



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Dear Prayer Supporter,

It is nice to know that Dorothy and I will never be younger than we are today! Even so, it is also a real blessing to know that we will be in heaven in far less time than we have already lived on earth!

Yes, the years behind us are already long enough to witness the purposes of yester-year's ministry coming back in full cycle. That in itself is a wonderful blessing.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them EPHESIANS 2:10.

Back in 1968

The word "Balkanise" means to break up into small, mutually opposing political units, such as the Balkans after World War I. And that is what has happened to Czechoslovakia since World War II. The old Czechoslovakia is now two countries—Czech Republic and Slovakia.

It was back in the year 1968 that Dorothy and I ministered in what, at the that time, was communist Czechoslovakia. After some blessed ministry there, and upon bidding farewell to our precious brothers and sisters in Christ, three memories linger in our minds:

- There was the picture of the "Good Samaritan" which had been broken and thrown into the doctor's yard when his medical practice had been confiscated by the communist authorities. His crime was that this family doctor had been witnessing to his patients about his Savior!
- Then, because of their deep appreciation for, and their help received from the ministry of the Word, upon our immediate return to England we promised to send literature to the Assembly.
- Then, there was the GRAVESTONE that they loaded in the back of our Volkswagen Beetle to take to England. You can imagine the astonishment of the British customs officer when we declared our import!

BUT WHY A GRAVESTONE? It had come to the knowledge of believers in the Czechoslovakian Church that their "grandfather" and "grandmother" in the faith—Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Butcher—were buried in England and that their grave was not dignified with a memorial stone. So, with great love and appreciation for the Butchers ministry in bygone years, they inscribed a beautiful memorial stone and requested that we have it appropriately erected in England on their behalf.

BUT WHO WAS MR. BUTCHER? Frederick Butcher founded the Churches which sent us back to England with the

gravestone. Back in the year 1900, the Butchers arrived in **Bratislava**. Upon arrival, they were unknown, financially unsupported and—by today's standards—were unequipped. But, worst of all, they were unwanted by the nation to which the Lord had called them. For the Butchers, a small rented one-bedroom apartment was God's beachhead into the ramshackle empire then known as Austro-Hungary.

So, before there was even a country called Czechoslovakia, Mr. Butcher baptized his first two converts in the mighty River Danube. And before the dark clouds of communism fell on that part of the world, it is now known that 50 self-supporting, self-governing Churches had been brought to life through his faithful ministry of the Word. In fact, through his stalwart testimony, all of Czechoslovakia and the neighboring regions were opened as preaching outposts. In addition, ministry conventions and small groups of believers were formed far and wide. And in spite of what today would be termed remarkable "Church growth," Mr. Butcher never published statistics.

Frederick Butcher was an exemplary and sacrificial missionary. When he went to his heavenly reward, his children and grandchildren in the faith lived through turbulent years of war, communism, shortage and persecution. It was in those difficult days that Dorothy and I had the honor of ministering to the ongoing Church in Czechoslovakia.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them REVELATION 14:13.



So the Church Lives On!

Yes, it was at Bratislava where the Butchers first ministered in 1900. Now, from that very city in the country of Slovakia we rejoice in the ongoing of our ministry through "Quest" and "Food." Please make this new and wonderful opportunity a matter of focused prayer.

It all began at a Book Fair in Frankfurt. There our two German books were on display. And it was there that Wolfgang Buhne introduced us to Peter Volhmann who, from his newly

liberated Hungary, had made his first visit to the West. Peter was in search of good Christian literature.

So, to date, CCIM has been privileged to provide 53,000 of our "missionaries in paper covers" for Hungarian peoples in Hungary and surrounding countries—including Slovakia. And now the river of God's blessing continues to flow right back to the very Churches in Slovakia where we once ministered and where we promised to send helpful literature. We did it then and, through your help, we are doing it now!

WHAT OF TODAY? The following quotations, received in letters from our new friends in the Lord in Bratislava are wonderful tokens of the grace and goodness of God. Imrich Fülöp from Bratislava writes:

JULY 26, 2001 *Dear Brother Richard and Sister Bennett, I am so thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to communicate with you by means of this letter and to wish you the richest blessings of our dear Lord Jesus Christ. It has been with great blessing that we have used your wonderful books in Hungarian for several years in our ministry in Slovakia.*

Now Your Quest for God and Food for Faith in the Slovak language would serve as wonderful tools in our evangelistic ministry as well as in the ministry among the believers.

For this reason, we would need to have your kind permission. Now I would like to answer your questions:

- ☛ *We continue to cooperate with Brother Lubomir Vyhnánek of Trans World Radio (TWR), Slovakia. Brother Vyhnánek broadcasts in the Slovak language only and I spoke to him about the broadcasting of your books on the air and he said that he was very interested.*
- ☛ *Yes, it will be possible to make our offers known to the public through the Internet.*
- ☛ *The ministry of MSEJK (Mission Society of the Gospel of Jesus Christ) has always functioned as a faith ministry and not as a business even though we do have a right to sell our titles to the public. Only about 5 to 7% are sold in bookstores.*
- ☛ *The main distribution is done through our own network of contacts • By mail • Through TWR • Through volunteers evangelizing with "Quest" • Through Church elders (especially with "Food").*

We are thankful for your ministry and your confidence to work with us on fields which are ready for the harvest. Should the Lord allow you, we would be honored to welcome you here in Slovakia some day and share with you more about what the Lord is doing in Slovakia.

In the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, Imrich and Ruth Fülöp

AUGUST 6, 2001 *We were very pleased to receive your letter of July 30, 2001. We are praying for the publishing of the two books and trust that the Lord will be glorified in the furthering of his purposes in our country.*

Thank you for demonstrating your love for the Lord and His work in practical terms, in that you remember the financial needs related to the publishing of these two books. We will

continue to regularly pray for you and your ministry as well as for the Lord's provision for this project. We know it takes much effort to make the needs known and to find the willing hearts for such a sacrifice. Please be assured that you are in our daily prayers.

Allow me to go back to touch on some of the points from the previous letter:

- ☛ *It would probably take several pages to explain the spiritual climate in Slovakia and I would need to explain the situation as it has unfavorably evolved for the last 30 to 40 years. Briefly stated, all the evangelical denominations and churches in Slovakia, except the Brethren Assemblies, have become a part of the Ecumenical movement. They are also members of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in partnership with the Catholic church. The Brethren Assemblies have refused to cooperate with the ECC or with the Ecumenical movement. For this reason, the Brethren Assemblies and their believers are not considered as a legitimate part of Christianity in this country. The official bulletin of the ECC stated: "As far as the cooperation with the Catholic Church is concerned, the only ones who have not joined us are the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Brethren Assemblies."*
- ☛ *Our ministry is not registered as a Church. In the area of public relations, and as far as any visible activity of our ministry is concerned, we work on the same principles as the Brethren Assemblies. But many well-known brethren, who used to be respected, including those from the evangelical circles, have made various compromises which seemed to be unacceptable. They became active in the wrong political circles and in public activities which have not helped them to keep the best testimony.*

But after 11 years of operation, the MSEJK has become a well known ministry in Slovakia in a positive sense of the word. For this, we thank the Lord and give Him all the glory. Our ministry is well accepted in the evangelical circles (of course, not all of them) and the brethren of the Assemblies respect it.

In the love of our Lord Jesus, Imrich and Ruth Fülöp

What an honor and blessing it is for CCIM to build upon such foundations—the stalwart pioneer ministries of Mr. and Mrs. Butcher; the suffering yet prevailing Church during years of communist oppression; and now the uncompromising testimonies associated with *The Mission Society of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!*

Our commitment of faith for CCIM is to provide 10,000 copies each of "Quest" and "Food." We do so with the expectation that the Holy Spirit will bring them to prepared hearts and lives, and that precious Slovaks will come to Christ. This then, is an urgent request for you to pray for financial resources to make this step of faith a reality. And in so doing you may want to ask "Lord what will you have me or my Church do in this God-given opportunity?" With our renewed thanks and love for your involvement.

In the bonds of Calvary,

