various forms. To administer something is to manage, to serve out, dispense. I think of the pharmacist who dispenses various kinds of medicines at the doctor's direction. As believers in Christ, we have been entrusted by God with a particular form of His grace. It will not be good if when He comes, the cupboard of the grace entrusted to us is full and neat and tidy because we never dispensed any, because we were afraid to fail, because we never took the time to open it, become familiar with it and distribute it. *"Who then is the faithful and wise manager,"* Jesus asked, *"whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?"* (Luke 12:42) The answer is that we all are, with respect to the particular gift or grace entrusted to us. *"It will be good," Jesus went on, "for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns."* (Luke 12:43)

There remains to highlight and underline the goal in all this. As much as using our gifts will surely bring us fulfilment and joy, these are not the main aim in our being recipients of gifts and ministers of grace. The overarching purpose is that we should be revealers of God's glory. For God's glory is the purpose behind creation and redemption, and it is the purpose for which we are gifted and commissioned to service.

Now glory is an interesting thing. There is a praise and honour which belongs to what is right and good.





A talent being used, a good deed being done, a word finely spoken—these all have worth and evoke due appreciation. But glory is something greater and higher, something more, something other.

The danger with emphasizing our individual gifts and the unique contribution we each have to make is that the focus can easily switch to ourselves—my gift, my enjoyment of using it, my service for the Lord. The purpose of being revealers of God's glory

calls us to be a part of something much grander and larger. The world says: *"Come and pursue your dream, find yourself and experience fulfillment."* The Lord says:

*Come and follow me,  
Come and bear your cross,  
Come and die.*

How do we reconcile giftedness and the way of sacrifice? How do we understand the joy of expressing our unique giftedness along the path of relinquishment and day-by-day dying to self?

The question is relevant because glory has a necessary component of death and failure, futility and loss. Paul high-lights God's recipe for glory in 1 Corinthians 1:27–28:

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are.

Here we draw near to what God wills to do with us. Our gifts, our ministry, our songs and service, are to display to the world and watching spiritual authorities and powers the glory of God, His grace and compassion, His power and wisdom in bringing beauty out of ugliness, order from disarray and life out of death.

The marching orders for us and the gifts the Lord has given are not a call to fame and fortune, success and adulation, but rather to the long and strange obedience of Isaiah's commission:

*Go and tell this people:  
Be ever hearing but never understanding;  
be ever seeing but never perceiving.  
Make the heart of this people calloused;  
make their ears dull and close their eyes  
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts,*

*and turn and be healed.* (Isaiah 6:9–10)

What are we to make of this? It is not a call to success-oriented ministry, to doing what we find pleasant and congenial. No, what it is, is setting the landscape of wilderness, painting the background of dullness, deadness, and dryness against which God is pleased to display His glory. A shoot from the stump of Jesse, the bleached bones of Ezekiel reassembling, putting on tendons and muscle and flesh, rising and marching in unison as a mighty army, a virgin with child, the Son of God crucified, laid in a tomb, a dud, a fire-cracker which fizzled—but three days later the dud was the Dude who rose from the grave.

Do you glimpse the glory in these story lines? God is the Author and Painter, the Poet who is writing this story. And in Christ He gives each of us a gift. The way His story has gone so far, you can't seriously imagine your gift is just for show.

It doesn't have to be big and flashy. It might just be offering hospitality to someone without grumbling. Do you see the glory there? Anyone can offer hospitality grudgingly, but God's glory is displayed when someone bestows it kindly and willingly as God's grace to another.

I sometimes get frustrated, even angry, when my work gets interrupted, when my schedule gets changed, when my way is blocked, battered, and bent out of shape. I stuff it down in angry silence at God or else rant and rail inwardly of course. But when I do, I am forgetting that God isn't really worried about my work, my schedule or my way. To the contrary, He has given me a privileged role to play in what He is working out, in completing just on time His purposes, in displaying the glory of His way. Thus some dark colours amidst the bright yellows and gorgeous blues are in store, and the plot will not always go as I have envisioned it. He is the Author, not I after all, and God's glory, not human success, is the goal. Just how will God use your gift to display His glory? I don't know, you don't know. That is up to Him. But He has shown us where to start:

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.* (1 Peter 4:10–11)

*This sermon was presented during 2010 Convention.*

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The mid-year meeting of the General Board of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention was held on Friday, November 5, 2010. Twenty members and five guests were present at the meeting that took place in the home of John and Otilia Alac in Brookville, near Guelph, Ontario.

The meeting started very festive with our celebration of Rev. Dan Widlicka's ninetieth and Rev. Joe Novak's eightieth birthday. It has been a great encouragement to hear these dear brethren share few words with the General Board. With the smiles on their faces they were so eager to share with us their work for the Lord and exciting things happening in their ministry. Brothers Dan and Joe are a true testimony that the word "retirement" is obviously man-made. Brethren, we wish you many more years of good health and blessed service for the Lord. If it is Lord's will, we hope to sing for you on your 100<sup>th</sup> as well. And, we are looking forward to the moment our President Dvorak makes us clap 100 times in a row. ☺

As a General Board, we are happy to report that our 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention scheduled

for July 14-17, 2011 is starting to take shape. We plan to have a Tentative Program of next year's convention printed in next issue of *Glorious Hope*. This time we will share that the guest speaker will be John Upton, the newly elected president of Baptist World Alliance.

The theme for next year's Convention is:

**"Decisions of Faith" (Hebrews 11)**

**Enoch's Believing. (Hebrews 11:5-6a)**

**Noah's Building. (Hebrews 11:7)**

**Abraham's Going. (Hebrews 11:8)**

**Moses' Choosing. (Hebrews 11:23)**

The upcoming convention will have a refreshed format with changes to both morning and evening schedule. We encourage you to check the upcoming issues of *Glorious hope* as well as our web site [www.czskbc.org](http://www.czskbc.org) for future updates.

We truly hope that you will mark your calendar to join us July 14-17, 2010.

In His service

*Darko Siracki*

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

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

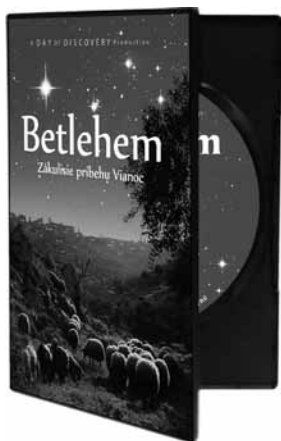
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# Vianočné DVD

## Betlehem: Zákulisie príbehu Vianoc



**N**a Vianoce je dobrým zvykom obdarúvať jeden druhého pekným darčekom a pripomínať si dokonalý Boží dar, ktorý nám bol daný—Pána Ježiša Krista, nášho Spasiteľa. Apoštol Ján to najvýstižnejšie zapísal v Jan 3:16: *Lebo tak Boh miloval svet, že svojho jednorodeného Syna dal, aby nezahynul, ale večný život mal každý, kto verí v Neho.*

Day of Discovery, v produkcii Radio Bible Class Ministries, vydal priliehavé video *Bethlehem: Beyond the Christmas Story*. S ich povolením sme ho v Grace Baptist Church preložili a spolu s našimi partnermi v službe vydali pod názvom **Betlehem: Zákulisie príbehu Vianoc**. Ak spolu so mnou patríte k ľuďom, ktorým sa nikdy nenaskytla príležitosť cestovať do Betlehema a osobne vidieť toto dôležité mesto, teraz máte možnosť dať sa previesť Betlehemom bez toho, aby ste opustili svoju obývačku. V krátkosti predstavím video:

Mestečko Betlehem—miesto, kde sa narodil Ježiš Kristus—láka návštevníkov z celého sveta. A hoci sa narodil pred viac než 2000 rokmi, Jeho posolstvo o Božej láske tu zostáva naveky. Toto video vám predstaví fascinujúce moderné mesto Betlehem, ktoré je kolískou úžasných vianočných udalostí.

Jimmy DeYoung a Bonnie Keenová vás prevedú najdôležitejšími miestami v Betleheme—

od Námestia jasličiek, ktoré leží v srdci mesta, až po Polia pastierov. Sledujte príbeh začínajúci sa pri kráľovi Herodesovi a pokračujúci až k odhaleniu pravého Mesiáša a Kráľa Židovského, Ježiša Krista.

Video trvá 30 minút a do slovenčiny je preložené titulkami. **Na požiadanie vám ho zašleme bezplatne.**

V Grace Baptist Church prekladáme aj ďalšie videá zo série *Day of Discovery*. Video *Ako Boh hovorí? (How God Speaks?)* je už preložené a pripravuje sa na vydanie; pracujeme na preklade videa o siedmich maloázijských zboroch, kde bude predstavený každý zo siedmich zborov v osobitnej epizóde; taktiež pripravujeme veľkonočné video, ktoré nám priblíži Pánove zápasy v Getsemanskej záhrade a na Golgote.

Vianoce sú pred dvermi a toto je čas, keď každý uvažuje o peknom darčeku pre svojich blízkych. Požiadajte o bezplatné DVD alebo informovať sa o našej video prekladateľskej službe môžete na adrese, telefonicky alebo emailom:

Rev. Jan Franka  
Grace Baptist Church  
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### Editorial... Continues from page 3

for that which God has done through this congregation in the lives of individuals, families and for the whole Czech and Slovak community. My children and the children of our larger Christian family grew up here far from home, with the knowledge of our native language and prominent historical figures, such as Jan Hus and Jan Ámos Komenský.

In this issue of *Glorious Hope* you will get the chance to read more about the former Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Toronto. I wonder if God's blessing, which was upon this church and congregation, will have an influence on the occupants of the new apartments being constructed in its place, which I am sure will be lovely. So many prayers were

lifted to God's throne from this place! My desire is that whoever moves into this building will feel God's presence and experience His blessing.

The autumn season is characterized by the giving of thanks, expressing gratitude not only for material gifts supporting our physical existence but also for spiritual gifts.

The Bible's appeal to "*thank God in everything, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus*" (1 Thess. 5:18) is seen in a whole new light.

Editor-in-Chief *Natasha Laurinc*  
Translated by *Elizabeth J. Fields*

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## Marija Siracki

March 4, 1945–October 22, 2010

Marija Siracki was born on March 4, 1945. She was blessed to grow up with a family who knew and loved the Lord. Marija was born to Samuel and Marija Vrska. She was the youngest of three girls. Ana was the oldest and Zuzana was the middle child. It was a very happy home, full of music and laughter. Their father would play the harmonica and the girls would sing. Since she was the baby of the family, her father loved to spoil her and often would have her close to him, place her on his knee, and say, “Marjenka moja!”

Marija would often say that the sisters all had different personalities. When the girls were small and were given candies, Marija would eat all of hers while her sister Zuzka would have one and save the rest for later. Marija would say to her sister, “Look, look, I have none. Let me have some of yours.” Her sister would say, “No, you ate all of yours!”

One night Zuzka and Marija, who were only one year and eight months apart, were sharing a bed and telling scary stories to one another. They got so spooked out that they started to pull the duvet tight around themselves. One sister started to pull it one way and the other sister the other way. Soon enough they managed to rip the duvet in two, and all the down feathers went flying! Their mother rushed in and to her surprise, there were down feathers everywhere!

The sisters were quite close growing up. They started going to the youth events at their church, which was the Baptist church in Backi Petrovec. It was at one of those events that Marija got saved. She was fifteen years old when she received Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour. Soon after that, as the girls got older, boys started to notice the Vrska girls. Although Marija would never admit this, she made the first move. She had been noticing Vladimir at church and she decided to call him and ask him for a ride to the house of her friend, who lived in Ilok, Croatia, which was 35 kilometres away. Vladimir said, “Sure, why not?” He picked her up on his motorbike and away they went. One thing led to another, and they fell in love. Marija was 18 when Vladimir proposed to her that sum-

mer. On October 19, 1963, they were married. Before they were married, Marija had decided to go to the city to take an administrative assistant course. She learned how to type and then went out and got a job as a secretary. A year after they were married, they had their first child, Mirjana. They loved being first-time parents and took her everywhere. Six years later their son Darko was born. Years went by and many friendships were made through their local assembly in Novi Sad. They served the Lord in that assembly for many years and then came to Canada in 1991. They left everything, their beautiful apartment, good jobs and many friends and family. They wanted to live closer to their daughter’s family, while avoiding the war in former Yugoslavia that threatened to draft their only son. Marija had a love of family. She was pivotal in bringing the family together and organizing family events. Since moving to Canada they attended Turner Road Bible Chapel. Marija got involved with food groups and the Decorating Committee. She enjoyed creating beautiful flower arrangements, as well as decorating her own home. Marija enjoyed new friendships that were made in Canada, and was very happy when her oldest sister, Ana, decided to move to Canada after a visit sixteen years ago.

My grandmother (starka) had a beautiful smile. As she was going through her fight with cancer, it was so encouraging to see that lifting joy on her face that only Jesus can give. The doctors and nurses were all impacted by this patient that seemed to get happier as her situation worsened. Through all the stages of her cancer, she would not hesitate to remind us of her readiness to meet her Saviour. Marija’s peace gave evidence towards her great faith. It was painful to watch her suffer for so long, but now she is with her Great Physician in heaven; now she is truly healed of all her earthly troubles. It was a privilege to know Marija and to be her granddaughter. She loved us so much! We will miss her words of encouragement, and her closeness and presence in our daily lives.

I miss her beautiful smile already but she now has a smile that will never leave her face, and I can’t help but be grateful to the Lord for that

*Andrea (Lamos) Turner, Granddaughter.*







**A**s a family we are deeply touched by the number of people that came to celebrate Marija's life with us both yesterday and today. Thank you for the countless emails, phone calls and cards; it has been overwhelming. The thoughts you shared with us last night only reiterated the legacy that Marija built and left behind. Mom suffered a lot in the last six years, but no matter how difficult it got, no matter how many different cancers and negative news she encountered, her faith only got stronger. Her faith in her Lord showed in her ever broader and deeper smile.

Mom wasn't able to speak in her last few months of life, but you who had a chance to visit with her will agree with me that she never stopped witnessing. "Big Smile," as some nurses and doctors called her, kept showing God's love and His peace up to the last minutes before she fell into a coma that she never came out of. Mom proved to all of us that you do not need a voice to speak about your Lord and Saviour.

May I encourage you to remember her when you face an illness or a difficulty in your life. Put your trust in the Lord, cast your care upon Him and no matter how hard it gets, there is no reason for a believer not to have a smile on his or her face. Sure it is hard, but now you know it has been done before. Your smile will encourage many and show God's love to all.

I will leave you with a poem that I cannot get out of my head ever since Mom went to be with the Lord. The poem reads: Some people come into our lives and quickly go, some stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same.

I hope Marija did enter your life too, and that she stayed a while. Because I know if she did, just like ours, your life will never be the same.

Thank you,  
Darko Siracki

## George Zajicek Miles

December 8, 1928–September 26, 2010

**G**eorge was the son of the late Joseph and Olga Zajicek and the brother of Doreen and Esther.

He is survived by his wife Joan and his sons, Dana (Maryann), Ron (Edie), and Kevin; and his seven grandchildren, Britton, Katie, Trenton, Hillary, Zachary, Lucas, and Melanie.

His family meant the world to him, spending time at Pawley's Island, holidays in Florida with friends, and time spent in North Carolina with Doreen and John and Harry and Esther.

He enjoyed many things... especially Canadian hockey. He taught his boys, his grandsons and daughters-in-law to appreciate the wonderful world of hockey.

Going through some old pictures, we saw George with friends from the Toronto Czechoslovak Church that were part of his young adult years. To name some... Don Buress, who later became his brother-in-law, Stan Yahoda, Jerry Poloch, Vena Hynek, Bill Springle, and Tony Springle, who would loan George his car on occasion!

Even though George, Joan and family lived a distance from us, we were close in our hearts and minds. George is missed by all of us who loved him. His smile, gentle manner and love for us are what we will keep in our hearts.

*Doreen Gazo and Esther Tarr, sisters*

*Smile because he lived. You can shed tears that he is gone, or you can smile because he lived.*

*You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back, or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left.*

*Your heart can be empty because you can't see him, or you can be full of the love that you shared.*

*You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.*

*You can remember him and only that he is gone, or you can cherish his memory and let it live on.*

*You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn back, or you can do what he would want.*

*Smile, open your eyes, love and go on.*

Author unknown





# Our Churches

## Grace Baptist Windsor 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Weekend



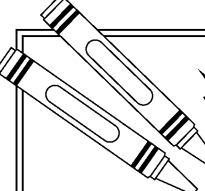
Grace Baptist celebrated their 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary November 13-14, 2010. Following a delicious banquet, Rev. Larry Forsyth, previous pastor at Leamington Baptist Church and now chaplain for a newly developed Community Palliative Care team, spoke at the Saturday night service from Matthew 13:47ff on *"The Kingdom Net."* Special music was provided by the Lamos sisters—Andrea, Sara, Monica and Nicole. Pastor Forsyth ministered again on Sunday at both Slavic and English services, speaking on "You Can't Look Back and Keep the Furrow Straight," and the blessing that, going all the way back to Abraham, is in our spiritual DNA. Larry reminded us that the Church is to be a blessing to the people around

us. A short video showed three cars going by a fourth one that had broken down. The point was driven home when the three cars that hadn't stopped all pulled into a church parking lot for Sunday morning worship. The Lamos sisters ministered beautifully in song again on Sunday which, with friends and guests who joined us for the weekend, made it like a mini Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. We thank God for his wonderful faithfulness to us over the past 83 years, and pray by His grace that we may continue to share the Good News of the Gospel with the wonderful people from around the world that He is sending us.

Pastor Stan Mantle



# Children's Corner



## PUZZLE

### From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

1. Good	Righteousness
2. Death	Children
3. Go	Life
4. Evil	Come
5. Adults	Bad

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are \_\_\_\_\_, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV  
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of \_\_\_\_\_." John 8:12, NIV  
(2)

"I have \_\_\_\_\_ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV  
(3)

"For what do \_\_\_\_\_ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV  
(4)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as \_\_\_\_\_ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV  
(5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children



When asked to write a small report on this year's convention, I didn't hesitate. This was my first visit to the convention and I would like to share my impressions:

However, let's start with few words about us. My wife Elizabeth and I live in Novi Sad, Serbia. This summer we are visiting our friends Maja and Darko Siracki. Before we arrived to Philippi we didn't know much about the meeting, except that it is a part of Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. My wife and I are involved in organizing of the annual Baptist convention at our church in Novi Sad and we know that organizing take lot of effort.



Once we arrived, one of the first impressions was that it was the convention with a smaller attendance. Someone mentioned to me that this was somewhat expected after last year's Centennial Celebration that was attended by 300 delegates. Personally I prefer smaller conventions, because this allows delegates to get to know each other better and build the closer relationships.

I really enjoyed the fact that there were few youth meetings organized, including all day trio to Audra Park. This trip was an excellent opportunity for young people to create deeper friendships. Another great thing was the willingness of Vlasic and Sommer families to open the door for youth and delegates of the convention.

Messages and the subject of spiritual gifts are always welcomed, especially in these times when many Christians, due to personal comfort, "choose to live a passive spiritual life. I am sure that many of us listeners did answer the calls and challenges that were given during the conventions.

After my first convention, I cannot say that I feel "at home", however I am convinced that many I meet at the convention feel exactly that. I do feel very blessed that we had an opportunity to attend and feel the warm fellowship.

*Predrag Vidicki*

□



## Editorial... Pokračování ze strany 3

děti naší velké Boží rodiny daleko od domova se znalostí mateřského jazyka a dědictví otců, jako je Jan Hus a Jan Ámos Komenský.

V tomto čísle Slavné naděje se dočtete více o bývalém Československém baptistickém kostele v Torontě. Přemýšlím, zda-li Boží požehnání, které spočívalo nad obecnstvím tohoto kostela, se přeneso také na ty, kteří si zakoupí byt v nově vzniklém bytovém komplexu, který bude určitě krásný. Tolik modliteb se vzneslo k Božímu trůnu z tohoto

místa! Přeji si, aby každý, kdo se tam nastěhuje, cítil Boží přítomnost a požehnání.

Období podzimu je charakterizováno vzdáváním díky. Nejen za dary hmotné, týkající se naší existence, ale také za dary a hodnoty duchovní.

Biblická výzva: „Ze všeho díky číňte, nebo ta jest vůle Boží v Kristu Ježíši při vás,“ (1 Thess. 5:18) zní naprosto v jiných dimenzích.

*Nataša Laurincová*  
šéfredaktorka

□



As I sat before my computer preparing for this year's convention rally, my life seemed to be in turmoil and the fiery darts of spiritual warfare were coming fast and furious! I was anticipating knee surgery (which didn't happen PTL!), I had been involved in a minor car accident, the oven wasn't working, a good friend had just finished chemo and then had a mastectomy—you know those periods in life when there just seems to be too much going on...

So I stopped planning and just asked the Lord to lead me and send me some enlightenment, something to get me through the valley. And I'd like to share with you what the Lord gave me...

In Chapter 7 of Judges we read how Gideon defeated the Midianites as a result of his obedience to the Lord. In the 13th verse we read about a dream that one of the men had before the battle.

7:13 *"I had a dream," he was saying, "A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed."*

Judges 7:15 *"When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation [fortelling Israel's victory against the Midianites], he worshiped God."*

Why did he worship God? Because the Lord had given the Midianite camp into Israel's hands. Israel won the battle!

What does God want you to do right before you face a battle? What does He want you to do right before you go onto the operating table? Or right before you fight a case in court? Or right before you have a confrontation with your boss?



God wants you to worship Him. You are staring at your impossible battle and you're worried. God gently holds your chin, tilts it up until your eyes meet His. He says—Look at me. Magnify me. I am larger than your battle. I am here to prosper you, not to harm you.

If you are facing a battle today, make some quiet time with your Heavenly Father. Look up to Him. Worship Him. He will fight your battles, and before you know it, the battle will be won! □



## Attention Ladies

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

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

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



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

Saturday, July 10, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Deb Mulder. Judy Shoff was asked to open the meeting in prayer.

Deb welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Dottie Kvasnica and Miriam Racinsky read the Scripture passages, Psalm 29:2, 99:5, and 5:7, and 1 Chronicles 16:29, after which the congregation was led in the singing of several worship songs.

Deb led in the responsive reading and then shared some of her meditations concerning some life-struggles over the past months. Then we sang together the worship song "Come Let us Worship and Bow Down."

A special organ solo was played by Dottie.

Deb opened the Business Meeting by reading the minutes from the previous year. The minutes were accepted by unanimous consent.

Marija presented the Treasurers' Reports from both Canada and the U.S., in the absence of the Canadian representative. It was decided that the monetary gifts given to the Women's Missionary Society would be divided by percentages toward our projects since we are unable to estimate the offerings for the year. This was accepted enthusiastically.

Jane Widlicka led in prayer for God's blessings upon the

offering, and Dottie blessed us again with a beautiful organ solo.

Marija introduced our speaker, whom she has known for the past 20 years, first as a student at Alderson-Broadus. Kareen Villars was born in Morgantown. Her dad was a Baptist minister, and she was the second of three daughters. She and her husband moved



back to Philippi only yesterday, where he will be serving as pastor of the First Baptist Church. Kareen will also serve at Alderson-Broadus as director of Student Orientation.

Kareen introduced herself as one who "was a PK (preacher kid), married a PK, and is now a PW (preacher wife) with four PKs." She is from a long line of Baptist pastors and shared her story beginning with her childhood memories of growing

up as a pastor's kid, as well as expectations put on her as a pastor's wife. Throughout her life journey she has found comfort and encouragement in the familiar verses of Matthew 6:33-4: *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

Marija and Deb presented our speaker with a lovely afghan with the Czechoslovak Convention logo woven into the fabric, and the book *Be Joyful in the Lord*.

Our closing hymn was "Blessed Be the Name," and Deb closed the meeting with the benediction.

Respectfully submitted, *Judy Shoff*  
(Secretary pro tem)

□





My friend, my piano teacher from long ago, my brother in the Christian faith – Joseph A. Cech—died October 23, 2010, at his home in Downers Grove, IL, a suburb to the west of Chicago. All his life, the Chicago area housed Joe. He loved the city, and a lot of people around the city thought the world of him.

Joe taught generations of kids wonderful things about music, most specifically about keyboard instruments. He was at home on them all, although I admit to having difficulty picturing Joe seated very comfortably at all at an electronic keyboard. He would have simply overpowered such a setup.

Joe was a child of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. He came from a family that had ties to the old Emmanuel Bohemian Baptist Church on Trumbull Avenue, later Lawndale Avenue, on Chicago's west side. That was a congregation founded by my grandfather, Vaclav Hlad, so I was always intrigued by the comings and goings of this larger-than-life Joe Cech.

When Joe was a teenager, he became director of the large choir at Emmanuel Church, succeeding the late Paul Tucek, who was another bright light in the heritage of convention music some years back. When Joe, as a very young man, proved himself, demonstrating that he could handle the choir (and listen—members then of that church had plenty of unhesitating opinions), he went on to take over direction of the church orchestra and many other musical ensembles. That was true at Emmanuel and at a number of other Chicago-area churches subsequently.

When Joe passed a few weeks ago, he still had some dozen or so piano students. He was 96 years old. He never quit! Always the teacher, always a mentor. And he continued to play for churches and in worship settings of various kinds whenever asked, which happened plenty often. One does not retire from serving God and the Lord's people with whatever gifts can be brought into the community of faith.



Some years ago while I was pastor of a church north of Chicago, Joe used to come regularly there for singing and performance events. He played wonderful sacred and classical pieces, always with enthusiasm and a certain—well, what shall we call it – vigorous command of the piano. If the music score from which Joe was playing a given piece called for forte or fortissimo, you can be sure that Joe was only too willing to accommodate the composer. Joe could play decisively. He soon became a beloved and favorite personality to that church in Winnetka, IL, where he is remembered fondly to this day.

One thing is for sure: Joe had focus throughout his life, on the Lord and on the talent God had given him. He brought those two things together really well – faith and life. And it worked. Joe blessed a lot of people. That's the job each of us has – throughout the years of a lifetime, to merge all the magnificent things we have come to believe about God in Christ, our redeemer, with all the personal abilities built into us by the Lord, our creator, and then with all our strength to do whatever it is that we may be able to do for him and for others.

I'm so proud of this man who was a son of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. He never forgot his roots, even if he was unable most of the time to participate directly in the larger national life of the convention. He enjoyed its people, treasured memories of a lot of folk, and embraced the heritage of a gospel-honoring convention.

Joe Cech belonged to us, and we to him! That, after all, is the great arrangement of this convention, during life and afterward. Even those who have gone home to the Lord are still at home in our hearts. Every one of them, whoever they were and whatever they did.

Peace be to the memory of Joe Cech and to many other of our saints.

*Robert Dvorak*

Robert Dvorak

## Donations

Mail your US contributions in enclosed envelopes. Do not mail them to Detroit address!!!

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

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

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

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

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

☞ If you are sending contributions for **Convention** (Convention,

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

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

### USA:

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

### Canada:

Henry Pojman  
1305 Inglehart Dr  
Burlington, ON L7M 4X6





# Convention Echoes in Pictures Part 2



J. Franka, D. Shoff, S. Mantle, P. Abrman, preparation for Communion



Bob Dvorak



Jud Bracey



Fellowship at the Sommers



Fellowship at the Sommers



Antony Vahala



Ladies' meeting



General Board meeting



Emil Dors, Bob Karhan



Kristina Lomen, Marija Sommer



Kristina Vlasic



Worship





*Save the date July 14-17, 2011, Philippi, West Virginia.*

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