

REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2005

December 16, 2005

Dear Brethren,

We hope that this report finds all of you doing well. We are doing fine here in this part of the Czech Republic. Samuel and Adela both just celebrated their birthdays. Samuel turned 2, and Adela turned 5.

REDUCTION IN SUPPORT

We were recently informed by the brethren at the Hillview congregation in Nashville, Tennessee that they will be reducing their support from \$600 monthly to \$400 monthly effective January 1. We would like to make up this \$200 loss, if it is possible.

TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES

Our family has made plans to travel to the United States from June 28 to July 25, 2006. We were able to purchase airline tickets for the fairly reasonable price of \$4,100 roundtrip total. To date, we have received \$1,400 in help towards paying for these tickets, which still leaves us short \$2,700. Any help that you might be able to provide in off-setting this expense would be greatly appreciated.

Along with this, we have the following Sundays available during our time in the U.S. for visiting with supporting congregations:

2 July;

9 July;

16 July;

23 July

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 (November): 19 (including children)

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

Contribution: \$257 (November)

The church in Litomysl continues to do well. The men are actively involved in making decisions concerning the work of the church, and they also continue to be very willing to take an active role in the worship services and the Bible class. On December 4, we had an evaluation meeting for the church to discuss my work with the congregation. The comments made were all positive and supportive. This was the first time that the congregation had had a meeting like this, but I felt it was necessary in order to help me be more effective in my work with them. I hope we will be able to do this on an annual basis.

The following lecture took place since the last report:

Vysoke Myto – December 1 – 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 17 non-Christians present for this lecture, including Ivana’s cousin (and her husband) who live in this city. There were lots of questions and discussion after the lecture.

Upcoming Lectures:

Litomysl – January 12 – Topic: “Life After Life” (same format as in Vysoke Myto)

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

The church is still in the process of planning its sign which will be located on the main road which runs through Litomysl. The company which will produce the sign has still not sent its suggested designs back, so we are waiting on them.

WEB SITE

We continue to have a large number of visitors at the web site. During the period November 17 – December 16, we had 185 visitors. There was one question sent in during this period, but no requests for studies or the correspondence course.

THE CHURCH IN RYCHNOV NAD KNEZNOU

Milena Lockerova and Helena Duracova have begun meeting together in Milena's apartment for Sunday worship. Both of these Christian women have unbelieving husbands, so it is only the two of them meeting for worship, along with their children. Helena is pregnant, with her baby due in the spring/early summer. Neither of them are able to get to Litomysl on any consistent basis for worship, and so they came to the conclusion that they should begin meeting together. Rychnov is about an hour's drive from Litomysl, across roads which are not in the best of shape, and there is no public transportation between the two cities which would allow them to be at worship in Litomysl.

In order to help them, I have agreed to go there every 14 days to present a sermon. Of course, when I go there, I also lead the other aspects of worship as well (singing, the Lord's Supper, etc.). However, I do not take any role in or make any decisions for the church there in Rychnov. While there, I am available to answer their Bible questions. I am not able to be in Rychnov any more often than every 2 weeks due to my commitment to provide transportation for Jirina Soldanova, our elderly sister who lives in Hradec Kralove, but worships in Litomysl.

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 from time to time, and seems to be encouraged by what she sees and hears there.

In Bukovka:

Jaroslav P.: Bukovka is a small village located 27 miles west of Horni Jeleni. This young man is a member of the Czech Evangelical Church (a group which is very similar to the Lutheran Church in the U.S.), but is dissatisfied with some of the things which he sees there (and which he recognizes as being unbiblical). We were able to meet together and discuss some things. In spite of his dissatisfaction, however, he has no interest in leaving that denomination. I did invite him to come and visit the worship in Litomysl sometime, and left the door open for further discussions.

FINAL WORDS

As we come up to the end of another year, we realize how much we have to be thankful for. We are especially thankful to God who has opened up a door of opportunity in this country, and for giving us the ability to be here to spread the Gospel message. We are also thankful to you for your continued support of the work here, not only financially, but also spiritually. Thank you for your prayers on behalf of us, and on behalf of the Christians here.

Yours in Christ,
Steven and Ivana Baxley
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P.O. Box 43
534 01 Holice v Cechach
Czech Republic

Tel. 420 - 724 142 180
Tel. 420 - 466 683 067

SKYPE: steven_baxley
E-mail: baxleyovi@cirkevbozi.cz
Evangelism Update website:
www.evangelismupdate.com