

DECEMBER 2005 REPORT

January 19, 2006

Dear Brethren,

We hope that this report finds all of you doing well. All three children have been sick off-and-on for the last couple of weeks, and are all currently on antibiotics for strep infections and/or ear infections. We have also been having very cold wintry weather. We have seen the temperature just barely get over freezing only a handful of times since Christmas, and have more snow now than I remember ever seeing in the Czech Republic outside of the higher elevations. It makes us long for the start of Spring and warmer weather.

SUPPORT / TRAVEL FUNDS

Effective January 1, the Hillview congregation in Nashville, Tennessee reduced its monthly support from \$600 to \$400, resulting in a loss of \$200 per month. These funds have now been replaced, both through a raise in support from some individuals supporting us as well as rededicating funds that had been a work fund into general support.

Concerning our airfare to the U.S. this summer: we have received a total of \$2,800 towards the \$4,100 total cost of the tickets. The remainder that we owe (\$1,300) we will pay for out of funds that had been going into a work fund and travel fund.

So, we are not in need of any more extra support, either monthly or in regards to our airfare. Thank you, brethren, for the help that you have been in this regard.

TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES

Our family plans to travel to the United States from June 28 to July 25, 2006. In addition to spending time with my family, we would like to make ourselves available to visit supporting congregations. Here is our schedule so far:

2 July – available

9 July – available

16 July – Kilgore, TX

23 July – available

If you would be interested in seeing me (or all of us), please let me know what dates you would have in mind and we can begin to make plans accordingly.

THE CHURCH IN LITOMYSL

Membership: 11 (+11 minor children)

Average Sunday Attendance (December): 19 (including children)

Average Sunday Bible Study Attendance (December): 19 (including children)

Contribution: \$296 (December)

The church in Litomysl continues to do very well. I am currently working on a new, expanded songbook for the congregation to use. The songbooks we presently use have about 120 songs. When it is finished, the new songbook will have about 150 songs, including some that are sung in other congregations in the Czech Republic but have never been a part of our songbook. This will be a softcover (paperback edition) on larger sized paper with larger print that should be easier for children and older folks (even me with glasses!) to read.

The following lecture took place since the last report:

Litomysl – January 12 – Topic: “Life After Life” (a look at the Bible’s teaching concerning what happens after death and will happen at the end of time)

There were 11 non-Christians present for this lecture. There was a good question and answer session after the lecture, although no personal contacts were made for future study.

Upcoming Lectures:

Horni Jeleni – January 20 – Topic: “The Bible and Archaeology”

Chocen – date TBA – “Life After Life”

Ceska Trebova – date TBA – Topic: “Life After Life”

These last two lectures were decided on by the men in the last men’s meeting. Although we have done lectures in Ceska Trebova in the past, it has been quite a while. We have never done a lecture in the town of Chocen. It was decided to keep the topic that we have been using, since it seems to bring a lot of visitors to the lectures. Ceska Trebova has a population of about 20,000; Chocen is smaller, with something over 5,000 inhabitants. Both of these towns are in easy driving distance of Litomysl.

WEB SITE

We continue to have a large number of visitors at the web site. During the period December 17 – January 19, we had 179 visitors. We currently have two women from far north Bohemia studying the correspondence course by e-mail.

THE CHURCH IN RYCHNOV NAD KNEZNOU

Milena Lockerova and Helena Duracova, the only two members of this tiny congregation,

continue to be committed to meeting together and worshipping God. I am encouraged by their desire to do this, in spite of the challenges and difficulties that they have as Christians.

STUDENTS

In Rychnov nad Kneznou:

Milena Lockerova: various Bible questions

Helena Duracova: various Bible questions

In Usti nad Orlici:

Josef and Bela Hladik (Ivana's parents): studying Genesis, plus discussing their various questions

In Horni Jeleni:

Romana: we are now studying the Gospel of Luke. Romana also attends the worship in Litomysl fairly regularly. She has 3 children and brings different ones on different Sundays. Romana's husband is not a Christian and does not seem to be interested in studying at the present time.

FINAL WORDS

Brethren, we would like to conclude by thanking you all once again for your support of us in the work here. We ask that you continue to pray for us, and for the young Christians here in this part of the world. You are in our prayers as well.

Yours in Christ,

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