



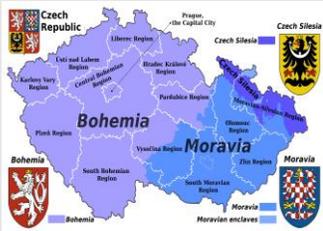
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**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;...**

**2 Corinthians 17,18**



The Czech Republic

### Did you know?

There is a puzzle in the pavement in the upper square of Olomouc. There are golden stripes in the pavement. Their purpose is to highlight the direction of the old streets before reconstruction. You might find a silhouette of a church or even an execution place if you look closely.

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## Šťastný nový rok

(Happy new year)



Flying pigs, four leaf clovers and horseshoes are not only prevalent during Christmas and Advent, but also during the New Year's celebrations. The promise of good luck plays an important role in the Czech Republic and the rest of Europe.

## THE STATE OF THE MISSION IN OLOMOUC

It is hard to believe that we have now completed over one year in the field in Olomouc. The time has gone by extremely fast. As new missionaries, time was spent learning our way around Olomouc, language training and the most important work and purpose of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Czech Republic. With the help of the Holy Spirit and much prayer, a base of relationships has been started and now needs to be nurtured, discipled and expanded. In addition, a full time pastor, place to meet for worship, Bible study and fellowship, and a "mother church" must follow close behind.

### Relationships



At the Olomouc Senior Club



With university students



With the Silesian Church Outreach team



At the local park



In the café at the park



With music



With good friends

Many more relationships have been started in restaurants, parks, supermarkets and government offices.

## *Part-time pastor available for the Olomouc mission!*



Left to right, Tomáš Chodura, Pastor Pietak, Peter, Lucy

In the beginning of 2020, the Silesian church has committed Pastor Stanislav Pietak to work with God's mission in Olomouc as a part-time pastor. This is a prayer answered. We would like to thank all our prayer warriors, encouragers and supporters for your love and faithfulness to God's mission. This is a large step forward for the mission work in Olomouc.

As time goes by we realize that this mission journey has been a growing experience and has provided us with a deeper dependence on God for wisdom and strength. It has also given us a genuine love for the people whom we are privileged to serve. Our student group from the Silesian Church seems like family and have matured much in their love and service to each other. Our Senior Club has been a joy and delight and accepted us whole heartily. We had one of our students translate from English to Czech, the Gospel message of God's love in Christ, which we shared with many during Christmas. There is a great need for a church and a permanent pastor who can teach and preach the unchanging Word of God, disciple, and administer the means of grace in Baptism and the Lord's Supper. There is a shortage of pastors here and the Silesian Church could not find one willing to move to Olomouc on a permanent basis. But, we give thanks that Pastor Pietak, a retired pastor, is willing to meet in our apartment and start ministering to those who God brings.

Olomouc is bursting with many young families with babies and toddlers. We all need to keep praying that God will raise up a full-time pastor to minister to them. Olomouc, before the occupation of both the Nazis and the Communists, had Lutheran Churches, but they are all closed. We feel that the people are now atheists because they have not been taught or exposed to God's Word. Even with our limited knowledge of the Czech language, it is easier to share God's message of love, grace, hope, forgiveness and mercy here than in our own country. It is imperative that all believers be ambassadors for Christ to a world that desperately needs truth and direction. Jesus, who knew no sin, paid for our sin by taking it on himself and giving us his righteousness. Is this not a treasure worth sharing?



The baby boom in Olomouc



The harvest is ripe in Olomouc



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](https://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

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