



Palanga, Lithuania and the Baltic Sea viewed from the airplane.

COME FOLLOW ME!

My travel in the region sometimes takes me to places I previously didn't know existed, such as Palanga, Lithuania, or my upcoming trip to Tbilisi and Kutaisi in the country of Georgia. Much of the time, flights to remote places are few, planes are small, and runways are short. And sometimes, the flights don't always go smoothly, as I recently experienced with the Palanga landing. Thankfully, the scenery on the go-around was beautiful and we landed safely on the second try. Praise God!

I am still excited that God has chosen me to help bring the Gospel to people in places that truly do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Please continue to keep in touch and follow my journey:

- **Instagram:** Anyone can follow me at [Cindy Zirbel Wrucke Missionary](#).
- **Facebook:** Search for Cindy Zirbel Wrucke Missionary and follow my page to see posts about upcoming events and brief news.
- **Mail:** My address in Prague is Nad Zelivkou 475, Prague 6 – Nebuřice, 164 00 Czech Republic
- **Email:** Cynthia.Wrucke@lcmsintl.org



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Cynthia.Wrucke@lcmsintl.org

Connecting the Disconnected



The metro in Prague daily transports thousands of passengers, typically plugged into their mobile devices.

The Disconnected

When I arrived in Prague three months ago, some things were as I expected, like the food and weather. But now that I live and serve here as a missionary, I look for new ways to share the Gospel in a country that has the largest number of atheists in the entire world. In fact, the statistics are worse than I thought. According to 2017 data by a Pew Research study, 72 percent of Czechs do not identify with any religion and 66 percent do not believe in God.

At this time, we have empty churches throughout Prague, and low attendance at some of the Lutheran services. The English congregation has about 20-25 regular members, and the Czech service had six members in attendance this past week, though one person told me they have about 20 regular members in a city of 1.25 million people.

I do believe that God called me to serve as a missionary in the Czech Republic to make a difference in this dire situation. As I notice the Czech people go about their business, I see how disconnected they are and how difficult it is to interact with them in a traditional sense. They are plugged into their mobile phones and devices, many with earphones attached, as they

walk, ride the metro, and travel by bus. So, why not develop a mobile phone application to connect them with Scripture and prayer?

Making a Connection

In addition to supporting the communication needs of the Eurasia region and our LCMS missionaries serving in the region, I plan to start work on a mobile phone app that can be developed and tested over the next 6-12 months to try to reach the Czech people with the Good News of their Savior, Jesus Christ. The ultimate goal is to get free Bibles into their hands, connect them with our churches, and see them baptized.

You are part of this team! I rely on your prayers and financial support to do this mission work. Thank you so much for all you have done so far, and for those who have committed to help long-term. I need support and prayers to find and work with the right technical people on this mobile device project. Please pray that God will provide mission-minded pastors to serve on a consistent basis in the Czech Republic. Now is the time to get to work on a critical situation. We need to plant the seeds of the Gospel among the people here, share the Word in a way that they can receive it, and trust the Holy Spirit to work on their hearts. The fields are waiting; let's get planting!



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- My home church, St. Michael's in Prague, as we prepare for new pastors to serve our English and Czech congregations.
- Safe travels for my trip to Tbilisi and Kutaisi, Georgia for the dedication of a new church building.
- Tech experts to assist my work on the mobile phone app to reach atheists with the Gospel.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Faith United Lutheran Church, Gillett, WI; Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gillett, WI; and Trinity Lutheran Church, Manilla, IA for supporting my work through their congregations.
- Successful theological symposiums in Palanga, Lithuania and Bystrice, Czech Republic.
- All of the individuals who have generously provided financial gifts and pledges.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- His amazing grace and blessings each day.



GOD'S WORD FOR ALL

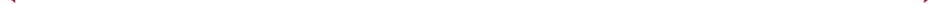
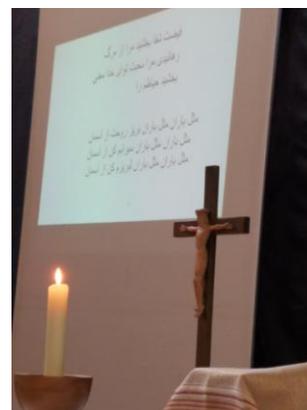
With all of my travels in April, I attended church services in Bucharest, Romania; Vilnius (photo above) and Palanga, Lithuania; Bystrice and Prague, Czech Republic; and in Leipzig, Germany. The pastors and congregations provided beautiful services, with hymns, readings and sermons all in their native languages.

So, I participated in Lutheran church services in Romanian, Lithuanian, Czech, Farsi and English languages. Interestingly, I could follow along quite easily with the liturgy and recognized many of the common components that are so dear and familiar to me—the Confession and Absolution, the

Lord's Prayer, the creeds, Holy Communion, and even the tunes of familiar hymns.

How beautiful to feel so at home and welcome in this universal Body of Christ, whose members welcomed me warmly in each city and church that I visited.

I was especially moved at one of the services I attended—worshipping with my Persian brothers and sisters in Leipzig, Germany. Why? It's hard to explain the beauty of being surrounded by the voices of former Iranian refugees, recently baptized and singing hymns of praise to God in their native language of Farsi (photo below). The passion of these new Christians was amazing; their music and singing was heavenly!



This month I am reflecting on the disconnected, lost souls I see each day and the need for more workers, especially pastors, to help in the field.

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38 (ESV)

- Cindy Zirbel Wrucke



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/wrucke.