

The Lord's Work in the Czech Republic

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**Report: December 15, 2007 - January 2008
3 February 2008**

Dear Brethren,

We hope that this finds all of you doing well. We are doing fine here in the Czech Republic. Our winter weather since the beginning of the year has been mild, which not only makes getting around easier, but hopefully will lower our heating bills somewhat. We hope that this mild weather will last through the next six weeks or so until spring comes.

THE U.S. DOLLAR AND SUPPORT

The U.S. dollar has continued its steady decline against the European euro and the Czech crown (and I think probably against just about every other major currency in the world). As a result of the two recent interest rate cuts (.75 and .50 respectively) in the U.S., the dollar hit a new historic low against the Czech crown during the latter part of last week. There is no indication that things will get better anytime soon, and in fact every indication that the dollar will continue in its decline against other currencies.

We learned during this last month that one married couple involved in our support (\$200/monthly) will need to stop sending their support as soon as possible. We also understand that many churches involved in our support are simply not in a position to make this up. Ivana and I will do what we can and need to to make ends meet without this support.

THE CHURCH IN LITOMYŠL

Average Sunday Attendance (December): 18

Average Sunday Bible Study Attendance (December): 18

Contribution: \$409 (December)

Average Sunday Attendance (January): 17

Average Sunday Bible Study Attendance (January): 17

Contribution: \$447 (January)

The church in Litomyšl continues to do well. The children are now divided into two class groups. One for preschool-aged children, the other for children already in school (from 2nd to 4th grade currently). This seems to be working very well, allowing each group to be taught more in line with their abilities. The extra room has been painted and already the teachers are putting Bible-related decorations on the walls. We are still working on putting some carpet down.

Also, we are in the final stages of putting our new songbook together. This will be the first new edition that we've made since 1997. We removed some mistakes, added some songs, took others away, and I hope this latest edition will be a great improvement over the previous one.

Today I finished my series of sermons on the deity of Christ. These sermons seem to have been much appreciated by the members in Litomyšl. I also continue to teach the adult Bible class, where we are studying the Book of Acts. Usually, on each first Sunday of the month, the preaching is taken care of by one of the other men of the congregation. Next week we will be having visitors from another congregation here in the Czech Republic. **Míra Vokal** will be visiting with his family, and Míra has graciously agreed to present the sermon.

WEB SITE - STUDENTS

December 14 - January 31 - 1663 visitors

We are continuing to have a very large number of visitors to our website, mostly from within the Czech Republic, but sometimes from other countries as well (I can only guess that they are mostly Czechs who are living abroad, since the webpage is entire in Czech).

We have **3 people** who are involved in the correspondence course by e-mail, and **4 people** who have requested free Bible literature by mail. I understand that **2 previous contacts** from **Prague** are either now studying with or soon will be studying with the Christians there.

I studied with an older woman named **Helena C.** on December 26. It was a cordial visit, but our correspondence since then has been a bit of a roller coaster. I hope that she will soon visit the saints in Litomyšl for worship. It would be very difficult for her to commute regularly on Sundays from her city to the nearest church (Litomyšl), but I think it would help her to meet the other Christians.

Vítězslav T. is continuing in the correspondence course (by mail). He lives in the city of **Pardubice**, which is not far from us.

Furthermore, we have made contact with a young married woman named **Dáša T.**, who lives in a small village about 35 km (22 miles) from Litomyšl. Given the fact that I am only studying with her (not her husband), and in her home, Ivana must go with me for these studies (she has a small baby, and Ivana enjoys holding him anyways). We have had two studies so far.

I continue to visit the two Christian women (**Milena** and **Helena**) in **Rychnov nad Kněžnou** as we all have opportunity.

ENGLISH BIBLE CONVERSATION

The Bible Classes in English in our home in **Horní Jelení** have restarted, with **8 people** attending these classes. We continue to study in Genesis. This class meets every week on Tuesday at 8 p.m. till about 9-9:15 p.m.

FINAL WORDS

We close with a special thank you for your support of and interest in the work here in this part of the Czech Republic. If we can answer any questions that you might have, please do not hesitate to write or call.

Yours in Christ,

Steven & Ivana