



The Lord will guard you; he is by your side to protect you.

Psalms 121, 5

(Daily watchwords 2018)

*** To start with : *****

Suchdol nad Odrou is a cradle of the Moravian Brethren. They are spiritual descendants of J. A. Comenius, who had to leave them here and to go to exile in 1621, where he then spent the whole rest of his life. One hundred years after his leaving, about 230 inhabitants of Suchdol (about 550 people from the whole of Kuhländchen region) emigrated and founded an exile village Herrnhut, from where they as missionaries spread Comenius' ideas to various parts of the world.

Every three years we have organized a conference, in which historians, enthusiasts and admirers of the Moravian Brethren's work take part, bringing new facts about these Moravians. We present a report about the Eighth International Moravian Conference, concerning mainly its progress. The co-organizers of the event were: The township of Suchdol nad Odrou, National District Archive in Nový Jičín, Museum of Novojičínsko region, Johannes-Mathesius-Gesellschaft and Landschaftsrat der Heimatlandschaft Kuhländchen.

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

VIII. International Conference of Moravian, 21. - 23. 9. 2018

Main Topic of the Conference: How the Moravian Brethren Enriched the Countries and the Nations.

Other topics: Johann Teutschik (1696-1764), - church planter in England and Ireland

- 275 years of mission work among the Mohicans

- Reminder of 21 Moravians - most of them missionaries, celebrating an anniversary in years 2017, 2018, 2019

- The significant anniversary, Centenary of the Czech Statehood, has not been omitted, the conference has been registered as partner in the project "Centuries-old Roots"

**** Program for Friday 21st September 2018 *****

The meeting was opened by the mayor of the township Suchdol nad Odrou, Ing. Richard Ehler.

Then other speeches of greeting were spoken and some delivered greetings from various parts of world were read. This series of lectures followed then:

Loraine Parsons - Moravian Church Archives, London: Johann Teutschik (1696-1764), the church planter in England

Prof. Dr. Ulf Brossmann - Munich: Georg Kunz, eine tragische Gestalt unter den Mährischen Brüdern

ThDr. Stanislav Pietak - Smilovice: Missionary K.A.Pácalt (1773-1818) and the lutheran mission

David Loula - Heřmanův Městec: Centenary of the Czech Statehood, Centuries-old Roots

Mgr. Ondřej Srba - Masaryk University, Brno: Brethrens' Translations of texts into Kalmyk and other languages

David Rafael - Velká Bíteš: Jos. Kučera (1741-1817), a Moravian Brother from Bohemia

Pavel Neústupný - Berlin: The mission of the Moravian Brethren in Livonia

Martin Pytr, genealogist - Mořkov: The Neisser Clan from Žilina.



Paul Neustupny from Berlin
gives lectures



L. Parsons revealing a memorial plaque

The lectures were interspaced with an interesting relaxation program. A vernissage of five exhibitions took place on the Gallery of the Cultural House: Reformation in Central and Eastern Europe, loaned by Deutsches Kulturforum östliches Europa; Johann Teltschik (1696-1764); Portraits of Comenius, loaned by the Comenius Museum in Přerov; 275 years of mission among the Mohicans; presentation of the Moravian Association activities. We also reminded the lifetime work of our member Zdenek Valchar with the exhibition of his paintings.

In the afternoon, we took a walk to the Moravian Brothers Park and unveiled three new memorial plaques there:

1. Rosina Proske, who worked in Berlin and Estonia (revealed by Pavel Neustupny, Berlin)
2. Paul Münster, who worked in England and Pennsylvania (revealed by Loraine Parsons, London)
3. Paul Schneider, who worked in Pennsylvania and the island of St. Tomas (revealed by Jan Klas, Bishop of the Brethren Unity, Benesov).

There are 25 memorial plaques on the wall of the Moravian Brothers Park, they will be 58 in future. This act was followed by planting of two trees:

1. Apple tree Schöner von Herrnhut, a shovel was handed to Heinrich Steinmann for starting the installation, who represented here (the Herrnhut) organization Zinzendorf Schloss Berthelsdorf.
2. Ash tree from Dublin - the act of planting was started by Sarah Graves, Bishop of the Brethren Unity of Northern Ireland.

All the attendees participated in the planting, and the two planted trees will remind us of the anniversary of 100 years of the Czech Republic. These activities were

accompanied by old chorals blown with wind instruments, and by beautiful weather.

After transfer by cars behind Suchdol, we gathered in Martin Schneider's Forest Church. There was a brief worship, singing together, getting acquainted with this memorable place and common photography. There was a panel discussion for persistent participants after dinner. We gave space to guests who had not come with a presentation but brought interesting information about their activities or about the Moravian Brothers around the world. We broke up at about 10 p.m.



Guests watching revealing of the memorial plaques in the Moravian Brothers Park



Planting the apple tree Schöner von Herrnhut



A common photo at the stone in the Martin Schneider forest church

*** Program of saturday 22.9.2018 *****



The ceremonial aspect of the conference was increased by performance of children's choir Skřivanek (skylark) with songs focused on the topic of Moravian brethren and then the sequence of lectures followed: Groves Sarah-Northern Ireland, Gracehill: Johann Teltschik (1696-1764), founder of Northern Ireland communities

Prof.Dr. Brossmann Ulf - Munchen: Missionar Wenzel Weber und Schicksalsjahre auf St. Croix

Dipl. Psychogerontolog Schinzel Horst - München: 275 years of mission at Mohycans

Řičan Daniel - Suchdol n. O.: Expedition to the Moravian Mohycans at Connecticut.

Dr. Štěříková Edita - SRN: Leimgrübner Rosina married Nitschmann (1719-61), *300 years.

Dr. Štěříková Edita - SRN: Jelínková Marie Kateřina (1717-93), * 300 years

Mgr. Krumplovičová Eva - Paskov: Daniel Neisser (1765-1817), missionary at Caribbean islands

Helena Mahelová, Věra Osvaldová, Kateřina Szczepaníková from Brno: Telling the story about our Via exulantis trip (Suchdol – Herrnhut, 350 km) year 2018

Then we evaluated the lectures, gave the gifts and mr. Strnadel played "fujara" dressed in traditional Valachian dress and thank all the participants for their attention, which they gave to the conference.



mr. Strnadel played "fujara"

Saturday was closed by coach trip with commented excursion along the Kravařsko region. We visited birthhouse of František Palacky at Hodslavice and birthhouse of Kristian David at Ženkla. The weather was great again.

***Program of sunday 23.9.2018

The last day of conference we started in the morning at 9 by the lecture of Mgr. Daniel Freitinger from Kaplice: What the Moravian brethren gave to the Europe and humanity. At 10 we met together at worship in the evangelical church, which was lead by our pastor Vladimír Pír and preached by Daniel Freitinger. After that there was the last lecture: A history of a church in Suchdol as a continuation of Moravian brethren.



Those interested attended a guided tour of the church, today a multi-functional religious facility. On the first floor is an exhibition - 500 years of the Reformation, in the opposite wing the Eckert's library is located, commemorating the history of the German Protestant Church and the indigenous German population. On the ground floor there is a point of contact for natives from abroad, coming to seek information about their ancestors and eager to discover their life stories. The tour of the church was finished on the tower with beautiful view across the whole country of Kravaře. Finally, we've been having a lunch at the restaurant and consuming afternoon coffee, most of the guests took off to their homes.



In the afternoon, the outermost guests (from England and Ireland) went to the last stroll to the most interesting part of Suchdol, place called "Zeisbergerov". This part of the settlement is located near the Upper Farmyard and named after the Zeisberger family - until exile in 1726 owners of the upper part of the village. Here the history of Moravian Brethren is concentrated especially densely in a small corner. Almost every house has its own story, often very moving. We commemorate place where the barn used to be built from the bricks of the Moravian Chapel from Hladké Životice, and thus respected by Brethren. There are places where homes were destroyed as a warning to other heretics. There is a house where Martin Schneider his backroom graduate school operated. We saw houses those who snitched and those who suffered and then secretly fled on a 350 km long and dangerous journey to Herrnhut in Saxony.

The conference was attended by appr. 130 people with interpretation into English and German. There were representatives of 9 countries: England, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Korea, Slovakia, USA, Canada, and Czech Republic. During the three conference days a total of 17 specialized and popularizing lectures were held. In spite of the great diversity and heterogeneity of participants we enjoyed comfortable and friendly atmosphere as one big family. The organizers were congratulated for the level reached by the conference and four new people applied for membership in Moravian Historical Society.

We would like to express our gratitude to prominent figures, under their auspices the conference was held: Prof. Ing. Ivo Vondrák, CSc., Country governor of the Moravian-Silesian Region, Ing. Richard Ehler, Mayor of Suchdol, PhDr. Karel Müller, Director of the Opava Regional Archives, Drahomír Strnadel, Chairman of Matice Radhošťská, Dr. Edita Štěrňáková, German historian, Alan Russel, Chief of the Skerega (Mohican) tribe, Connecticut, Mgr. Jiří Mitáček, General Director of the State Museum in Brno.

Special thanks to the charm and refinement of the moderator PhDr. Karel Chobot, who contributed to the overall high level of the conference.

****** Conclusion: ******

The conference is now over. We are satisfied - more than 20 members and supporters did very good job and we must say a big 'thank you' to all of them. The next conference will convene in the autumn 2021 on the subject of 300 years anniversary of David Zeisberger.

Outputs: Participants received a folder containing program and promotional materials. On time we published Compendium VIII of the Moravian Conference 2018. Having 144 pages it covers 17 lectures, 29 illustrations and photographs It costs 130 CZK.

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