

Glorious Hope Slavná naděje

Vol. 37, N° 6, 2011

Ročník 37, číslo 6, 2011

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace..." Luke 2:14

„Sláva na výsostech Bohu
a na zemi pokoj...." Lukáš 2:14

„Sláva na výsostiach Bohu
a na zemi pokoj..."

Lukáš 2:14



Contents

Editorial—Natasha Laurinc	3
From the President—Robert Dvorak	4
Did You Know that Czechoslovak Baptist Convention Was Held	5
The Ministry of Proclamation—Neville Callam.....	6
Milostí zahrnutá Marie a její víra—Miloš Šolc ml.	8
Youth Scene—Dr. Josef Solc.....	10
Ladie's Page—Natasha Laurinc.....	12
Stránka sester —Nataša Laurincová.....	13
Interviews—102 nd Convention:/Rozhovory—102.konvence:	
Jane and Rev. Daniel Widlicka	14
Bernie Racinsky	16
In Memory—Joseph Hynek.....	18
News from the Mission Field:	
The Vahalas.....	20
Ruby Mikulencak	21
The Poenarus	22
Children's Corner.....	23

Convention Mission Statement

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

Misijní poslání konvence

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

Glorious Hope/Slavná naděje

Volume 37, № 6, 2011

(USPS 009334), ISSN 0700-5202

Published Bi-Monthly by

The Czechoslovak Baptist Convention
of USA and Canada.

Periodical postage paid in Detroit, MI.

Editor-in-Chief: Natasha Laurinc

email: natasha.laurinc@sympatico.ca

You may send articles to above address.

Desktop publishing and art: Vit Malek

Assistant Editors: Janice Cermak, Ondrej Laurinc, Ph.D.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Publication Office:

Glorious Hope / Slavná naděje

P.O. Box 441516, Detroit, MI 48244 USA.

email: info@czskbc.org

WWW.CZSKBC.ORG

NEW LOCATION!
ALLEGHENY COLLEGE
MEADVILLE, PA

SAVE THE DATE
JULY 5-8, 2012



103rd Czechoslovak Baptist Convention
www.czskbc.org

Covers: *The NEWSLETTER Newsletter®* photos
Photography: Dusko Pilic, George Sommer



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



Changes in the Convention

As we take a look back through the years that the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of USA and Canada has existed, we see many blessings. These blessings accompany the convention's present life like an honourable escort to a valuable person.

Apparently, it would be difficult to gauge how many people were involved in the activities of this community. Some stood in the front while others worked supportively behind the scenes. Others were most likely not even known or heard about, though without their help and dedication the convention would not have become what it is today. The convention itself has gone through many phases. Each phase is identified by something specific. Gradually, this convention has taken on a different look. The format of services changed, and language usage also became different. English became the main language used, while the Slovak and Czech languages took a back seat. Changes always go hand in hand with the times. Those who have lived through all these changes could tell us about them. One thing remains unchanged. It is God's love

towards man revealed through Jesus Christ. This love was at the beginning, at the founding of this convention. It carried the convention through all the times and changes it went through. It binds all its members and others into one huge whole. In the name of this love much has been accomplished, and much is being done and will be accomplished in the future. God's love for us isn't influenced by the passing phases of time, and doesn't succumb to society's trends. This love has caused many people to be touched by the distribution of *Glorious Hope* magazine since 1917.

As we enter into a new calendar year we are surely aware of the closeness of God's love. This love binds us to responsibility in every avenue of our lives. It binds us to responsibility towards our convention and its medial source, *Glorious Hope*.

Those who are keenly aware of the proximity of the love of God and the responsibility from its source experience overwhelming gratitude – gratitude that we are what we are by the grace of God. And our work is not in vain, thanks to the grace of God. *"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them – yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me,"* (1 Cor. 15:10).

Editor-in-Chief Natasha Laurinc
Translated by Elizabeth Jane Fields



Proměny konvence

Při ohlédnutí zpět na uplynulá léta existence Československé konvence baptistů v USA a Kanadě vnímáme mnohá požehnání. Tato požehnání provází život konvence jako čestný doprovod vzácnou osobnost.

Pravděpodobně se již nepodaří vycíslit, kolik lidí se podílelo na činnosti tohoto společenství. Některí stáli v popředí, jiní podporovali práci v pozadí. O dalších se snad ani nevědělo, přesto by se bez jejich vlivu a oddanosti konvence nestala tím, cím je dnes. Konvence sama o sobě prošla mnohými fázemi. Každá fáze se vždy něčím specifickým vyznačovala. Postupně takto konvence získávala novou podobu. Měnily se formy bohoslužby, došlo k jazykovým změnám. Anglický jazyk se stal jazykem hlavním, slovenština i čeština ustoupily do pozadí. Přeměny jdou vždy ruka v ruce s dobou. O tom by nám mohli vyprávět pamětníci. Jedno však zůstává beze změny. Je to láska Boží k člověku, zjevená v Pánu Ježíši

Kristu. Tato láska byla na počátku, při zakládání konvence. Provázela konvenci přes všechna období, kterými tato prošla. Pojí všechny členy konvence i nyní v jeden ohromný celek.

Ve jménu této lásky se mnoho vykonalo, stále se koná a ještě konat bude. Boží láska k člověku není ovlivněna probíhajícími fázemi, nepodléhá trendům společnosti. Tato láska způsobila, že je mnoho lidí oslobováno prostřednictvím časopisu *Slavná naděje* již od roku 1917.

Se vstupem do dalšího kalendářního roku jistě vnímáme přítomnost Boží lásky. Tato láska nás zavazuje k odpovědnosti ve všech oblastech našich životů. Zavazuje nás k odpovědnosti za naši konvenci a mediální nástroj konvence, *Slavnou naději*.

Kdo vnímá přítomnost Boží lásky a zodpovědnost z toho pramenící, jistě prožívá nesmírnou vděčnost. Vděčnost za to, že člověk je to, co je, z milosti Boží. A práce není marná, díky Boží milosti.

„Boží milostí jsem ale to, co jsem, a jeho milost ke mně nevyšla naprázdno. Pracoval jsem více než oni všichni, avšak ne já, ale Boží milost, která je se mnou.“ (1. Kor. 15; 10)

Nataša Laurincová, šéfredaktorka

From the President



When John the Baptizer was introducing Jesus to partisans who came out from Jerusalem to the Jordan River for baptism, he also entertained questioners and doubters who wanted to know what his own role in the Messiah story was. “John, are you by any chance the one we’re hoping will get the nation back on track?” No! John was not that one. He did not hesitate to say so, nor did he wish that his answer could be “yes.” No, declared this John born of Elizabeth and Zechariah, someone else is yet coming; hang on. He is incomparable! He is everything! Wait. And when further pressed regarding whom he was referring to, John came up with a succinct response, a simple one-liner, that bore all the marks of a Word of God and that put the issue in perspective not only for that particular moment but for all time. *From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.* You’ll find that in the Gospel of John 1:16, and it is what we live by and what God stands behind forever.

This “fullness” of Christ means, I suppose, a maxed-out limit—that there is no further room to squeeze into his personality anything more of goodness, blessing, compassion, kindness, purposefulness, or love. He is all—and more—than what we and the world could ever have hoped for. And, from his infinite capacity to supply every need we have, there comes an experience like receiving “grace upon grace” flooding into our lives. The real meaning of the statement should be read more like: “grace upon grace upon grace upon grace, upon and upon and upon,” until we can almost bear it no longer.

Scripture wants everyone to know that God so loved this world that he gave his only begotten son, and he came full of grace and truth—ablaze in light and glory, eager to assume a human identity, and opening a pathway ahead through this life right on into the next. Grace upon grace! And taking us into the very heart of the family of God, removing sin and shortcomings from our record, giving us a certain partnership role with him in building the Kingdom of God. Grace upon grace! Summoning the best out of every single day that we live, telling us that what we do and who we are matters, granting us purposefulness beyond simply getting by in this world. Grace upon grace!

Christ pours out continually and forever the abundance of God’s best gifts. We are taken care of, and we will ultimately be brought forward by him to God the Father. What we hear in John 1:16 is that “grace upon grace” is intended to stay by us forever. It is what breaks through every limitation and obstacle, in time and eternity.

Do I ever hang onto that last sentence as I think about the work of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention. Grace upon grace “breaks through.” That is both our witness through more than a century now and the promise we are sure of for the years that lie ahead so long as God give us time to do his works.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Dvorak".

Robert Dvorak



Last issue of GH, page 15:

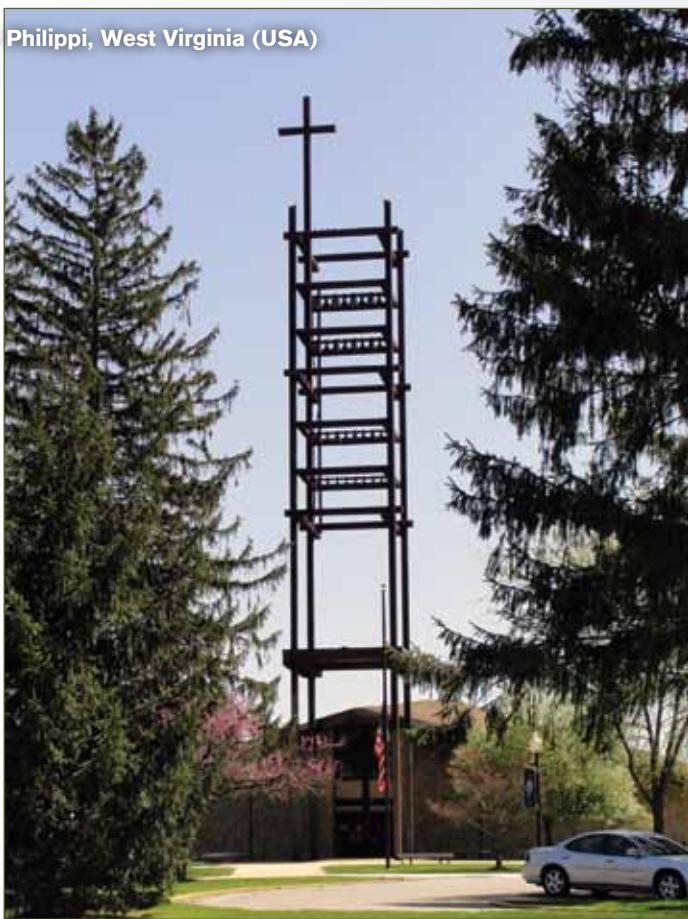
Name LORRA McCURRING should be LAURA McEWEN.

Please accept apology from Editors.



Did you know that Czechoslovak Baptist Convention was held:

Philippi, West Virginia (USA)

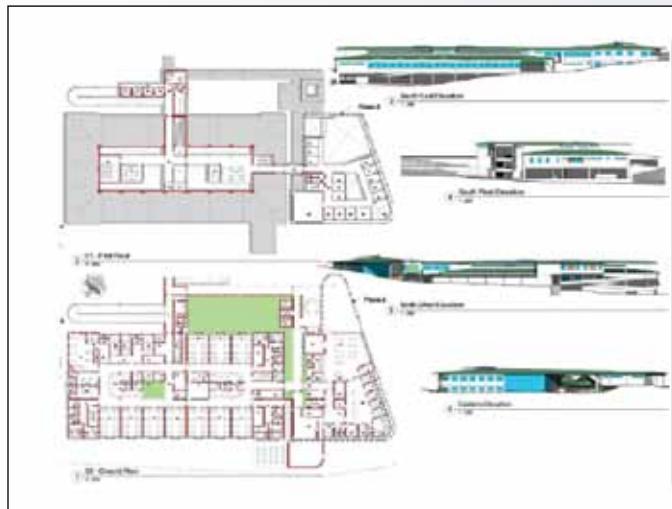


- 22 times in Philippi, West Virginia (USA),
- 14 times in Chicago, Illinois, and in Cleveland, Ohio (USA),
- 8 times in Campbell, Ohio (USA), and Minitonas, Manitoba (Canada),
- 5 times in Toronto, Ontario (Canada),
- 4 times in Windsor, Ontario (Canada), and Minneapolis, Minnesota (USA),
- 3 times in Detroit, Michigan (USA), and Union City, Pennsylvania (USA)?

Poenaru Post... Continues from page 22

theology & international development, and doing research on the burden of pediatric surgical disease in Africa.

BethanyKids Update



Much has happened at BethanyKids recently. The work in Kijabe continues unabated, though financial constraints limit our opportunities to expand to more surgeries. The new wing

project at Kijabe will go ahead, but in a phased fashion to allow us to remain within our budget.

The work in Madagascar continues through Dr. Heuric, and we hope, God willing, to start in Ethiopia in late 2012. Any gifts towards these worthy and exciting projects are very welcome – please check our website www.BethanyKids.org.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers, encouragement and your generous gifts to our ministry throughout 2011.

Christmas reminds us that the great act of salvation had to take place here on earth, through God entering history in a very humble and vulnerable human being, in the form of a helpless babe. As we devote our lives trying to mend such little, vulnerable lives in Africa, we take such encouragement in knowing that God Almighty himself took such an uncommon road.... “Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering.... the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed,” (Isaiah 53:4,5).

May God richly bless you this Christmas with His love and presence.

Dan, Dita, Daniel and Chris

The Ministry

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

(Romans 10:15; cf. Isaiah 52:7)

BWA's ministry plan for 2011-2012 focuses on the theme, Hear the Spirit: Proclamation.

The church is called to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God. It does this through verbal witness—spoken and written—whereby the word of God is shared with others. It does this through prophetic social action whereby the truth of God is made plain for people to see. And it does this through faithful participation in the sacraments/ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, which dramatically convey the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Proclamation is perceived in different ways. Some persons confine proclamation to its oral and verbal dimensions, understood merely as the use of words. Proclamation is principally the preaching of the gospel, often asserted with reference to the biblical text, "How shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14).

The preached word remains an important responsibility for those called to the pastoral ministry. And the preached word must be accompanied by the shared word, committed participation by each Christian in bearing oral witness to the good news of the kingdom of God, and the written word by those believers gifted to communicate the gospel through this medium.

The audible and legible proclamation of "God's word" (1 Thess. 2:13) is incumbent on those who name Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The life of the church rests on, and is nourished by, the proclamation of the gospel. The proclamation of the good news of the kingdom is critical to the vocation of the church and its members.

To fulfill this ministry of proclamation, we need to hear the Spirit, who leads us into knowledge of the truth. The Spirit empowers us to declare the message of the saving love of Christ, and emboldens us to speak truth to power, and to say a prophetic word in situations where others see no need for such a word.

Sometimes words are not enough. Some Christians explain that an effective program of proclamation must include the service of both word and deed. They point out that in some contexts where the need for proclamation is evident, people may best receive the good news when it is conveyed in action rather than solely in speech. In such situations, action reflects undeniably the selflessness and love that bear salutary witness to the love of God modeled by our Lord Jesus. Our Lord calls us to a ministry marked by our identifying with people in need and our engaging in action to liberate and empower them to overcome whatever represents an assault on their dignity.

To fulfill the ministry of proclamation by deed, we need to hear



of Proclamation

the Spirit. It is the Spirit who quickens us to discern the ways in which we need to bear witness to Christ. It is the Spirit who enables us to dare take the bold steps that are required to help people in need. Because they see in our action the manifestation of the values we claim to believe, they are better able both to understand the message we preach and to take seriously the message we announce. By the grace of God, some will come to God earnestly seeking, and faithfully accepting, that precious gift that leads to eternal life. Word and deed become vehicles through which to communicate the life-transforming message—the message we have received and desire others to know.

And so the gospel message is proclaimed through the verbal, that is the oral/written medium, and also through social action. As well, the proclamation may take the form of liturgical signs that have been performed in and by the church from its earliest days. Especially through baptism and the Lord's Supper, the church offers a powerful proclamation of the kingdom of God. Christians heed the call to proclaim the gospel when they participate in the sacred activities of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism fulfils its declarative role as a means of proclamation of the good news about what God has done, is doing, and will do, for all who, by faith, enter into the fellowship of the people of God. The baptized declare the promise of faithful participation in the divine mission that Christ committed to the church.

The Lord's Supper is a means of proclaiming the good news about what God has

done, is doing, and will do for all who, by God's grace, become members of the body of Christ, the church. In gathering with others in the community of faith, the baptized covenants with God and with others to participate in God's mission through the church and seals this covenant in the sacred meal.

As with verbal communication of the gospel and with social action in expression of this gospel, we need to hear the Spirit in order to fulfill this ministry of proclamation through the celebration of the sacraments. It is the Spirit that convicts us of sin and guides us into all truth so that we become recipients of the gift of salvation (John 16:8, 13). Through baptism, the Spirit deals a death blow to sin and performs the life-giving miracle whereby the baptized might be described as people who are "risen with Christ." It is the Spirit who makes the risen Lord present to us in Holy Communion.

Words are a powerful vehicle of communication. So too are complementary social action and liturgical action. Yet in a world in which words have such powerful effects, many people remain unimpressed by what we say. Our words are buried under the weight of the hypocrisy we exhibit. And even when our deeds of kindness and acts of love penetrate the hardness of a skeptical and weary world, sometimes they are still not enough.

There is another way in which we may also declare the praises of the one who calls us out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9): our world is in need of people whose virtuous life brings rich melody where cacophonous noise torments us in the caverns of daily life. We know that the

truth of the saving message of Jesus Christ does not depend for its efficacy on our words, actions and character. These are but signs of the response we make to the news of the kingdom of God. Yet for those who do not believe, it is often not so much what we say but who we are that will lead them to a life-transforming encounter with the risen Lord. The times in which we live require of Christians nothing less than our leading a holy life that can support the credibility of the fundamental religious claim that we make. The people of God are to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:16).

To fulfill this ministry of proclamation, we need to hear the Spirit. It is the Spirit who enables our walk in holiness and righteousness before God. Because people are able to detect consistency between our word and our life, some observers will take seriously the gospel message we announce. By the grace of God, they will come to God earnestly seeking and faithfully accepting that precious gift that leads to eternal life.

The community of Christ's faithful people needs to keep asking, "Does our life together model the sort of relations, and reflect the values, that are proper to the kingdom of God?" And individual Christians may need to engage in the self-examination that leads us to understand the extent to which we, in every sphere of our lives, bear consistent witness to the one who is our Lord and Savior.

Excerpt from Hear the Spirit: Proclamation

By Neville Callam,
General Secretary BWA



Milostí zahrnutá Marie a její víra

„Bud' zdráva, milostí zahrnutá, Pán s tebou. Požehnaná mezi ženami.“ (Luk.1; 28)

Těžko se dovedeme vžít do pocitů Marie, když se jí zjevil anděl. Kdo z lidí by byl na takovou situaci připraven? Vše bylo naprosto neočekávané. A co andělův zvláštní pozdrav? Na slovech „bud' zdráva!“ sice nebylo nic zvláštního, jednalo se o běžné pozdravení, ale slova „milostí zahrnutá... požehnaná mezi ženami“ byla nanejvýš překvapivá. Nutně musela způsobit, že se Marie zarazila.

Jak tomu všemu měla rozumět? Jistě nemohla pochybovat o tom, že je Pán Bůh milostivým Bohem a že je i ona osobně zahrnutá Boží milostí. Již to, že patřila do vyvoleného Božího lidu byla milost, a co víc, byla z Davidova královského rodu.

Také skutečnost, že měla snoubence, byla projevem Boží milosti. Co vše další jí ještě mohlo v té chvíli proběhnout hlavou! Ano, byla „zahrnutá Boží milostí“! Ale i jiné dívky kolem ní byly na tom podobně! Bylo zde však andělské zjevení a andělova slova „požehnaná mezi ženami“ bezpochyby znamenala něco výjimečného.

Není se co divit, že se nad těmi slovy Marie zarazila a že o nich musela uvažovat. A pak anděl pokračoval: *„Hle, počneš a porodiš syna a dáš mu jméno Ježíš. Ten bude veliký a bude nazván synem Nejvyššího a Pán Bůh mu dá trůn jeho otce Davida.. Na věky bude kralovat nad rodem Jakobovým a jeho království nebude konce.“*

Nyní již Marie rozuměla, co bylo za andělským zjevením a za jeho slovy o zahrnutí milostí a požehnaností mezi ženami.

Právě ona měla porodit zaslíbeného Mesiáše! Právě ona byla tou vyvolenou, při které se měla naplnit starozákonní zaslíbení. Právě ona to byla, kterou nebeský Otec vybral z nespočetného zástupu izraelských žen, aby se stala matkou Spasitele světa. To pro Boží rozhodnutí měla mít zcela bezprostřední podíl na podivuhodném díle spásy lidstva skrze Pána Ježíše Krista.

Marie se neubránila otázce, jak se to vše stane, vždyť nežije s mužem! Jak by mohla porodit děťátko? A tak slyšela andělovo vysvětlení: „*Sestoupí na tebe Duch svatý a moc Nejvyššího tě zastíní; proto i tvé dítě bude svaté a bude nazváno Syn Boží.*“ A hned anděl dodal, že se i při její příbuzné Alžběté děje něco neobyčejného, neboť přes své stáří je těhotná, protože „*u Boha není nic nemožného*“.

Nevíme, kolik času následovalo po andělových slovech, než Marie řekla slova, která se stala jedněmi z nejznámějších mezi biblickými výroky: „*Hle, jsem služebnice Páně; staň se mi podle tvého slova.*“

Co vše mohlo proběhnout hlavou Marie při slyšení všeho toho neočekávaného?

Byla sice zaslíbena Josefově, ale bezpochyby velice mladá, nepřipravená na mateřství. A co teprve úloha stát se matkou zaslíbeného Mesiáše! Mohla si také klást otázku, co řekne jejímu mateřství její snoubenec a vůbec lidé v okolí! A to si samozřejmě mohla klást otázky, co vše na ni čeká v budoucnosti. Poměrně brzy pak přišlo hodě nepředvídatelné: taková cesta do Betléma v těhotenství, nebo neochota lidí poskytnout přístřeší, útek s nemluvnětem do Egypta... A když jsme u možného domýšlení situace, možná, že ji napadla otázka, jak si poradí s „výchovou“ Syna Božího v lidské rodině! A při náročnosti Mariina úkolu si poukažme na ten nejnesnadnější okamžik jejího života—na její mateřské utrpení pod křížem. Simeon ji později na tuto skutečnost poukázal slovy: „*....tvou vlastní duši pronikne меč...*“

I s námi má Pán Bůh svůj zcela jedinečný plán. Tak, jako nikdo jiný nemohl naplnit poslání Marie, nikdo nemůže naplnit ani poslání naše.

Předpokládali bychom, že Marie vyhledá Josefa, aby s ním sdílela vše, co se od anděla dozvěděla. Ona však šla za Alžbětou, o které věděla, že zázračným způsobem otěhotněla. Tak došlo k velice významnému setkání, při kterém byla Alžběta naplněna Duchem svatým a prorocky Marii oslovila: „*Požehnaná jsi nadě všecky ženy a požehnaný plod života tvého.*“ Takto Marii potvrzovala andělova slova. A vzápětí pokračovala slovy: „*....blahoslavená, která uvěřila, že se splní to, co jí bylo řečeno od Pána.*“

Na otázku, čeho si na Marii nejvíce vážíme, bychom pravděpodobně zmínili její poslušnost. Alžběta nás však svým výrokem upozorňuje na to, co bylo v pozadí poslušnosti—byla

„*Hle, počneš a porodíš syna a dás mu jméno Ježíš. Ten bude veliký a bude nazván synem Nejvyššího a Pán Bůh mu dá trůn jeho otce Davida. Na věky bude kralovat nad rodem Jákobovým a jeho království nebude konce.*“

to víra! Toto nesmíme přehlédnout. Vždyť Písmo svaté znovu a znova poukazuje na význam víry: „*Bez víry však není možné začít se Bohu!*“ (Žd 11, 6) a vírou to v duchovním životě nejen začíná, ale i pokračuje. V listu do Říma 1,17 čteme: „*Spravedlivý z víry bude živ.*“

A pak přichází Mariin chvalozpěv, který nám přibližuje jak její velikou znalost Písma svatého, tak i její osobnost. V chvalozpěvu lze napočítat nejméně dvanáct nejrůznějších biblických výroků z několika knih Starého zákona a my se neučíme obdivu, jaké znalosti měla mladičká Marie! A hned dodejme, že právě znalost Písma je předpokladem chválení. Marie nejdříve chválí Pána Boha jako Spasitele a tato skutečnost znemožňuje jakékoli její povýšení do role spoluspasitelky lidstva. Její poníženost, o které hovoří dál, v žádném případě nemohla být samochválou, ale skutečností hodnou následování. Je to pokora, která byla předpokladem, aby si ji Pán Bůh mohl použít k jejímu výsadnímu poslání. I její další výrok o tom, že ji od této chvíle budou blahoslavit všechna pokolení, je významný, protože potvrzuje její již dříve zmíněnou víru. A konečně nelze nepoukázat na její slova o Božím rozptýlení pyšných a naplnění dávných zaslíbení daných Izraeli.

Kdo by si takto nepoložil osobně otázku, zda kdy náležitě doceňoval životní příklad této Boží služebnice! Její poslušná víra a pokora těžko nachází v Bibli obdobu. Jak jinak by si ale Marii mohl Pán Bůh použít pro její naprostě jedinečné poslání.

I s námi má Pán Bůh svůj zcela jedinečný plán. Tak, jako nikdo jiný nemohl naplnit poslání Marie, nikdo nemůže naplnit ani poslání naše.

Kazatel Miloš Šolc ml.
Z knihy 37 kázání aneb ohlédnutí za 37 lety služby na
Božím díle



Similarities Between Christianity and Sports

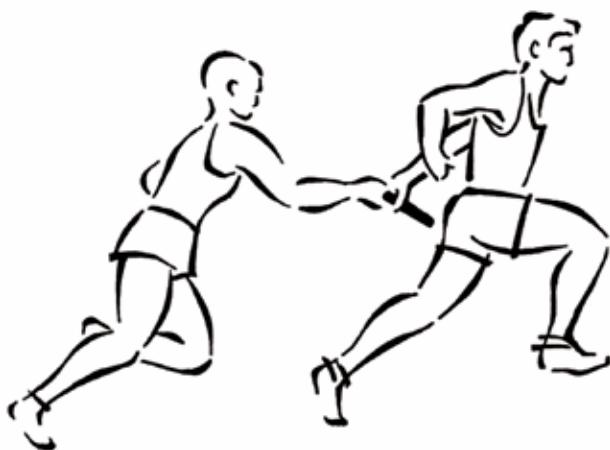
from the book
Communicating on the Playing Field
by Dr. Josef Solc

Christianity and sports have their heroes, legends, and saints. The Roman Catholic Church continues selecting individual Christians to sainthood and encourages its members to pray to them. This is a form of idolatry rejected by Protestants, but putting famous preachers, missionaries, and faith healers on a pedestal comes close to what is in principle denied. There is no hesitation

embellished stories about them and so create the aura of supremacy at least in sports. Any worship of human beings presents wide-ranging problems in morality, honesty, faithfulness, and decency. A winning athlete is not always winning in life; therefore, fans should exercise caution in making them examples and heroes. But our world does not pay attention to this warning. Spectators want these heroes and will overlook and forgive most mistakes and crimes committed by the superstars. Inductions into halls of fame flourish and are perpetuated by sports organizations.

Christianity is not quite blameless, but could address and correct some of the problems associated with such hero worship. A clear warning should sound based on Exodus 20:3–5a, „You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God.“

Heroes do not appear without specialization. The time is long gone when players could excel in two major sports. There are only a handful of athletes who are capable of playing two sports on the highest professional level. The rule is that the very best play only one sport. Christianity bought into this system by creating the clergy and the lay people. Those who accept an office in the church are educated and qualified to preach, teach, admin-



among fans to call their favorite athletes stars, and superstars. They are being worshiped and celebrated as more than human. Reporters tell

ister, counsel, lead the music, train youth, and provide for many activities. The lay people are overlooked and degraded to jobs that are not as "important." This kind of segregation prevents the church from involving more and more people in the life of a local church. The end result is that the majority of Christians are spectators,



just like fans in sports, and will never know the beauty and satisfaction of being in the very center of serving their

God. This specialization is bringing illusory comfort to those who want to sit on the sidelines; however, this is not the Christian life that Christ envisioned for all Christians when he said, „All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age,” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Paul issued a similar command in 1 Timothy 6:12, „Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called in the presence of many witnesses.“ There is no room for spectators in Christianity. But the influence of sports is changing Christianity. Many Christians are now satisfied when they watch others fighting the good fight of faith. What a loss for them individually and for God's kingdom corporately.

Sports are also winning in creating more excitement. Fans go to games and matches to enjoy themselves and to let their emotions go. Some of it is programmed with the help of cheerleaders, but most excitement is spontaneous. There is nothing like it when the home team scores a touchdown, or hits a home run. At that point fans go crazy, are loud, give each other high-fives, sing songs, and become extremely excited. The fans of the opposite team are sad, quiet, angry with their team and the referees, and possibly are crying when the game is over. Such a range of emotions is scarcely seen anywhere else. In comparison, Christians are more composed during worship services, expressing their emotions through songs, raised hands, shouting amen and hallelujah, and occasionally encouraging their preacher to get with it. Realizing that people have more fun outside the church than inside, rich churches try to supply more excitement through performances of known professional artists, but the smaller congregations are left behind since they do not have the money to pay. In all fairness, Christian excitement must be within the hearts of those who worship God. Producing it by any other means betrays the shallowness of our worship and discipleship. Paul's command „Rejoice in the Lord always,“ (Philippians 4:4) is a great possibility for all Christians. Can you imagine what the excitement would be of Christians of this caliber when they get together to worship God?

To be continued

Ladies' Page

Just the recollection of many messages to the readers of *Glorious Hope*:

Right after our conversion to Jesus Christ, each one of us began building a home. Apostle Paul writes: "...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house..." (1 Peter 2:5) Therefore we should be living stones. Let us strengthen one another and every one of us lay down at least a few living stones on the building of our spiritual house, to the glory of our dear Lord.

The first stone is *faith*...the second *hope*...the third *love*—love of God, and his Word, love of our neighbours, and even more so, love of our enemies.

There are many living stones such as humility, sacrifice, truth, professing belief in Jesus, sincere prayers, self-denial and others. Our spiritual house is not yet finished. As long as we live here on earth, we will be building. Let us make sure the structure of our house can withstand the storms and earthquakes of our lives. The foundation we have is good. It is our dear Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Katarina Hudacek, Truth and Glorious Hope, October 1960

Precious Promises

God has given us His words of promise but they can do nothing for us unless we believe them and claim them for our own. I want to share a few verses which are very precious to me. They may become your source of strength, comfort and assurance in your time of need. We know that God is no respecter of persons, time or place.

*"So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God."*

*I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* Isaiah 41:10

*"...but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint."*

Isaiah 40:31

*"Great peace have those who love your law,
and nothing can make them stumble."* Psalm 119:165

"...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Phil. 1:6

Mabel Boubelik, Glorious Hope, February 1986

Stránka sester

Vzpomínka na jedno z mnoha poselství čtenářům *Slavné Naděje*:

Každý z nás začal hned po svojom obrátení sa k Pánu Ježišovi stavať dom. Apoštol Pavel hovorí: „Aj vy, ako živé kamene, vzdelávajte sa v duchovný dom.“ (1. Pet. 2, 5) Máme teda byť kamene živé. Usilujme sa teda spoločne a každý z nás položme aspoň niekolko živých kameňov na stavbu nášho duchovného domu, k sláve nášho drahého Pána.

Prvým kameňom je *viera*... druhým *nádej*... tretím *láska*. Láska k Bohu a k Jeho slovu, láska k blížnemu, ba ešte viac – láska k nepriateľovi.

Mnoho je živých kameňov ako pokora, obetavosť, pravda, vyznavanie Pána Ježiša, úprimné modlitby, sebezaprenie a iné. Náš duchovný dom ešte nie je dostavaný. Dokiaľ budeme žiť na tomto svete, budeme stavat. Hľadme, aby stavba nášho duchovného domu obstála, keď prídu búrky a zemetrasenia v našom živote. Základ máme dobrý. Je to náš drahý Spasiteľ, Pán Ježiš Kristus.

Katarína Hudáčková, *Pravda a Slavná naděje*, říjen 1960

Vzácná zaslíbení

Ve svém Slově nám Pán Bůh dal zaslíbení, která však neznamenají nic, pokud v ně nevěříme a nepřivlastníme si je. Chci se s vámi podělit o několik veršů, které mi jsou velmi vzácné. I vám se mohou stát zdrojem síly, povzbuzením a jistotou v době, kdy bude třeba. Víme, že Bůh nedělá rozdíly mezi lidmi, dobou či místem:

“Neboj se – já jsem s tebou,
nestraňuj se – já jsem tvůj Bůh.
Posilním tě a podpořím,
podepřu tě svou spravedlivou pravicí.” Izaiáš 41, 10

“...kdo ale v Hospodina doufají,
ti nabývají nových sil:
Vznášejí se jako na orlích perutích,
běží a nejsou vyčerpáni,
kráčí a nejsou znaveni.” Izaiáš 40, 31

“Kdo milují tvůj Zákon,
mají hojný mír, žádné překážky je nesrazí.” Žalm 119, 165

“Jsem si jist, že Ten, který ve vás začal dobré dílo, je dovede až do konce v den Krista Ježiše.” Filip. 1, 6

Mabel Boubelíková, *Slavná naděje*, únor 1986

Odbor sester při československé konvenci baptistů byl založen v roce 1923.

Během 88 let trvání se ve vedení vystřídal 20 předsedkyní.

Nejdéle setrvala ve funkci předsedkyně Katarína Hudáčková v letech 1950 až 1965.

Další nejdéle sloužící předsedkyní byla Mabel Boubelíková v letech 1975 až 1983.



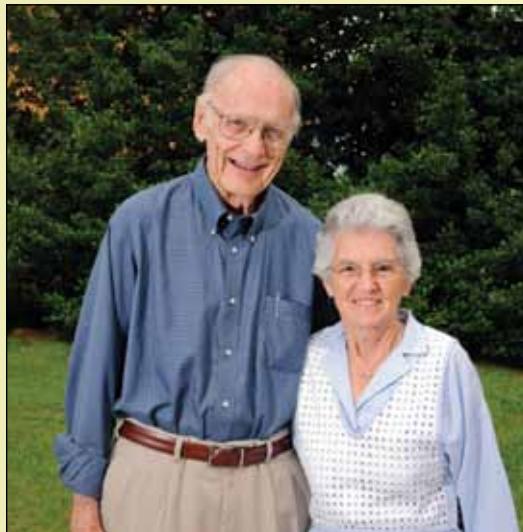
Chance Meeting with Jane and Rev. Daniel Widlicka

You are one of the most experienced couples in our convention. To achieve this stage, where everyone can clearly see that you are a happy, well-balanced couple, is not easy, especially in the present time.

What is your secret? Would you like to share it with us? Tell us about it.

Dan

I'm grateful for this privilege of sharing our experience regarding the marriage we have. Early in our life we determined that we would always pray together—that's basic, I guess, in any marriage—and have devotion time together. And that we have always had. But previous to that we get up early enough to have an hour alone. And then we have a breakfast time and then we have a prayer time together. And we try to encourage everyone and tell every young couple that that's the story of a solid marriage. And then, with my being a pastor, we even do the calling together. I recall where one wonderful elderly Czech lady that we came to visit said "Pastor Dan, I'm so blessed." When I asked why, she said, "You brought your wife. I never had a pastor's wife come with him in my time." And she was a mother who had lost her only son in the D-Day invasion of Normandy. So visiting together has been one of the things, but we try to do other things together. Certainly it's easier being a pastor and living together. So that basically, togetherness is a fact that you communicate, that keeps the communication lines open. So that whenever I would "blow it," I will be able to say, "I'm sorry, honey, I blew it, and I want to continue as good friends." And that's about it. We're so blessed now—forty-five, we just passed the forty-five-year mark, and here I was forty-six when we were married. And then we have eight grandchildren, and here we are



together at the conference and we are overwhelmed to be able to see all our friends, and we want to be a blessing. Maybe my sweet wife would like to say something.

Jane

I would like to say something about how we met. Dan was a bachelor of thirty-some years and he had meetings in my little church in Buffalo. I was a young pianist there and he led the singing and I had to accompany more than sing. I remember he was working on campus just outside of Buffalo and on his day off he

found himself coming to see me. And we began to wonder about that. And one of the times we were going out—he would like to call it a date—my little son was just at home and the other one was in kindergarten. And I said to Dan, "Did you ever go on a date with a girl who had to bring a coloring book and crayons along to keep her little guy happy?" But we just see the hand of God because Dan never would have chosen to marry a widow with two kids. In fact I shared this morning with a girl who asked me how come we got married. I said to her, "You know, Pastor Dan had been dating me a while. Coming from Cleveland to Buffalo and back, he noticed his feelings for me were, how would I say it, being returned, and one time on the way home, God just exercised his heart in such a way that he pulled off to the side of the road and started to pray. He said, "God, I don't know what you are telling me, but not a widow with two kids!" And apparently God must have said yes, because about a year after that we were married. And it was wonderful. I am so thankful for a husband who loves the Lord first, and then loves me, and accepted our little family and loves them. God has just blessed us with long love.

Setkání s Jane a Danem Widličkovými

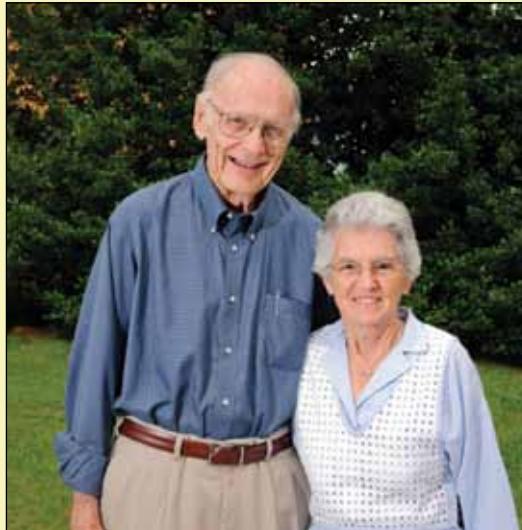
Na této konverci jste jednou z nejzkušenějších manželských dvojic. Každý vás jasné vidí jako šťastný a vyrovnaný pár. Dospět do tohoto stádia není snadné, zvláště v dnešní době.

V čem spočívá vaše tajemství? Mohli byste se s námi o to podělit?

Dan

Vážím si této příležitosti podělit se s našimi zkušenostmi z manželství. Hned ze začátku jsme se rozhodli, že se vždycky budeme spolu modlit — domnívám se, že to je základem každého manželství — a že budeme mít pobožnost společně. A tak to vždycky bylo. Ale předtím si vždy přivstaneme, abychom se nejprve každý stísil osobně. Teprve potom posnídáme, a pak se společně modlíme. Snažíme se všechny povzbudit a říci každé mladé dvojici, že tím se dosáhne pevného manželství. A potom, vzhledem k tomu, že jsem byl kazatel, chodili jsme společně i navštěvovat. Vzpomínám si na jednu starší, milou českou paní, kterou jsme navštívili. Řekla: „Bratře kazateli, jsem tak požehnána.“ Když jsem se zeptal proč, odpověděla: „Přišel jste se svou manželkou. Nikdy jsem nezažila, aby s kazatelem přišla i jeho manželka.“ Ona byla matkou, která ztratila svého jediného syna v den invaze Normandie.

Společné návštěvy byly tedy jednou z věcí, snažili jsme se i další věci dělat společně. Sdílet společný život je pro kazatele, přirozeně, snadnější. V podstatě se jedná o to, že v manželství komunikujete a držíte komunikační linky otevřené. To znamená, že kdykoliv něco pokazíš, dokážeš říci: „Promiň, miláčku, udělal jsem chybu, nechci však, aby to narušilo naše přátelství.“ To je asi tak všechno. Jsme tak velmi obdařeni — čtyřicet pět let, právě jsme měli čtyřicáté páté výročí. Bylo by mi tehdy 46 let, když



jsme se brali. Nyní máme osm vnoučat. A tady nás máte, spolu na konferenci, a jsme ohromeni se setkání se všemi našimi přáteli a chceme být i nadále požehnáním.

Možná moje milá manželka by ráda přidala pář slov.

Jane

Ráda bych řekla něco o tom, jak jsme se potkali. Daniel byl svobodným mládencem, ve třiceti a něco letech, a jezdíval sloužit do našeho maličkého sboru v Buffalu. Byla jsem mladou klavíristkou, on vedl zpěv a já jsem musela doprovázet více, než zpívat. Pamatuji si,

že pracoval na studentské kolejí nedaleko Buffala a jednoho dne se u mne objevil. A to začalo být zajímavé. Jednou jsme se chystali někam jít – rád by to nazýval schůzkou –, ale můj maličký syn byl se mnou doma a druhý byl ve školce. Zeptala jsem se Daniele: „Už jsi někdy šel na schůzku s děvčetem, které si muselo vzít s sebou omalovánky s pastelkami, aby byl maličký spokojen?“

Vidíme v tom však Boží ruku, protože Daniel by si nikdy nezvolil za manželku vdovu se dvěma dětmi. Vlastně dnes ráno se mne jedno děvče zeptalo, jak to, že my dva jsme se vzali. Řekla jsem jí: „Víš, kazatel Daniel se mnou chodil dost dlouho. Dojízděl z Clevelandu do Buffala a zase zpět, a všiml si, že jeho city ke mně jsou, jak bych to řekla, opětovány. Při jedné cestě domů promluvil Bůh k jeho srdci takovým způsobem, že sjel na krajnici a začal se modlit. Řekl: ‘Bože, nevím, co mi chceš říci, ale jen ne vdova se dvěmi dětmi!’“ A zdá se, že Bůh musel říci ano, protože asi tak za rok potom jsme se vzali. A bylo to báječné. Jsem tak vděčná za manžela, který miluje Pána na prvním místě a potom miluje mne a který přijal naši malou rodinku a miluje i je. Bůh nás obdaroval dlouhotrvající láskou.

We asked Bernie Racinsky



How old were you when you decided to follow Jesus?

I accepted the Lord as my Savior in my preteen years, around 12.

In the late [nineteen-] forties there were what we called traveling evangelists, who came to the Church and held week-long evangelistic meetings. A lot of the young people made a decision for Christ during those times, and I was one of them.

Any regrets? What about frustration? What was your biggest disappointment?

My situation was somewhat unique, in that I was born into a Christian family. My parents and their parents had similar experiences. Reading the Word, praying, going to Sunday school and church were natural experiences. I attended the Czech Baptist Church in Minitonas [Manitoba]. Baptism followed conversion. I attended Sunday school and later, youth meetings. Most people did it, and so did I.

In my early 20s I married a wonderful Christian girl [54 years ago]. We started a family (total 4 children) and continued

with the same format and habits as our upbringing.

We got very involved in music, teaching and leadership in the church (Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Toronto) while bringing up our children. That continued when we made our move to an English Baptist church in the late 60s.

Of course our life's path had many of the usual challenges but no significant regrets, frustrations or disappointments along the way.

What is your advice to young people?

My advice to young people is get an education, decide on a vocation as soon as practical and get involved in an evangelical Christian church.

What is your advice to the middle-aged generation? What is your advice to the older generation?

My advice to the middle-aged and older generations is to keep busy, particularly in the things of the Lord. Attend church faithfully and keep doing things in the church. Keep on being an example to your children and grandchildren.

What is your advice to parents with small children?

My advice to parents with small children is to be a great example to them in all aspects and particularly in the spiritual sense. Make time for them, love them, take them to church—don't send them! Spend time in God's word. The probability of your children following your example is very high!

Zeptali jsme se Bernieho Račínského



V kolika letech jste se rozhodl následovat Pána Ježíše?

Přijal jsem Pána jako svého Spasitele ještě v dorosteneckém věku, někdy kolem 12 let.

Ve čtyřicátých letech sbory navštěvovali cestující evangelisté, jak jsme je nazývali, kteří pořádali týdenní evangelizace. Mnoho mladých lidí se v té době rozhodlo následovat Krista a já jsem byl jedním z nich.

Litujete? A co frustrace? Co bylo vaším největším zklamáním?

Má situace byla poněkud unikátní, narodil jsem se totiž do křesťanské rodiny. Moji rodiče a jejich rodiče procházeli podobnými zkušenostmi. Čtení Slova, modlitby, docházka do nedělní školy a do sboru bylo naprosto přirozené. Navštěvoval jsem Český baptistický sbor v Minitonas (v Manitobě). Křest následoval po obrácení. Chodil jsem do nedělní školy a později na schůzky mládeže. Stejně jako většina mladých lidí.

Záhy po dosažení dvacítky jsem se oženil se senzační věřící dívkou (před 54 lety). Založili jsme rodinu (dohromady čtyři děti) a pokračovali jsme stejným způsobem, ve kterém jsme byli vychováni.

Hodně jsme se angažovali v hudbě, ve vyučování a vedení ve sboru (Československý baptistický sbor v Torontě) a zároveň jsme vychovávali naše děti. A v tom všem jsme pokračovali i po odchodu do anglického baptistického sboru v šedesátých letech.

Jistěže jsme v našem životě procházeli mnohými běžnými těžkostmi, ale to nevedlo k nijaké lítosti, frustraci nebo zklamání.

Co doporučujete mladým lidem?

Mladým lidem doporučuji získat vzdělání, zvolit si povolání hned, jak je to možné, a zapojit se do evangelikálního křesťanského sboru.

Co radíte střední generaci? Co doporučujete starší generaci?

Střední a starší generaci doporučuji zůstat aktívní, zvláště v záležitostech Pána. Navštěvujte sbor pravidelně a stále se zapojujte do sborových věcí. Nikdy nepřestaňte být vzorem pro své děti i vnoučata.

Co poradíte rodičům s malými dětmi?

Rodičům s malými dětmi doporučuji, aby byli ve všech směrech velkým příkladem, zvláště však v tom duchovním smyslu. Udělejte si na ně čas, ukazujte jim lásku, voďte je do shromáždění – neposílejte! Věnujte čas Božímu Slovu. Pravděpodobnost, že vaše děti budou následovat vašeho příkladu, je velmi veliká!

In Memory

Joseph Hynek April 12th, 1915—December 18th, 2011

Peacefully on December 18, 2011, in his 97th year with family by his side. Beloved husband of Jeannette (nee Shiskoski). Cherished father of Janet Hillen (Dave, David d. 2005), Paul (Carol) and Elizabeth (d. 2005). Dear grandfather of Heather, Andrew, Amanda, Stephen, Robin, Michael and Alyssa. Missed by 10 great-grandchildren, sisters-in-law Vivian and Nellie and nieces and nephews. Predeceased

by his parents Josef and Bozena (Zajickova); sister Albina (Dudikova), brothers Walter (Vivian), Stanley (Marie), Lloyd (Mary) and Wensel (Nellie). Joseph was a veteran who served in the Czechoslovak Army and the Canadian Artillery during WWII, attaining the rank of sergeant. In 1946 he continued his service as a civilian through the Canadian Legion by helping create a branch for ex-pat Czechoslovaks where he served in every post. He was awarded the honorary



rank of colonel by the Czech Republic. In 2011, he was also awarded the Cross of Merit III class by the Czech Ministry of Defense for his postwar services. Joseph worked at Canada Post until his retirement at age 65. Joseph will be remembered by many friends in the Czechoslovak community in both Canada and the United States for his steadfast faith in God. He was a member of the Czechoslovak Baptist Church in Toronto, serving in every capacity. The family thanks the Bennett Centre staff in

Georgetown for the loving and compassionate care of "Papa Joe" during the two years he was there.

Funeral service was held in the Chapel on Thursday, December 22, 2011, at 11 a.m. Interment was at Park Lawn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Gideon Bible Society or to a charity of your choice.

From the Memorial Service

by Rev. Joseph Novak

Joseph HYNEK was born in the province of Maly Spakov, on April 12th, 1915. That province belonged to the Czar's Russia. On May 3rd, 1918, it became part of eastern Poland. In August of 1939 Volyn was occupied by the Soviets and in June 1941 by Germans. The Russians came back in March of 1944. Now it is a part of Western Ukraine.

In 1925, 10-year-old Joseph moved with his



parents to Czechoslovakia. There he attended elementary and high school. After high school Joe went to the Army Academy. His parents and four younger brothers immigrated to Canada in 1937, but Joseph stayed in Czechoslovakia. On the persuasion of his father he came to Canada in 1938. At first he stayed on his father's farm near Dauphin, Manitoba. But shortly after that he went to Winnipeg. During the war Joseph was training young recruits. While in Winnipeg, he attended the Czech Baptist Church, called Bethlehem Chapel. There he met Jeanette Shiskoski. They were married in 1942. The Lord blessed them with three children, Janet, Elizabeth and Paul.

In 1949 Joe and Jean moved to Toronto, Ontario, and joined the Czechoslovak Baptist Church. Both became active members. They sang in the choir and taught Sunday school. I met them when we moved from Manitoba to Toronto in 1950.



several occasions brother Hynek translated hymns and musical numbers for our choir.

Mr. Hynek was also active in the Czechoslovak community of Toronto. At one time he was the president of the Czechoslovak Protestant Union. He was also the president of the Czech Legion. When we were reorganizing our Czechoslovak Baptist Convention in Canada, brother Joe helped me with all the paperwork in order to be properly registered with Revenue Canada. He was the secretary of our Canadian Convention.

I must mention here that Joseph Hynek was a diligent student of prophecy, especially the topic of the Second Coming of Christ. On several occasions he stated that he would not die, but would live till the Rapture of the Church. However, Jesus called him home before the Rapture.

Brother Joseph Hynek passed away on Sunday, December 18th, 2011, at the ripe age of 96 years and 8 months. He was buried on Thursday, December 22nd. The funeral was conducted by his former pastors, Rev. Joseph Novak and Rev. Jan Banko. Since brother Hynek was fluent in Czech and Slovak, his memorial service was done in English by Rev. Novak, and in Czech and Slovak by Rev. Banko. He is survived by his wife Jeanette, daughter Janet, son Paul, 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



During my pastoral ministry in the Czechoslovak Baptist Church, (from February 1955 to December 1978) brother Joe Hynek was my right-hand man. He held every office that our church had; he was the chairman of our Deacons' Board, he served as Sunday school superintendent, for many years he taught our teens in Sunday school. He also was the church treasurer, and played trumpet in our praise group. On

News from the Mission Field

The Vahalas



Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

We are excited to write you again! We often think of you and thank God for your partnership in the gospel. We are thankful for your prayers and your support!

We hope that you and your families enjoyed a Christ-centered Christmas as we celebrated the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

During the Christmas holiday we transitioned into our new home. We are thankful to the Lord for providing us with missionary housing through Tyson's Creek Baptist Church. This will greatly help our family while we focus on raising funds to serve the Lord in the Czech Republic. Tyson's Creek is located in Bear Creek, NC. It's about an hour and a half drive west of Wake Forest. Thank you for praying with us for missionary housing. God has provided indeed.

Our main focus at this time is to raise prayer and financial support for our ministry in the Czech Republic. We are in the process of setting up a website. We are also in the process of looking into options that would make it easier for our financial supporters to give. Currently, our supporters mail in their contributions to:

BIMA Attention: Anthony Vahala

PO Box 1155

Flowery Branch, GA 30542

We are looking into ways that would enable you to give online, and we will keep you updated as we figure out all the details involved in this. But, as for now, continue to send

your financial support to the BIMA address.

We are also planning trips to speak at churches, in small groups and Bible studies about the work in the Czech Republic. We have some events lined up already and if you are interested in us coming and speaking, please email us to let us know of your interest and we will be happy to set up a date to come and share with you.

Family Updates

It has been a busy time for us these last couple of months. We celebrated our son Isaiah's first birthday on Dec. 19th with a special remembrance of his unique birth! If you live in the Wake Forest/North Raleigh area, maybe you got to see our Happy Birthday sign as you drove under Interstate 540. If you aren't sure what this is all about, read the sign carefully!

Anthony completed his studies at Southeastern Theological Seminary this past December. Southeastern has been a special place to us. Our family grew a great deal while attending school here, spiritually as well as numerically! For both we are very grateful. We have made many wonderful friends here and had the privilege to sit under godly instructors who have a deep love for the Lord and a great desire to equip future ministers of the gospel. We were blessed to have spent time at SEBTS!

Praises:

- We praise God for his provision for missionary housing.
- We praise God for our time at SEBTS, being sharpened and encouraged by other brothers and sisters in the Lord. We are thankful for wonderful friendships that are centered on the gospel.

Prayer Requests:

- Join us as we pray for more opportunities to share with churches and individuals about God's work in the Czech Republic.
- Pray for people to join us, to partner with us in God's work in the Czech Republic by praying, giving and going.

We thank you so much for your encouragement and your support! Your commitment to support us by praying for us and giving financially makes it possible for us to take the gospel to the Czech Republic.

May you be blessed by the Lord in this new year!

In Christ,

The Vahalas (Anthony, Jamie, Hannah, Rachel, Sarah, Joshua and Isaiah)

Ruby Mikulencak

Ruby was to leave Ghana in January.

RAM Chronicle

Special Points of Interest:

- Visiting Scotland for the first time, Aug 2011
- Visiting the SIM BCA church areas, Nov-Dec 2011
- Attending the annual BCA Leaders Conference, Jan 2012
- Leaving Ghana, Jan 16, 2012
- Relocating to the US, March 2012

Prayer Requests:

As I relocate to the States, pray for guidance for the mission and myself about future ministry. I will be on deputation until the fall of 2012, and by that time I pray the Lord will reveal the next step.

Reflections and Musings

In June my two younger sisters, two nieces, and my nephew Michael visited Ghana. We traveled the length and breadth of Ghana and had wonderful times of sharing and being together.

It was such a privilege to show them my home of 20 years and to meet many of the people that I lived and worked with before I came to Accra. I have to admit that the time we had together was one of the highlights of my time in Ghana.

As we traveled, I realized more than ever that soon my time in Ghana will end. I still have much to do. Pray with me that as I spend time with people I can share encouraging words to strengthen their faith and commitment to the Lord.

Saying goodbye is never easy, for the one leaving or for those left behind. Pray that the Spirit will encourage all of us as we think of what He has done these past 31 years and what He will do in and through each of us despite the fact that we will be apart from each other.

As I reflected on 31 years of service in Ghana, the Lord gave me a verse in Isaiah that has been an encouragement to

Things I Will Miss



me: "I replied, 'But my work seems so useless! I have spent my strength in vain and to no purpose. Yet I leave it all in the Lord's hand; I will trust God for my reward,' " (Is 49:4).

Often we do not see the results we expect and we tend to think we are failures. I am grateful for this reminder that the Lord will give what He thinks is best. I can leave the results and the rewards in His hands!

Grateful to God for You

As I think of leaving I am reminded of all of you who have faithfully prayed and given for me to serve the Lord. I thank God for each of you and pray that the Lord will reward you for your faithfulness.

Mark and Gretchen Potma

**Mark & Gretchen Potma
Church Planting
through Evangelism
March 2010**

*Enlarge the place of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;
do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.
—Isaiah 54:1-4*

Zakouřilova 57
149 00 Praha 4 - Chodov
Czech Republic
W 011-420-267-915-485
E potma@email.com
W www.teamczech.org
Also on:

Mark, his wife Gretchen, and their children returned to the Czech Republic in July after a year-long home assignment in the U.S. and Canada. They ask for prayers as they begin mentoring and coaching a new generation of leaders at Skalka Church, South City Church, and beyond.

News from the Mission Field

POENARU POST Nov./Dec. 2011: Out of Africa



It was "just" another trip to Dadaab, like the dozens that we had taken before over the past five years. Heat, dust, lots of needy children with neglected surgical conditions. And yet, things were different this

time around. The patients were all there, but there was a desperation, a helplessness, that I had not seen before. There were also hundreds – thousands – of refugees, chaotically settled in make-shift areas across the camps. And there were mothers with emaciated children in their arms and sad, expressionless faces. This past summer the famine in the Horn of Africa had started, and I was face-to-face with some of the realities of this humanitarian disaster. Over the next few months our little organization BethanyKids had to grapple with ways to respond to this crisis, to continue bringing "healing and hope" to the children whom God had placed in our path. "Who is my neighbor?" The question resounded in our ears as we moved from simply offering free surgeries to refugee children to helping address their malnutrition to helping the overwhelmed UN agencies in any way possible – even providing soap for thousands of refugees.

A couple of months later, the media has grown tired of the famine and moved its short-span attention to other crises. The relief assistance from across the globe has petered out, the photographers have left. In the meanwhile, the mothers still keep arriving, expressionless and holding emaciated babies in their arms – and BethanyKids' ministry also continues.... "Never tire of doing good," (2 Thess. 3:13).

Family News

As you are probably aware, in July we started on our educational leave with AIM, a year dedicated to finishing some of our courses, seeing our boys into col-



lege, being close to family...and just resting our weary souls after eight years of ministry in Kenya. So here are some of the highlights, past, present, and future.

Christopher's Graduation: A beautiful ceremony in sunny Kijabe, marking the end of eight unique years that our boys spent at Rift Valley Academy, learning and growing. The bright ceremony also catapulted us (Dita and Dan) into the uncharted waters of parenting college-age young adults.



Family Trip Out West: Soon after returning to Canada the whole family spent three wonderful weeks out west, visiting friends and sightseeing in Vancouver, Victoria, and Hawaii (thanks to a most gracious invitation by some special friends). It was an unforgettable experience of exploring, bonding, and just enjoying together before the "birds flew the coup."

College Days: For Daniel the big change this fall was moving out of residence and into a downtown Montreal apartment, with good friends. He is enjoying his new "grown-up" life, as well as the education courses. He is also significantly involved in campus ministry and a wide assortment of African and social justice clubs. As for Chris, he seems to be spending all his energy on very challenging computer engineering courses in Waterloo. He loves the university, loves engineering, and is committed to surviving the rigors of Canada's excellent engineering school.

Dita is focusing on finishing her master's thesis on infection control at Kijabe, while spending precious time with her mom. She is also involved in a parish nursing ministry through our home church in Hamilton.

Dan has started resting...by working full-time until Christmas at Montreal Children's Hospital, catching up on so many needed procedures and Western approaches in pediatric surgery. The bonus of living in Montreal is being so close to Daniel! Dan's "sabbatical" includes working on a master's in

Continues on page 5

Children's Corner



PUZZLE

A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

Instructions: Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

_____ adcltne	.....		
_____ rohmtae	.....		
_____ srgbape	.....		
_____ rbieda	.....		
_____ pehtshred	.....		
_____ rdhaenica	.....		
_____ fadoo	.....		

Her name in Greek

_____ pdeesh	.....	
_____ dchilnero	.....	
_____ drove	.....	
_____ acehtr	.....	
_____ sarcos	.....	
_____ nusoatinm	.....	

Answers: Tabitha, Dorcas

rest

Matthew 11:28



Jesus said:

"...learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart..." Matthew 11:29

Ježíš řekl:

"...učte se ode mě, neboť jsem mírný a pokorný v srdci..." Matouš 11;29

Ježíš povedal:

"... učte sa odo mňa, lebo som tichý a pokorný srdcom...." Matúš 11;29

**103rd CONVENTION
NEW LOCATION!**

**ALLEGHENY COLLEGE
MEADVILLE, PA**

**SAVE THE DATE
JULY 5-8, 2012**

