



May Update



Above: Helping hands

Since the beginning of the year, the physical copies of my monthly newsletter have been printed, prepared and sent out by a faithful Kindergarten class under the supervision of their teacher, my sister. I send a copy of my newsletter, and these kids fold, stuff envelopes, label and stamp each newsletter.

This class will be resigning their duties for the summer, and next year's Kindergarten class will be taking over in the fall.

A big thank you to these students who have helped me tremendously this semester.

Also, a huge thank you to all of you who assist, support, and encourage me in so many ways.

Join me in thanking God for Lutheran schools and praying for all students and teachers as they finish out their school year.



This month I continued teaching in two different schools, three days of the week. I teach 7th, 8th and 9th grade classes and enjoy it very much. I am fortunate to be able to build these relationships with students from different towns. My Wednesday morning classes are an especially lively bunch, and I look forward to leading them in conversations and games each week.

This month I was asked to lead a devotion for a local youth group. I loved having the opportunity to meet even more new students and walk with them through the theme "God's Calling."

I was asked to serve as a substitute leader for my supervisor's English Group. It was great to see some familiar faces and meet new ones. This English Group is followed directly by a time for youth group and devotional study. Following the English Talk Group time, I had a great conversation with one of the student participants. She shared with me that she would like to stay on for the youth group time and talk more with people, but the prayer and Bible reading makes her uncomfortable as she considers herself an atheist.

Please keep this girl in your prayers. Also pray for the youth whom I and others interact with on a regular basis, whether in classrooms, English groups, coffee shops, etc. Pray that relationships would continue to be built and that the hearts of the youth I interact with would be softened and opened to hearing the Gospel.

Witches Night

Towards the end of last month, I went for a walk around my town. I was confused when I saw several of the witch 'scarecrow' type figures outside of building and homes.

I told my Czech tutor about it, and she explained to me that the last day of April is 'Witches Night' in the Czech Republic. People make these witch figurines, and then when the sun sets, they build a bonfire and burn them.

The tradition is that by burning the winter witches, winter is officially over and the spring weather can fully settle in. Historically, these ceremonies were taken more seriously and burning the witches was seen as a way to ward off evil. Nowadays, while the tradition still carries on, it is a low-key event carried out by individual families. Czech people whom I asked about this tradition said that they view it as an opportunity for families and friends to gather together and celebrate the new spring season.



"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" - Isaiah 55:11(ESV).

The more bold I become in attempting to speak in Czech, the more blunders I make. I have had a few instances this month where I will use a phrase that my students have taught me, only to realize that they jokingly taught me to say an offensive phrase or bad word without my knowledge.

Thanks be to God that despite our shortcoming and blunders, we can speak boldly about the hope we have in Christ because we are confident that God is the one in control, not us. He graciously allows us to be tools in His hands as He accomplishes His purposes and brings people unto Himself.

With that being said, I am now more cautious about using phrases that the youth I work with teach me. My students bring me so much joy and keep me on my toes.

May God continue to bless and keep you all in His gracious care.

- Hayden

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- For the Riga Academy students as their summer break approaches
- The continued conflict in Ukraine and the refugees who have temporarily settled in the Czech Republic and surrounding countries
- Preparations for English Bible Camps that will take place this summer
- That I would continue to make connections and form relationships with the students and young adults whom I work with here in the Czech Republic

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- New relationships and opportunities
- Continued health
- My newsletter helpers
- The arrival of spring
- You! My faithful encouragers and supporters

GET IN TOUCH WITH ME!

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Prayerfully consider financially partnering with me as we work together to bring the Good News of the Gospel to those living in spiritual darkness in the Czech Republic! Thank you for your continued support!

Send checks with 'Rensner-Czech' in the memo line to:

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