



December 2009

*"Brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified." 2 Thessalonians. 3:1*

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST.

I greet you from Usti nad Labem the joy and grace of God. It is a joy to send you news once again about our little church, and I do this with thankfulness to God. I thank you for your faithful prayers, and for the fellowship He has given us with you.

The Lord continues to show me how He answers your prayers and by His great grace holds us close to Himself when things look impossible from the human perspective. God is faithful, and we recall with much joy His faithfulness and goodness in all things that He does in our lives and church.

In the last letter I wrote about Peter Stanyek who began to attend our church following last summer's camp. Sadly, during the fall he stopped attending and seems to be avoiding us. We continue to pray that God will open his eyes and show him the depth of his lostness and desperate need for a Saviour.

Petr Papez's mom, Dasha, continues to attend church. We are praying that God will open her eyes and cause her to be reborn by the Holy Spirit. I believe that some of our Sunday messages speak to her heart. We pray that God's Word will bring forth its promised result (Is. 55,11).

We continue to pray for Petr Svoboda who occasionally attends our church. He claims that He is a Christian but up to this point keeps himself at a distance from close relationships in our church. We are praying for him that the Lord will work in his heart and cause him to understand the special role of the local church.

Svetlana and Igor left on Sunday for the Ukraine where they must take care of Igor's lost passport. It is not easy as dealings with the embassy include horrible corruption. So we pray that our Lord would lead them and open doors through which He will also draw them to Himself.

God is leading us so that we will continue to bond "being of the same mind, maintaining the same love" (Fil. 2:2) and intensely make the gospel known. In November we took advantage of Ken and Becky Johnson's visit to Kladno and invited people from past summer camps and English outreach courses to a special presentation they lead. While only four people responded to the invitation, (Vlado and Hana, Bohumila, and Petr K) we realize how important it is to be in contact with these unsaved friends. Ken and Becky spent more time with Hana and her parents as well as with Bohumila. Hana came with the Johnsons to the Sunday worship service. We pray for these people that God will work in their hearts and cause them to see their lost condition before Him.

Now before Christmas we are planning to spend more time sharing the gospel with passerbyers. We have some outstanding gospel tracts that Milan, our pastor friend from Roudince, prepared that we will use to share with people and invite them to a Christmas outreach service.

We also had a great meeting with Marcus from Kladno, with Milan from Roudnice, and Ken Johnson. We spoke about possibilities as leaders of churches to work together with other churches. We spoke about the woeful lack of biblical literature in our country as the major Christian publishers offer mainly mainstream authors and rather infrequently translate solid books. For example we don't have any books in Czech from authors like Edwards, Spurgeon, Lloyd-Jones, Pink, and Murray as well as books from current biblical scholars. We spoke about how we might be able to support in a greater way the publishing house „Pilgrim's literature, which puts out quality Christian books. We also considered how we might more use of the Christian magazine, “Battle for the Soul“, that I prepare and edit in order to meet the needs of other people beyond the reach of our local churches.

We planned other combined worship services beginning in the first part of next year. We will continue to assist the church in Kladno as Petr and I will preach regularly in the Kladno church.

We are also planning a conference in January about the church in cooperation with the magazine I prepare. Though this conference will primarily be for the churches in Usti, Kladno and Roudnice, we hope that other Christians will join so that we might make God's Word known to many.

We are praying for Petr Papez as he has a serious relationship with a Christian young lady who he is planning to marry. With this are many questions including where they will live, where Petr will work, and what church they will minister in. We pray that God will lead and give them His wisdom and grace in these important decisions.

Please also pray for my family. Our children swim competitively and do well in this. Jacob and Maja place among the top swimmers in the Czech Republic. It is not our ambition as parents, but we must support them even though it is very demanding on our time. We pray that we would have wisdom in all these things. We don't want sports to become an idol in our lives or in the lives of our children. But we also don't want to be an obstacle for them if they have talent from the Lord. So thank you for praying for these things.

We thank you for all your support and encouragement. We praise the Lord that He blessed us with you,

*Jarda a Alena, Jakub and Maja*

