

...BRIDGES II...

prepared as a Service to the American Working Group and as a Supplement to the Czech Working Group Newsletter and by Joyce Michael, Mission Co-worker with PC(USA)
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Although you will not receive this message until after the Day of Resurrection has come and gone, I am writing these reflections on Maundy Thursday. In Czech parlance, Christ's journey to the cross begins on what is known as "Green Thursday." Thus, this evening, John and I will attend a service where the reading of the passion narrative will be punctuated by the singing of hymns. Tomorrow, the Lord's Supper will be served in the context of "Great Friday" worship. On "White Saturday," organ music will provide the backdrop for reflections on Christ's love, and communion will also be celebrated during the morning worship service on Easter, which, in keeping with the Czech designation for the Passover, is referred to as "God's Great Night." Of course, this listing of events cannot convey the ways in which the Easter truth will actually be disclosed as remembrances of betrayal and death are transformed by encounters with the supreme victory of Life and Love. However, I do not doubt that this transformation will take place in the Czech Republic, in the United States, and throughout the world. Indeed, I trust that the entire Easter season will be a time of renewal and hope for each of you.... With warm regards, Joyce

DID YOU KNOW that

twice a year, representatives from the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, the Protestant Theological Faculty, and the ECCB's Diaconia gather to review the most recent issue of a publication that is entitled the *Czech Protestant News*. After perusing the copy that will be sent to the printer, the group turns its attention to the next issue of "the bulletin." Each of the representatives describes newsworthy issues and events that are specific to their milieu; topics for "feature" articles are discussed; and authors are identified. As the articles are written, they are forwarded to folks who translate them into German and English. Then, the translations are sent to two clever 'wizards' who format and edit the texts. As a result of an agreement between the ECCB and the PC(USA's) Worldwide Ministries Division, much of the content of the *Czech Protestant News* is later incorporated into the *Czech Working Group Newsletter* that many of you receive each autumn and spring.

THE REST OF THE STORY

is that usually, more news is submitted to the *Czech Protestant News* than the eight pages allotted for it can hold. This state of affairs means that many editorial decisions must be made, as "the bulletin's" formatters seek to condense detailed articles in ways that faithfully preserve their intent. On occasion, this process seems to be time-consuming and cumbersome. However, in the end, it is exciting to realize that the ECCB has so many stories that it is eager to share with people in other lands. Indeed, insofar as the abundance of news reflects the vitality of the church, its seminary, and the Diaconia, it may illustrate a flourishing participation in the Easter promise. The folks who contribute to "the bulletin" want to let the whole world know about the many ways in which the ECCB is seeking to foster the sorts of graceful transformation which have been bequeathed to it by Life's unquenchable power and are enabled by God's merciful goodness.

AN INVITATION

The articles included in the *Czech Protestant News* are not the whole story, of course. Thus, members and friends of the PC(USA) are cordially invited (and heartily encouraged) to send articles about Czech connections that are being cultivated in the United States to johnmichael@webpgh.com. We are eager to include news about your relationships with Czech Christians and ECCB churches in up-coming editions of the *Czech Working Group Newsletter*.