

# ŠUMBARK SIGHTINGS & STORIES

from Benjamin Helge, LCMS Missionary  
Serving our Lord in Havířov-Šumbark, Czech Republic



## Planted Seeds

This morning, I read in Luke 8 the parable of the sower. The seeds sown grew or withered depending on where they landed. In our relationships with others, we share the Gospel. The seed is possibly planted. At the same time, the soil is also being tilled and prepared for the seed through these relationships. One friend, Daniel, came back to visit after working in Germany for a year. While I shared the Gospel with him numerous times before, the seed has still not taken root. However, it is evident that the soil is being tilled in the way this young man speaks. May the Spirit continue to work in His heart!



## Singing What Can't Be Said

It's Monday morning. The week begins, and I head to school to teach conversational English. Just like in the United States, telling your students about Jesus Christ and what He has done for us is not an acceptable thing to do in the classroom. Thus, teaching provides a connection and foundation for the building of relationships with students, teachers and principles.

These foundations lead to other opportunities. During the first week of April, the Concert Choir from the Association Free Lutheran Bible School (AFLBS) in Minnesota came to Havířov while on their European tour to sing for the community. Through the established relationships with three schools, God presented the opportunity to sing His Gospel in front of over 1,000 students, as well as to give a free concert to the community. Every song sung gave glory, praise and testimony to God and the life we have in Jesus Christ.

Following the choir's performance at an elementary/middle school, an English teacher shared, "Ben, I am not saying that I believe what the choir sang, but I cannot deny that there was something different about this music and this message." The Gospel was shared. The Spirit is at work. This same teacher now invited me over to spend time with her family. May God use this as a time to share more about His great love for us.

Thank you to the AFLBS Concert Choir for coming. All glory be to God.



Director of the AFLBS Concert Choir, Andrew Hanson, sharing a brief description about what the choir is singing to the student body of a technical high school.

## Serve with LCMS

There are many opportunities to serve as a short-term or GEO missionary. Check out the current list and download an application at [lcms.org/service](http://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

## Thanksgiving and Prayer Requests

Join me in giving thanks to God for:

- Over 1,000 individuals hearing the Gospel through song and message.
- The AFLBS Concert Choir using their gifts to glorify God and bear witness to the Creator and saving God.
- The many connections and relationships established through teaching.
- Daniel and the ways God continues to work in His life.
- Sylva and Monika, and the faith God has given them.
- His church in the village of Albrechtice.

Pray that God would:

- Connect those that heard the Gospel to our various mission activities in Šumbark.
- Work faith in the heart of Daniel.
- Guard and protect the faith of Sylva and Monika, that Satan would have no power over them.
- Fill every English Bible camp to full capacity that many will hear the Good News and be saved.
- Raise up young people, especially young men, to be active members of His church.
- Rid the community of spiritual evil, sorcery and shamanism.



## Welcome to the Family

Over a year ago, the decision to temporarily pause one mission and outreach club, Kumbal, in the village of Albrechtice was challenging. Yet sometimes stopping one activity leads to growth in other areas.

Two young ladies, Sylva and Monika, both attended Kumbal. Over the past year, after Kumbal ended, they began meeting with Pastor Šikula to learn more about the Christian faith. Sylva was baptized as an infant, but her family never instructed her in the faith. Monika comes from a non-Christian family.

On Sunday, April 22nd, Sylva and Monika were officially welcomed into the Lutheran church in Albrechtice. Sylva shared briefly of the impact Kumbal had in connecting her to the church, and Monika also shared how God used various individuals to connect her to His church.

Praise the Lord for the faith given to these young women!



Sylva sharing with the congregation how God brought her to faith.



Pastor Šikula baptizing Monika in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## PRAY | SUPPORT | ENCOURAGE

To financially partner with this ministry, please send your tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Benjamin Helge." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [www.lcms.org/helge](http://www.lcms.org/helge).

You can also send your support to my friends at:

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