

John the Baptist Movement in Czechoslovakia -- A fantastic foundation lost

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National leader Igor Koromhaz and Eva Vesela had been disciples of Bozena Cibulkova

The Divine Principle teaches us about the failure of John the Baptist who did not join the controversial Jesus, but rather pursued his mission separately on the other side of the Jordan River. Little known are similar phenomena related to the Second Coming that occurred outside of Korea. In Communist ruled Czechoslovakia) a John the Baptist movement could have paved the way for hundreds, even thousands of truth-seeking people.

There the central figure was the prophetess Bokna Cibulkova who was born on July 6, 1914, a few weeks before the outbreak of World War I. She spent her youth in the village of Svebohov, Moravia; her parents raised her in the Catholic faith. First signs of her extraordinary

capacity to communicate with angels became obvious during World War II. On February 2, 1950, Jesus Christ appeared to her. The vision showed Jesus putting his foot on the planet Earth. She understood that the Savior had returned. This experience made such an impact on her that she could neither eat nor sleep for seven days. At that time the nation was frozen by Stalinist terror. Later Bokna claimed that the Czech land is the new chosen nation and that "the Czech language is the language of the angels" since they spoke to her in her mother tongue.

The messages from the spirit world which she received focused largely on "the universal salvation for all humankind." Her prayers dictated by the spirit world inspired many searching people; collections of the prayers are available as books. Frequently they speak about the "coming new age of mankind" as well as the revival of the mission of Christ as it was outlined in her poem "in his new name." Friends helped to spread the revelations by samizdat (non-official publications during Communist times). The collected messages of forty years cover three thousand pages. Slowly the number of friends and helpers increased. Bozena Cibulkova moved to the Moravian village of Mohelnice, where her home became a meeting place for her disciples and numerous truth seekers from all corners of Czechoslovakia. She was famed for her ability to foretell people's future.

In September 1973, the Communist authorities started to arrest the first Unification Church members. The secret police interrogated approximately 200 people; finally around 30 core members were sentenced to prison terms of up to 5 years. Though the secret police was observing also Bozena's group they continued to hold prayer meetings in small groups, and started to hold nationwide events called "Days of Service" seven times a year. Note: such unofficial meetings were strictly prohibited by the Communist authorities! During the "Days of Service" fifty to hundred persons gathered at some place while others did some conditions at home. Though the secret police investigated several times they found no charges for prosecution. In spring 1989 the spirit world informed Bozena about the coming changes -- the end of Communism is at hand! Her disciples see that as a proof that the fall of Communism was not the result of human efforts but happened by heavenly intervention.

In the Sign of the White Cross

Igor Koromhaz, since 1996 national leader of Slovakia, met Bozena Cibulkova through the Czech poet and psychic Zdenek Fryc who had gathered around hundred disciples mainly during the 1980s. Zdenek approved a person as a disciple when the sign of a white cross appeared. The white cross signaled that this person is qualified to undergo Ciyistical transformation and is qualified to receive Christ at his Second Coming. Igor was qualified by the appearance of the white cross. When Zdenek Fryc died in March 1990, Igor and other followers in Bratislava received a message that they should visit Bozena in Mohelnice. The spirit world had told her that their two groups should merge, which did happen after their meeting.

Bozena Cibulkova had founded the "Society of Angelic and Human Works" with many hundreds of supporters; she also established a festivity called "God's Day" which was celebrated with prayer service and banners. In June 1991 she asked Igor to arrange a meeting in Bratislava which was so successful that she trusted him to manage activities in Slovakia. Around this time Igor considered to join some monastic order. Bozena warned him to do so since the Catholic Church was "not the main tool of God anymore". Igor spent months searching how to continue his life until in summer 1992 he was witnessed at a library in Bratislava. "Short time before during a meeting in Prague Bozena had looked intently at me. Suddenly she grabbed my hand and after minutes of silence she revealed my future to all persons gathered: She saw many young people who belonged to some spiritual group centering on a man and a woman. After the vision ended, Bozena foretold me that I shall meet this group where people bow to a couple as if they were God. She warned me to be careful and not become their follower. Her words were so heavy on my heart."

When Igor Koromhaz joined the Unification Church in October 1992, he recalled her prediction and went to visit her. Bokna admonished him to stop contacts with the Unification Church which she called "a tool of the evil". But since the inner voice told him to have faith, he did not quit. Some months later Igor attended a meeting with Bokna and her closest disciples, the so called Council of the Twenty-four. She asked him to explain to them his new affiliation. The council members were highly prepared persons, among them were two priests, several school principals, the publisher of an esoteric magazine and many intellectuals. They questioned him sharply why he considers the Reverend Moon to be the Second Coming of Christ? Igor tried to answer their questions but again and again was stopped by their angry and loud heckling. The heated debate seemed to escalate; Bokna asked all to quiet down and someone to pray "that God will show us the way."

Members Tried to Persuade Her

Igor was not the first member to testify about True Parents. Independently from each other, some early members told Bokna Cibulkova that Sun Myung Moon is the messiah. Our sister Danka Marnicova had an aunt who was interested in Hinduism and a close friend of Bokna; she told her young niece about that remarkable woman. Danka visited her the first time in 1969: "I liked to read her scriptures, especially those about restoration and purification of our minds." In 1971 Danka joined our movement and worked as a missionary in the Slovak town of Martin until she was arrested for her faith. In 1974 she was prosecuted and received a three-year prison term on parole. Years later Danka started to visit Bozena again with her husband and two daughters but their testimony fell on death ears. "In her opinion the messiah was the incarnation of the Word, despite her revelations it was for her unacceptable that a real living person should be the Second Coming," recalls Danka their heated debates, "When we mentioned that Sun Myung Moon continues the messianic mission on earth she became quite furious. Therefore I was very surprised when one day she said that she saw my deceased grandmother and my father who had vehemently tried to stop my study of the Divine Principle and church affiliation. They told her that they were sorry for that and wanted to apologize to me."

Danka visited Bozena a last time in 1992 after her couple had received the Blessing in Korea. "We spoke openly about the mission of our True Parents. She respected their activities to create good families but could not perceive them as the messiah of the new age. During that meeting she expressed her sadness that Igor, one of her best disciples, had joined our church." After rejecting True Parents Bozena quickly lost her spiritual abilities and could not say much since her vocal cords malfunctioned. Shortly before she died Igor brought her a calendar with pictures of True Parents. She accepted the gift and called True Father a "good man." Years before she had labelled him a "false messiah."

Missionary dreamed about meeting her. There was another trial to win her during the Communist era: Our brother Michal Glonda who was a missionary to a Czech town dreamed that the next day he will "meet a very important person in the train." And really, Michal sat in the same train compartment like Bozena Cibulkova whom he did not recognize until she talked with the other passengers about spiritual phenomena. He approached her and they exchanged their address and promised to meet again. He informed our brother Anton Uhnak about the memorable meeting. Anton was well aware how great her influence was and tried to win Bozena for our movement. After the fall of the Communist regime Anton Uhnak, who at that time was the national leader of Czechoslovakia met her during events in Prague; one day he invite her to the center and after a short introduction to the Divine Principle they showed her a video about True Parents. She was not impressed at all and said only cool "Sure, he might be some type of John the Baptist."

Bozena Cibulkova died on December 2, 1995. Since then her fellowship became dispersed lacking a clear focus. Only three persons of her fellowship joined our movement: Igor Koromhaz and Eva Vesela from Slovakia who are faithful members until today. This looks much like the two disciples of John the Baptist who crossed the Jordan River to follow Jesus Christ.

In her book, Inspirations received from Christ, which was published in 1962 there is a hymn where the verses start with the words "In my new name...." For example, "Recognize me with my new name, nations of the world" or "Love my new name so that you may reach your destinations," etc. Reading these verses it is hard to imagine that Bozena was unaware that the Savior indeed has another name than Jesus. Why not Sun Myung Moon?

These persons make an offering on the global level. Before joining our church, Igor Koromhaz was the co-founder of a spiritual group counting eight to twelve people. All of them attended some Divine Principle lecture or seminar but all except one man, Ivan Becani, rejected the True Parents. He also witnessed to many followers of Zdenek Frye and Bozena Cibulkova. On some days he visited a couple who were followers of Zdenek Fryc". They introduced him to a medical doctor who was able to paint her visions in a trance. When Igor showed her a picture of True Parents and asked about her impression, she painted the planet Earth crossed-over by a cross. Igor asked her about the meaning); she explained, "These people make an offering on the global level." She did not recognize or know anything about True Parents! She just expressed what the spirit world told her about who they were. Later, Igor taught this couple the Divine Principle. When the lectures finished the husband wept profusely saying, "For this moment I have waited my whole lifelong." The couple participated in the 360,000 Couple Blessing Ceremony in 1995 in Seoul.