



Teaching teens has been a brand-new experience for me this semester. Some weeks the students will greet me with smiles and enthusiasm. Other weeks I will be met with glares, crossed arms, and refusal to participate. This young lady in particular has not had the best attitude towards me this semester. She makes her own jewelry, which is something that I would discuss with her at different points throughout the weeks as an attempt to engage with her more personally. On my last day, she came up to me with a pair of earrings that she had made for me. She said that she really enjoyed my classes and she hopes that I will come back in the fall.

I love these kids even though I never could tell where I stood with them from week to week. Despite the ups and downs, I am thankful for them and how much I learned as a result of their unpredictability.

## School's Out



Last Wednesday, I told my students that this would be my last Wednesday morning with them for a while. They all seemed very surprised. One boy said, "What do you mean? Are you going back to the States?" I said, "No, I'm not going back to the States, but school is out next week." Everyone is usually chomping at the bit for summer vacation, but this particular class must have lost track of time.

I am so grateful for my teaching experiences with these students this semester. I have learned so much in a short amount of time. This role definitely challenged me in many ways. Please pray for these students. Pray that the conversations we had with one another about faith and God in the midst of conversations about life and English would kindle in them a desire to keep asking questions and having conversations. Pray that they would be led to the knowledge of their Savior whose love for them is eternal. We might be parting ways for the summer, but He is with them always. May their hearts be softened to hear this truth.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The safe travels of American volunteers to the Czech Republic this summer.
- Safe travels for my co-workers and me this summer as we will be traveling around the Czech Republic and Poland.
- Preparations for English Bible Camps that will take place next month
- 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:

- Relationship growth
- Continued health
- The successful completion of my language intensive.
- Summertime service opportunities.
- You! My faithful encouragers and supporters

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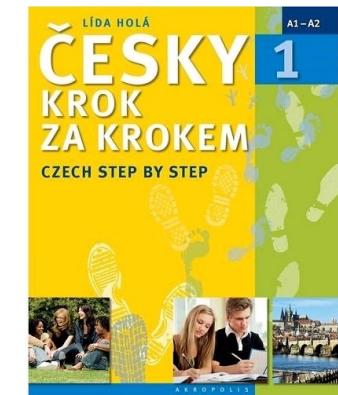
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## Listening and learning

This month, I attended a week-long in-person Czech language intensive in Prague. The class consisted of eight other students and myself. Six of the students were Ukrainian, one student was from Italy and one student was from Egypt. I am grateful that the timing worked perfectly for me to take part in this experience and practice my Czech alongside fellow students from all different parts of the world.

The intensive class was held every day from morning until early afternoon. We then had the rest of the afternoon and evening to do as we wished. I spent nearly every afternoon with the student from Italy. In the course of getting to know one another, our discussions quickly became increasingly deeper. As an atheist, the Italian student had many questions about my faith and worldview. I thank God for opening the door for these discussions to be had. I pray that this fellow student and new friend of mine will continue asking questions. May the answers to his questions be found in the person and work of our Savior. Please keep him in your prayers.



**"The key is to know where we are, and whose we are, and where we're headed."**

- excerpt from '*On The Road With Saint Augustine*' by James A. K. Smith.

I recently finished this book. If you are a reader, from one kindred spirit to another, I would recommend this title. This quote stood out to me. The key is to know where we are. The key is to know whose we are. The key is to know where we're headed. A lot of times, life is challenging and disorientating. I have felt disoriented and confused at many different points as I learn how to live life here in the Czech Republic. When life gets disorientating, I pray that you remember where you are (a temporary home), whose you are (a child of God), and where you're headed (life eternal with your Savior).

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

- Hayden

**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 you continued support!**



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