

Blessings from Bohumín

From Chelsea Irwin, LCMS Missionary
Serving the Lord in Bohumín, Czech Republic



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Czech Word of the Month!

Dobry den, or *Good day* is one of the ways to say hello in Czech!

What are my current roles in Bohumín?

- *Sunday* - Church and Sunday school at 9am
- *Tuesday* - Facilitate English Conversation Group for high schoolers ages 14-18
- *Wednesday* - Visit schools for intellectual disabilities and the Gypsy Center with Pastor Roman, and facilitate English Conversation Group for adults ages 19 and up
- *Friday* - Youth group

Ahoj, já jsem...Hello, my name is...

I took a deep breath and knocked on the door, ready to make new friends.

“Ahoj!” the friendly greeting rang through the home as I entered.

Immediately humbled by their immense kindness, I sat down and we begin to speak in a mix of English and Czech. My nerves suddenly abandoned me as their oldest child, Ami, approached me with a homemade gift. The six-year-old handed me a bracelet and stated in English

“For you.” I smiled and thanked her in English and Czech.

The rest of the afternoon was spent learning about my new friends, learning many Czech customs and playing games with the kids. As I walked back downstairs to my own flat, excitement filled me at the thought of a new friendship.

Making new friends is one of my favorite ways to share the Gospel, and I can already see God opening doors for me to become part of the Bohumín community.



Above: Martin, Míša, and their children Ami and David.

Language learning?

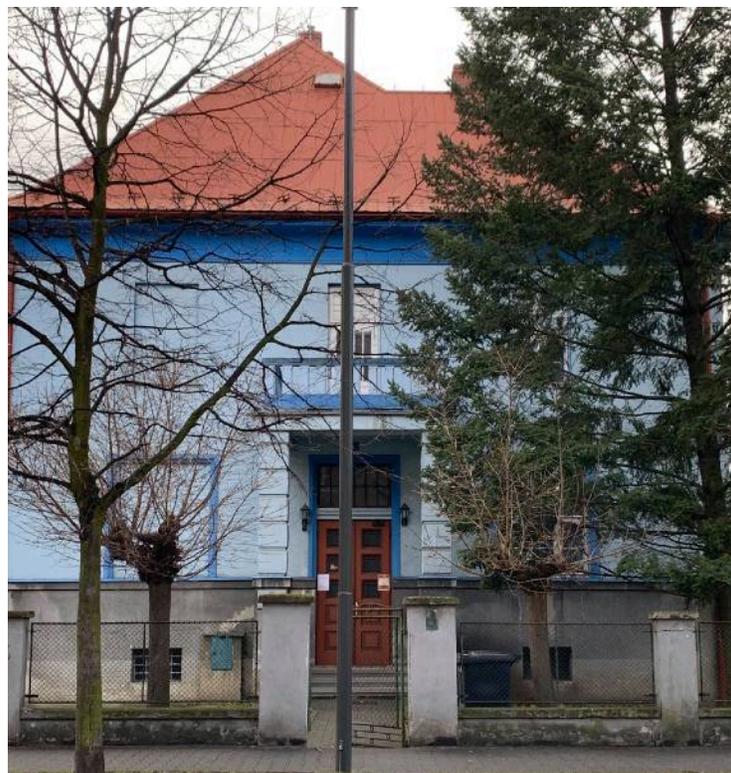
- A dear friend from my church in Bohumín (Miriam) has graciously offered to give me Czech lessons. The first two months will be intensive, and then I'll just have a lesson once a week.

Here are some other highlights from my first couple weeks in Bohumín!



Above: My pastor's children and I in the Beskydy mountains on the Czech/Polish border.

Below: A visit with some of my Eurasia team members! From left to right, Missionaries Lucy Hoffman, Ben Helge, and me. Not pictured is Missionary Peter Hoffman who was our photographer.



Above: The parish house for the church where I am living.

Below: Standing in front of my church upon arrival to Bohumín.



YOU CAN SERVE WITH THE LCMS TOO!

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

Building the Kingdom

Prayer Requests

Pray that God would:

- Continue to work through our high school ministry (Kex Klub) to reach students and young adults.
- Give me the skills to pick up language fast as I begin Czech lessons from my dear friend Miriam.
- Bless our first English Conversation group classes February 10th.

Prayers of Thanks!

Give thanks for:

- You, my prayer supporters and encouragers.
- My safe arrival to Bohumín!
- All the people at my church in Bohumín that have helped me get settled
- God opening doors for me to go into the schools in Bohumín.

Upon my arrival in Bohumín, I quickly met all of my outreach team members who are working as volunteers at church to help revitalize and facilitate church functions. Our goal is to be *in* the community of Bohumín, to go out, make contacts and invite people to attend English group youth group and other activities we make available. Sharing the

Gospel is the key component in all of these while we strive to build a community and create a place at church where people can engage in fellowship, find belonging and ultimately grow in Christ.

“If we changed the name Bohumín to *Bohu-míň* it means [giving] less to God. However, we would like to see the opposite which means [giving] more to God in Bohumín” says Miriam, a team member.

God is truly opening doors for our team to dive deep into this community, and to shine God’s light brightly in Bohumín.

God continues to bless this ministry through your prayer and financial support. Prayerfully consider partnering in God's mission to the Czech Republic and Eurasia through a financial gift.

Send checks to:

LCMS International: P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
(Write "Irwin/Czech Republic" on the memo line),

You can also send your support to the wonderful people at:

Mission Central
407818 Highway E-16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Give online: lcms.org/irwin

Contact Chelsea Irwin: chelsea.irwin@lcms.org

From left to right: Eliška, me, and Miriam.

