

February 2022

# Missionary Newsletter

**Benjamin and Rebecca Helge,**  
LCMS Missionaries, serving our Lord in  
Havířov-Šumbark, Czech Republic and Eurasia



## Teaching English to Speak in Czech

School doors opened for me once again to lead conversational English lessons. These lessons provide contact with students and teachers, which is necessary for outreach. Let's take the elementary school "Moravská" as an example. I visited the classroom on a Monday with games and activities for 8th and 9th grade students. At the end of the lesson, I invited every student for our English Talk Group (ETG), on Wednesday nights. Two 9th grade girls, in particular, were ecstatic. "Ben, we'll be there. Yeah, especially if there's gonna be food." And they came! We conversed with other students over the theme *Truth*. For the last ten minutes, I then shared truths of the Law and of the Gospel with the entire group.

For the past eight years, ETG ended with this, the presentation of the Gospel. However, January marked the beginning of dinner and youth group immediately after ETG. We invite everyone to stay for a light supper, a game, singing, prayer, and a Bible study on the book of Mark. What starts as the simple invitation to come and speak English turns into an invitation to stay and speak Czech and learn about the life and forgiveness we have in Jesus Christ. Both Christians and

s e e k e r s have joined for youth group, and we pray that God works in their hearts as they hear His Word and are connected to His church. Pray for these young people.



# EVANGELIUM PODLE MARKA

## All-in-One

Our church planting space has been undergoing some changes: new carpet, small tables and a kitchen/service area. Our goal remains to use this space for worship services, Bible studies, ETG, youth group and other outreaches. We also plan to open it up to the community as a coffee shop where anyone can enjoy an excellent cup of joe. We continue to pray for wisdom in using this space and our time. Some current ideas that we have for inviting the community are open-mic nights and appreciation days. We are also exploring the community's interest in English conversation groups for adults. The development of the space is exciting and has brought new energy to those serving and living in Havířov-Šumbark. Join us in asking for God's blessing over this multifunctional space as we seek to share the Gospel in this community.



In order to help make the K4 space more diverse, an expandable altar was built and arrived in January.



Working as a team, members of the church plant began construction on the kitchen area to serve us and the community.

## Bible Study with Becca

In K4 we are nearing the end of a six-week Bible study on the book of Jonah. I (Becca) prepare the questions and a member of our group translates them into Czech. The result is a study for which I don't need to speak Czech fluently. I can easily "lead" the group because the study paper can guide them. My impression is that people have enjoyed the study, and it has resulted in good discussion—even if I can't understand everything that is being said! I am definitely relying on the Holy Spirit to lead discussion where He wants it to go. As we read and discuss Jonah 4 and the book as a whole, pray that God would help us to understand his compassion for sinners (which Jonah completely lacks), how Jesus is the better Jonah and that His justice, mercy and compassion are clearly seen on the cross.



Rachel (the church plant member helping to translate) and Becca talking and preparing for the following week's Bible study.

## Speak Their Language

I (Becca) continue to study Czech to improve. I have two private lessons a week, and then a group lesson after each, all online, but they have been great. I am really grateful for the quality of my teachers and classmates!

Ben would like to improve his Czech theological vocabulary specifically, so he would like to find someone to meet with that can help him with this. Please pray that God would answer that desire for him.

## Driving School

Please pray that I (Becca) would successfully complete driving school and would be ready for the driving test. We wanted to complete this before the baby comes, so please pray that God would help me to pass the multiple-choice test, see all the signs on the road, and not be nervous on the day of the exam. I learned how to drive manual in the last few weeks for this test and have not been driving regularly for more than 10 years, so it has been one of the most stressful tasks I've needed to complete recently.

## Here Comes Baby

There is not much time left before baby Helge's due date on April 10th. Every check-up has been good. We found out that baby Helge is 1.1 lbs heavier than the average at this point. Overall, we are grateful that the pregnancy has been pretty easy. Pray for us as we enter these last weeks before becoming parents that we would be ready to face the changes ahead.

Send us your thoughts, prayer requests and any other comments to [benjamin.helge@lcms.org](mailto:benjamin.helge@lcms.org) or [rebecca.helge@lcmsintl.org](mailto:rebecca.helge@lcmsintl.org). Thank you for reading.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.

In Christ,

**Benjamin and Rebecca Helge**



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Leading a youth group time in Český Těšín, Becca speaks on relationships with young women.

