

# REPORT FOR JANUARY 2005

February 7, 2005

Dear Brethren,

We hope that this report finds all of you doing well. We are doing fine here in the Czech Republic. This is the first report since November 15, 2004, so in addition to the events in January, I'll also try to fill you in on the period prior to January.

## SUPPORT

Our support situation has been taken care of. The Santa Clara church informed us that they would stay involved in our support, although in an amount of \$100 less per month. We are very thankful to the brethren there for their decision. So, we are not in need of any additional support at this time.

## VISIT TO USA

Our trip to the United States from mid-December to early-January was very pleasant. It was good to be with our family in Texas, and to visit with many brethren during that time. I was given the opportunity to report on the work here to three of the congregations involved in our support: Kilgore, Texas; Hillview in Nashville, Tennessee; and Westside in Irving, Texas.

## THE CHURCH IN LITOMYSL

Membership: 11 (+11 minor children)  
Average Sunday Attendance (January): 7 (not including children)  
Average Sunday Bible Study Attendance (January): 7 (not including children)  
Contribution: \$340 (January)

January was a very difficult month as far as attendance was concerned. There was lots of sickness in the congregation, which resulted in a very low overall average. In fact, in our family, we have yet to ALL be at the services since our return from Texas. Either one or more of our children has been sick with something every Sunday for the past month. Other children were sick as well during this period. Hopefully, we're just about past this and can all be present again at the worship assemblies.

Petr Novak and Marek Lustyk both continue to do a good job of sharing in the preaching and the teaching of the adult Bible class. Both do a good job of preparing their remarks, and giving thought to what they will say. There are three women doing a good job in teaching the children's Bible class: Ivana, Angelika Novakova, and Pavla Lustykova.

In the monthly men's meeting yesterday, we spent a lot of time discussing and planning our future evangelistic efforts in this area. A couple of things were decided:

- 1) To plan a series of spring lectures in area cities, beginning in March in Litomyšl. I am currently working on finalizing a date, but it should be during the middle part of the month. Following this lecture, other lectures will be held in Policka, Svitavy, Vysoke Myto, and Holice. All of these lectures will concern the topic of the New Testament church, and will be geared more towards people who are already believers.
- 2) To plan to continue to advertise the church's website. For the present, we would like to try AdWords at google.com. This is a system where our ad will appear when someone searches for a particular word, like "Bible" or "Jesus" (in Czech of course). We are only charged for each time someone actually clicks on the ad which then takes them to our website. We are able to limit this to people who are only in the Czech Republic, and are also able to set a set monetary amount in advance (its pre-paid). This should be up and running in the coming days, so we'll see if its an effective way of making contacts.
- 3) To consider the possibility of running newspaper ads (we plan to discuss this at next month's meeting).

## LECTURE IN SUMPERK

I presented a lecture on December 9 in the city of Sumperk (30,000 people, located 1½ hours by car east of Litomyšl). This was our third lecture in this city. Attendance was less than at the first two, with 8 or 9 present. The topic was: How to Understand and Establish Bible Authority. Unlike the lecture in November, this lecture was not very well-received (although we didn't know that at the time).

After we returned from the U.S., I wrote the married couple, Jan and Vera O., who have been inviting their friends to the lectures, about how and when we would set up the regular Bible studies that we had planned to start there in February. They replied with a long letter that stated that our last lecture had created quite a stir among their friends, and that they had come to the conclusion that they wouldn't be attending any more lectures! Their reasons concerned primarily the point that I had made in the lecture concerning how we know that Jesus used unleavened bread during the institution of the Lord's Supper, and that that was a binding pattern for us today (this had actually been a minor point in my lecture and I had expected most of the discussion to center around the use of instrumental music). Many protestant denominations in the Czech Republic use normal bread (a loaf like you would buy at the grocery store) during the Lord's Supper.

However, the letter also made it clear that unleavened bread wasn't really the issue either, but our understanding of grace. Their understanding of grace seems to be very inclusive concerning what we do as believers (in other words, God's grace will cover us regardless of whether we use leavened bread or unleavened bread).

Together, Marek Lustyk (he has been very involved in the efforts in Sumperk) and I wrote a letter back, but without replying specifically to the things they brought up. Instead, we expressed a desire to visit them and study these things with them more. They would like to do that, so unless anything changes, that meeting is scheduled for March 4.

## STUDENTS

In Rychnov nad Kneznou:

Milena Lockerova: studying Ephesians

Martin Locker (Milena's husband): studying Genesis ... still on hold due to his work schedule

Helena M.: studying Robert Harkrider's Basic Bible Doctrines Book 1.

Helena D.: also studying Robert Harkrider's Basic Bible Doctrines Book 1, along with her other questions.

In Usti nad Orlici:

Josef and Bela Hladik (Ivana's parents): studying the Book of Acts.

Correspondence Course:

Josef M. (in Jesenik)

## WEB SITE

There were 117 visitors to the website from November 15 to the present. However, there were no requests for studies or materials during this time.

## FINAL WORDS

We'd like to close by thanking you all again for your support of and interest in the work in this part of the Czech Republic. If we can answer any questions that you might have, please feel free to write.

Yours in Christ,  
Steven and Ivana Baxley

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