



And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart:
And you shall teach them diligently unto your children, and shall talk of them...

Deuteronomy 6: 6-7

(Daily watchwords 2015)

**** Introduction: ****

Another successful event: conference of MORAVIAN. We bring a report on its progress.

**** What is behind us: ****

VII. International Conference of Moravian, 16th - 18th October 2015

The aim of the conference:

- We brought the theme "Women of the Moravian Brethren" to the public.
- 21 jubilee Moravians - missionaries were brought to mind.
- We gave researchers and guests an opportunity to acquaint the public with related interesting themes.

**** Program for Friday 16th October 2015 ****

The moderator of the conference, proven for many times, was PhDr. K. Chobot, who introduced the co-hosts of the event: MORAVIAN, The State District Archive in Nový Jičín, the township Suchdol nad Odrou, the Culture club, Johannes Mathesius Gesellschaft, Museum of the Nový Jičín District, Alte Heimat Kuhländchen.

Six personalities backed the conference in their names:

- Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ing. Lubomir Zaorálek,
- Mayor of the township Suchdol N.O., Ing. Richard Ehler,
- Director of the Provincial Archives in Opava, Ing. K. Müller,
- Prof. Dr. Hans Rollmann from the University of Newfoundland in Canada,
- Chairman of the Matice Radhošťská Society, Mr. Drahomír Strnadel,
- Dr. Edita Štěříková, the Czech author of books about the Moravian Brethren.



Mr. Zdeněk Valchář welcome the participants on behalf of Moravian at 10 a.m. and gave the word to the mayor of the township Suchdol nad Odrou, Mr. Ehler, to open the conference. The speeches of greeting were spoken by: PhDr. S. Dvořáčková on behalf of the Museum of the Nový Jičín District, Dipl. Gerontologist theologian Mr. Horst Schinzel on behalf of Johannes Mathesius Gesellschaft, Mr. Drahomír Strnadel for the Matice Radhošťská Society, Mr. W. Bruder for Alte Heimat Kuhländchen, Mr. Jang Jiyun from Korea, and the Czech Parliament Member

Mgr. Dana Váhalová.

Written greetings were also read, sent from: a former Ambassador to Denmark Mr. Lyčka, Dr. Henrik Wilhjelmsen from Denmark, prof. Dr. Hans Rollmann from Labrador, a great-granddaughter of John Heckewelder Mrs. Karen Bunning, Dr. Zuzana Finger on behalf of Sudetendeutsche Landsmannschaft, Prof. Atwood Craig from Theological seminar in Winston Salem, and Minister of Foreign Affairs PhDr. Lubomír Zaorálek.

An introductory lecture about the status of women in the renewed Brethren Unity was given by Kristina Štěpánovská, a Bible school student in Cologne. Mgr. Lenka Chobotová read a lecture by Edita Štěříková: Rosina Kremser (maiden name Schullius). Between the lectures, we visited three exhibitions in the House of Culture: 275 years of mission among the Indians and 275 years of Nazareth, both by Dipl. Gerontologist and theologian Horst Schinzel. The third exhibition informed of all previous Conferences Moravian. We moved then to a Protestant church and viewed 2 Exhibition there: Nelson Mandela and Moravian Brothers (24 panels), David Zeisberger - apostle of Indians (17 panels).



I. Hlavsová-ČR, H. Brossmann-BRD, L. Barnes-USA

After lunch and coffee break, Mr. Pavel Neústupný from Berlin spoke about Erdmuth Dorothea Countess von Zinzendorf. Then Mrs. Aneta Kubalová about Thematisation of virgin

and marital status in prescriptive writings of the Brethren Unity in the era after the Battle of White Mountain.

A short essay by Mrs. Iva Hlavsová followed about their way to the US and filming of the movie about David Zeisberger. Then we moved to the Park of the Moravian Brethren to see unveiling of the first three plaques on the memorial wall built for this purpose in 2014. The memorial plaque dedicated to David Nitschmann the Wheeler was unveiled by the mayor of Suchdol n.O. Mr. Ehler, the other one to his wife Anna Nitschmann was unveiled by three women: American Laurie Barnes, Hildegard Brossmann from Germany, and Iva Hlavsová from the Czech Republic. The third plaque dedicated to Johann Teltschik was revealed by Mrs. Anna Látalová from Suchdol n.O, as a descendant of the great reeve Teltschik family of Suchdol.



A. Látalová born Teltschik with Daughter

Together, we planted a tree brought from the Latvian city of Straupe. When we moved to Forest church of Martin Schneider, it was already raining. Mr. ThDr. Marek Říčan held a brief prayer service there. Rain reminded us that this phenomenon certainly was sometimes a normal part of secret gatherings in this place. A song and a prayer ended our assembly.

Then we went to the House of culture and watched the film about a South African village of the Moravians Genadendal, which Georg Schmidt of Kunín worked in. After dinner a panel discussion followed for persistent participants.

We gave space to guests who did not arrive with a lecture but gave interesting information about their activities or about the Moravian Brethren.

**** Saturday 17th October 2015 ****

A children's choir Skřivánek ("Little Lark") from Suchdol n.O. started the day with several songs. Mr. Horst Schinzel then gave a lecture on Magdalene und Biebel, which was the story of a South African woman of the tribe of Khoi-Khoi. Mr. Daniel Freitinger introduced a biography of Dorothea Ballenhorst, a missionary in Greenland. Then Horst Schinzel took us briefly to the US among the Mohicans, which he returned last week from. Aleš Mrázek read a lecture by Edita Štěříková about Susanna Martin married to Nitschmann, and Daniel Freitinger led us "In the Footsteps of the Moravian Brethren in Greenland."



Planting trees: P. Neústupný



J. Barnes



P. Bill a U. Brossmann

After the lunch, the last and conclusive lectures followed: by prof. Dr. Ulf Brossmann: “Rosina Stach and Anna Stach, two energetic, courageous and deeply faithful women from Mankovice”. The lecture by Edita Štěříková: “Judith Holaschke” was read by JUDr. Petr Holášek, a descendant of this lineage, and he complemented it by his own genealogical exploration.

At the end we projected photographs from the activities of Moravian: Unveiling of a memorial in Hrezogwald, photographs of youth workshops in the Museum of the Moravian Brethren, photographs of the visitors from Bethlehem and South Africa.

Z. Valchář briefly summed up all the other jubilee honoured persons, which had not been reported on in detail, and thus the series of lectures was concluded. This was followed by evaluation of the conference, its contribution and further intentions of Moravian. We thanked all those who participated in organizing and we gave gifts to our guests in the form of a silver commemorative coin commemorating the 600th anniversary of the burning of Jan Hus: namely to PhDr. Chobot, W. Bruder, U. Brossmann, P. Neústupný, D. Strnadel and the absent ones: the Mayor R. Ehler, E. Štěříková, and Mr. and Mrs. Hlavsa.

This year, the traditional coach trip to the vicinity was lead up to Mankovice, Bernartice, and to Nový Jičín to see the exhibition of Master Jan Hus.

We were coming back through Šenov and Kunín. The intention was to present the sights in our neighbourhood associated with the Moravian Brethren. This was followed by visitation of the Museum of the Township of Suchdol (*Muzeum městyse Suchdol*) with unique military and aircraft exposure. After dinner we gathered at a bonfire on the occasion of the 600th anniversary of Master Jan Hus. The speech was given by the pastor of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church (CČSH), Mgr. Renáta Wesley and our representative was Z. Valchář.



Ignited bonfire in the Park Moravských bratří (in the Park of Moravian Brethren)

****** Sunday 18 October 2015 ******

The remaining guests and organizers attended a church service at the evangetic church, where Daniel Freitinger served with the Word of God. The conference participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the history of the church building, which does not belong among usual sacred buildings, but which is a continuation of the story of the Moravian Brethren. They also looked through the Eckert's library, focusing on the history of German Evangelic Church, which is gradually being built at the premises of the church. Then we had lunch together and a pleasant coffee gathering was ready in the Museum of Moravian Brethren.

****** In fine: ******

The conference is over. It was attended by about 120 people from six countries. The organizers had to make great efforts to provide financial resources and to ensure a rich programme. But what is it compared with what ordinary people from Moravia were able to sacrifice? Moravian Brethren and Sisters are now a model and inspiration to many communities that are rising and want to go in Christ's footsteps and which are building living communities. The Museum of Moravian Brethren shall happily welcome you as a visitor!

The event was supported by the Czech-German Fund for the Future

We have issued the following publications:

Proceedings of the Conference 2012 “Moravian Brethren in the Polar Regions”. Publication “Johann and Elisabeth Schneider, the Moravian Missionaries in Labrador”, and we are preparing to press Proceedings of the Conference 2015.

Folder with materials: Each conference participant received a folder covered with information “Who is Who among Moravian Brethren” and a “Calendarium of Events”.

Inside: Conference program and leaflets: Museum of MB, MB Park, Museum of the Township of Suchdol, Guest-house Poodří, publication “Johann and Elisabeth Schneider”, and an invitation to the event “The Delawares in Suchdol” which followed a month later.

During the preparations for the conference:

One of the most interesting jubilee honoured persons was Johann Teltschik, who served in the British Isles, about whom there has been no biography published as yet. However, we are also attracted by other persons about which we know so little. As a positive feature we consider the contacts that were developed in the course of preparation and we look forward to their further development after the conference: Sarah Graves from the Kirwarlin congregation in Ireland, Loraine Parsons, the archivist of the Unity of the Brethren in London, Jaro Havelka in Switzerland, Marian Scheithauer in Poland, Steve Nitschmann in the USA, Robert Teltschik in Germany and many others. So as to be able to cope with correspondence, we have to establish an institution of correspondents. Hereby we greet all of our new friends!

**** Other news - do not miss! *****

Another project - the Delawares: A group of Canadian Delawares arrived in Suchdol at 15-17 November 2015. They searched for their identity and the circumstances how they occurred in Canada, far from their native hunting-ground. They wanted to know who was David Zeisberger that led them away from the reach of the white civilization and thus saved them from the destiny that accompanied other members of Native-American tribes. Meeting with their Chief from Moraviantown (formerly Fairfield) and others took place on Monday, 16 November 2015 at 6:00 pm in the cultural house.

*** A not important reminder!!!!!! *****

We ask our members not to forget to pay a membership fee: a gainfully employed member CZK 100, others CZK 50. The fee may be sent by a bank transfer to account No. 194991606/0300, be sure to include your name.



Painting *The first fruits* as a decorative painting at the head of the conference hall

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