

News from Petr

and the Czech Republic New Hope Team

August 2009



Dear Friend,

A year ago, I told you about our new tradition – Bouda Report Card Rewards. On the last day of school, we give ice cream to the kids who show us their report cards. It doesn't matter how good the report card is; it doesn't matter what age the student is; everyone gets ice cream.

We want to show that their value is not equal to their Report Card. We have ice cream for everyone and also a word of encouragement or hug

if they need it. We started this tradition in 2007 with 40 kids and continued it in 2008 with three times more - 120 kids. This year, we wanted to invite even more kids. So, I asked a company that distributes Nestle ice cream for sponsorship. I had no expectations, so I was surprised when they said yes and promised 450 pieces ice cream, though not the expensive kind. But, we had something to start with. We offer this event to a public elementary school across the street from The Bouda House, and two local newspapers wrote invitations to the event. When the company saw what we did for the promotion, they changed their first offer.

Instead of 450 pieces of really inexpensive ice cream (30 cents) they brought 560 pieces of one of the most expensive (about \$1.20 a piece) and an big umbrella as a present. So now, we really had something in hand and were awaiting the last day of school, June 26. We were full of questions with no answers. How many kids will come? Will



they undersand the meaning? And what would teachers think about it? Will someone from the local authorities notice what we do?



On Friday, June 26, six volunteers, Katka, and I were ready in front of The Bouda House. We could see that God is really good. In one hour, 550 kids came to get their ice cream. Almost 5 times more than a year ago. And, if you are counting with me, 10 ice cream pieces were left - the right number for the team of volunteers! I was walking among the children, taking pictures, and

Petr Gruber



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listening to what they said and thought about the event. I overheard a conversation of three teachers. One said, *“This is great event; I really like it, especially the meaning, what they want to say to children.”* After it was over, I took the phone and called the principle of the elementary school and said, *“Thank you for your help with the promotion of this event.”* And he answered, *“You know what? I have the mayor of the town in my office and have been telling her how great it was.”*

God is really good, and as always, he had one more surprise. At the very end of the event there was a kindergarten class walking around that wanted to buy ice cream for all 20 kids in the class. We had some reserve in another freezer, so we invited them and offered some to them. We said they could eat the ice cream in our backyard. They accepted. The backyard was full of children. Suddenly, one boy began to vomit. Katka asked the two teachers about him, and they said that he didn't want to grow up, because he didn't want to die, and therefore, he doesn't eat very much. Katka asked the two public kindergarten teachers if she could pray for him, and they surprisingly agreed. I hope that some day I will be able to tell you the end of this story, but even the chance to pray for him with the teacher support is something very encouraging to me.

At the end of this letter I would like to mention one more spiritual battle we face. As some of you probably know, at the end of May this year, the doctors diagnosed me with colon cancer. This sickness has a terrible reputation and difficult treatment. People with the same diagnosis are usually scared and ask, “Why?” But honestly, I am not scared and I know the answer for the “Why” question. I know for certain that this is a spiritual attack not only on my life but also on the whole ministry. So, we pray not only for healing, but also for a prize. And the prize would be growing the ministry with more bridges, more motivated churches, and more changed lives. And we want to ask you to please continue your generous support and pray for the same with us.

Yours in ministry

Petr & Katka

PS: If you want to see more pictures from Bouda for Report Cards, you can go to our webpage www.thebouda.cz (we already started the english version, see the British flag on the top).

