



Pieter & Nora Kalkman International Ministries

*Life-changing missions in Europe through partnerships
with European Baptist Federation*



July 2008 Newsnotes -- The world in Prague & STM linked to conferences.

Dear Friends,

July would be our conference month of the year (of all years). It started with the obligatory IM Security training for missionaries in this side of the world. Besides arranging all logistics, Pieter was involved in part of the organization and some training set-ups, due to last minute changes on the trainers' side. Hostage-taking, kidnapping, check-point, ambush, interrogations were all touched on, taught, and trained for best behavior to survive these situations. Interestingly enough, most of our colleagues contributed to the class by sharing experiences in difficult situations. I was reminded of check-points and a KGB-like police interrogation in one of the former Soviet states less than two years before this training.

While we were in meetings with the other missionaries, while there were special meetings for the MKs. This was helping them understand their unique situation as an asset in their lives. Despite still being the youngest, Norita greatly enjoyed being among the 15 MK friends, and especially remembers the one day outing to the nearby famous Prague zoo.

It was a special honor for me to help a good size team from Los Angeles. We went from Berlin to the Polish coast, where they would minister and participate in the family camp from a Polish church. This was prior to joining the quinquennial BWA Youth conference, which was held in Leipzig, Germany (between Berlin and Prague). We had met many of the team members in different churches in Southern California during our deputation weeks last winter. We even joined a couple of preparation meetings with them.

While Norita went to visit her grandparents and joining Athletes for Christ Bible Week, we attended the annual BWA general assembly. Due to security concerns, it was relocated from Cypress to Prague this time. It was great to see and talk with a good number of our partners, and make some new friends. With only a 10-minute bus-ride proximity to the conference center, the participants that we hosted in our house had only a short commute.

It was great to meet with colleagues and others who came to the BWA Theological Educators Conference in Prague, and share some meals and conversations in our home. Later we picked up Norita, and had a few days just as a family. Combining conferences ministry is an excellent way for doing STM (short-term mission) in Europe. We stay in touch with different volunteers completing their service or starting their ministry in Europe with the Leipzig youth conference, where 6000 to 7000 youth from all over the world were praising God in countless tongues.

Greetings and Blessings,
Pieter & Nora Kalkman