



Evropský zemědělský fond pro rozvoj venkova: Evropa investuje do venkovských oblastí.

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„Remove all dirt and excess of wickedness and receive with meekness sown word,
which is able to save your souls. Jac 1, 21
(Watchword of the Unity of the Brethren 2014)

**** Introduction ****

This edition is issued with a great delay. There was one event followed by another in the past year and this is our eternal problem that we have a lack of strength to publish anything about them, inform you and the public. We could definitely point out the disclosure of the memorial plaque in Herzogwald among the most successful, but there was no message delivered to the public in the Czech language. I submit it to the consideration for the members with a reporter's talent that we need to strengthen our weary lines.

*** Behind us: ****

9. workshop in the museum

It was organised for 9 pupils of the 5th and 7th grade and enjoys a great popularity. Pupils spent three days together, 23.-25. June, at the Museum hostel. There are performed various works and activities during morning and afternoon, which are useful for Museum and the Park of the Moravian Brethren. We also spent a few hours doing archaeological activities and evenings were filled with talks about the past of Suchdol, familiarizing themselves with auxiliary historical sciences. Performed work: Texts on the Hernhut panel, attic stairs repaired, wooden objects against woodworms protected, preservation of metal objects, trees in the park treated, information board about David Nitschmann Syndikus repaired, cutting fonts into the sandstone slabs and others.

These workshops are favored by everybody. It takes place at a time when signs are written on the school certificates; pupils can rest from teachers, teachers can rest from pupils and the Museum gains young supporters.

Guild „For Opava „

This is a group of enthusiasts who fix chapels and small folk buildings in Opava. Members of this guild made a working weekend August 21 to 24 in a hostel of the museum. They consisted of 8 adults, 4 kids and a dog. It was really a weekend spent by working. They painted wooden items with a protection from woodworms, paved the backyard, restored the writing on a stone slab beneath the statue of Emperor Joseph II. But above all, they helped us with the placement of a memorial plaque in Herzogwald. Thank you!



The disclosure of the memorial plaque in Herzogwald, 23. 8. 2014

The visit of the extinct village Herzogwald in 2013, where in the years 1890-1946 the Unity of Brethren was located, inspired us to place a memorial plaque on a place where the church building was. The sandstone slab was donated to us by the company UNISTAD - K. Pšenica. The participants of the workshop 2014 have successfully tried to mow the scripture into the slab but the completion was done by a local engraver Mirek Uhlir.

On Friday, the day before the final disclosure we went on an expedition to Herzogwald. We were helped by the members of the guild "For Opava" with their active participation. To our surprise, vegetation acts like a rainforest. It was very hard to find the wall and remove lush, creeper vegetation; we had to slash to the wall, where we wanted to build the plaque. We carefully dismantled part of the wall, placed the plaque and overlaid it with other stones,



which are here from a former church building and there is a tremendous amount of them around the place. We ended up in the dark and with the rain behind our necks, as we were this year constantly and abundantly served.

There is a convoy of our cars coming to Herzogwald again the following day; Saturday 23 of August. Behind the town Dvorce, we met two men who wave at us. They are our friends Karl-Heinz Körper and his son Alexander. We have been in contact with them since 2007, but today we see them for the first time. They are descendants of members of the Unity of Brethren from Herzogwald who were in 1946 displaced and received by congregation in Neuwied, later native Czech Corps Czech exile Rixdorf (Berlin). There was held a short service led by Br. Valchář on the road before the plaque was disclosed. He spoke on 1 Corinthians text. 4 1-2. *Therefore, let us all be deemed as servants of Christ and administrators of the mysteries of God. Since there is nothing else asked from the wardens than that every man should be found faithful.* The climax of the ceremony was an unveiling a commemorative plaque and a joint photography. After the official ceremony came the moment when we gathered around our foreign friends and eagerly asked many questions. Even the atmosphere of this place is asking for it. Once there was life here, children running, wagons riding, people were celebrating, being born and dying,



and now everything was graciously taken back by nature again as if civilization never penetrated this piece of land. We also found out that they have a close family link to the Unity corps in South Africa because Karl-Heinz's wife is a daughter of the preacher Engel. We took a walk on the Unity of Brethren cemetery and then also to his parents' house. It is one of two houses that are still standing and it is in very good condition. Additionally, we found out that the current owner is also the owner of the land on which stood a church building of the Unity of Brethren. We said goodbye and move off in a various world parties.



Above the commemorative plaque is a small cairn, if you go around you're welcomed to attach your own stone! Not a bad tradition. Everything that grows, develops and gets bulky makes a good impression.

Our foreign guests visited the Museum of the Moravian Brethren on Monday, where we learn more details about the fate of the family and their church in Herzogwald. From that little what displaced members of the Unity took with them in 1946, we have received several valuable relics which were donated to the museum.

The corps in Herzogwald is another opportunity for us to talk about the missionary efforts of the Moravian Brethren and their dedication inspired by the word of God.

Coach trip visit from Bethlehem, 4. July

Our attention was caught by news about the upcoming visit to the Museum of the Moravian Brethren. It was led by the director of the archive in Bethlehem Dr. Paul Peukert. We tried to execute a nice greeting, but it was tempered by hurried atmosphere. Still, it was an afternoon full of pleasant experiences. Brother Strnadel welcomed the visitors in the Wallachian folk costume, playing the flute and singing: I want a Friend from Bethlehem. God bless you for everyday.

Building a memorial wall in the park of the Moravian Brethren

Last year we managed to succeed when applying for a grant from LAG (Local Action Groups) Poodří in a program called LEADER. The project had several parts:

- Building a wall of high-quality, durable material, where commemorative plaques of the important Moravian brethren will be attached.
- Planting a 3 pieces of trees: Niesky-DEU, Kleinwelka-DEU, Eydon-ENG.
- Information board with a roof.
- Newsletter.
- There were participants of the pupil's workshop from 23.-25. June included in the project.
- Final ceremony where all these mentioned objects were



handed over by major of Suchdol nad Odrou to the public. It was a challenging project (617 000 CZK), from the preparation of the request, tender and proper billing, as well as its own organization and implementation of all its parts. The greatest difficulty seemed to be an enormously rainy weather that has plagued northern Moravia and delayed all the work. Construction works have been assigned to a company UNISTAD that managed meeting a deadline. We could thus combine, on a date 28. September, the ending of this project with another project "Area of the church for all", with the participation of two international tours. From Germany arrived natives of Mankovice led by Dr. J. Christ and Dr. U. Brossmann and other five members of Vienna, led by Mrs. Inge Walleczkovou. Building a memorial wall was one of the very demanding events. However, it brings the missionary efforts of the Moravians to all passerbies. It's actually an open-air museum, opened to the public in summer and winter, day and night.



Ceremonial handover of the memorial wall on 28. September with the participation of guests from Germany



Moravian Brethren park in November 2014

***** Events concurrently ongoing *****

- The traveling exhibition of David Zeisberger is at present in Salvation Army Opava.

- Backyard of the museum was lent on September 19, for the needs of the local school event called Funny homeland. A historical printing press and printer in a period clothing Roman Prokeš really stood out very nicely in these surroundings. His studio called Without a handle could use an unusually attractive way to bring everything about the development of all fonts, written and printed books and about an importance of the printing press in spreading a Bible. There were also parts of this workshop where students could try hand-printing and see coinage, writing with a quill and bookbinding.



- The traveling exhibition Nelson Mandela and Moravian brothers was prepared by our member Horst Schinzel from Munich. It was opened on 28. September in the Protestant church during the event "Area of the church for all". There are 24 panels documenting the activities of the Moravians in mission settlements in southern Africa and appreciation of this work by Nelson Mandela, who after their settlement Genadendal named his presidential palace.

- Yearbook from the conference 2012 was editorially prepared by Mgr. Monika Kurková. Yearbook should be available at the conference 2015.

- Prof. Rollmann's publication about Johann and Elizabeth Schneider, missionaries in Labrador was translated by br. Vilém Spratek. Corrections were done by Daniel Sim, Martin Okáč and David Loula with friends. The final product should be probably available next month.

- We are in contact with the owners of the Zeisberger's upper yard and we try to encourage them, the demolition is no longer at risk.

- Husband and wife Hlavsovi completed partially dramatized movie David Zeisberger the apostle of Indians. Preview of the movie was in Zábřeh, cinema RETRO. In the hall for 150 people were 250!

Czech society turns its back on the mission themes. However, there was presented a Moravian Brethren mission in a different light on Christmas Eve, 22:10 pm. David Zeisberger is presented here as a European who did for the rescue of the Indians almost everything. We received emails with enthusiastic reviews. We have to thank to family Hlavsovi for a nice Christmas gift, and that they have created something that could be used by the most widely used media to promote these amazingly current themes. Who have not seen the film, "google" it: David Zeisberger the apostle of Indians.



Preview in the cinema Retro in Zábřeh na Moravě, on the left picture there is a leading actor from Ostrava Luboš Veselý.

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