

MONTHLY CZECH-IN

June, 2022

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Missionary
Serving the Lord in the
Czech Republic and
Central Europe



CULTURAL NUGGET

This month I had the opportunity to attend a traditional folk dancing recital in Cieszyn, Poland. Cieszyn, Poland and Český Těšín, Czech Republic (where I live) are merely separated by a river. Often times I walk across the bridge to meet someone for coffee, or do a little shopping. This city is so unique due to the two cultures being intertwined in both sides of the border. I enjoy listening to the elderly members of my church tell stories about border lines, and share about their family heritage and the church history in this region. I love history and culture, and I am so blessed to learn something new about this region every single day.



NIGHT OF CHURCHES 2022



Above: The view from the inside of the bell tower where Mercy Cafe was serving coffee and cakes.

Each year in June the Night of Churches event takes place in the Czech Republic. Many churches all over the country open their doors to the public and create a program for community members (especially non-Christians) to participate in.

This was the first year where I attended the event, and had no obligations at church. It was a real joy to watch the youth team, and other church members converse with the community and invite others to upcoming events at our church.

One difference this year was that quite a few Ukrainians stopped by to check things out. Our youth had prepared for this by putting up signs around the church with Bible verses written in Ukrainian. I observed a few individuals smile as they stopped to read the sign written in their heart language, despite being so far from home.

Most of these signs were in the stairwell leading up to the bell tower. Once people arrived at the top they were met with the smiling faces of those serving on the Mercy Cafe (our youth's traveling coffee shop) team. When the main evening programs had finished most people headed to the tower for one last cookie/kolache.

At the end there were about three youth groups from different churches in our city that had all wound up in the bell tower. What a fun way to have fellowship with one another!



Left: One room in the bell tower where guests could sit and chat during the Night of Churches event.

Below: Even though I live in another city, I am still able to get together with my old teammates from Bohumín. This particular photo was taken on my birthday when Honza (right) and Kaja (left) came to take me out for a picnic lunch. What a blessing to have such close friends near by.



Below: On June, 19th, I attended the ordination of Ondra Stroka. I became friends with Ondra through his wife Kim who is from the United States. I have been to many installations in the U.S. so it was really interesting to see the similarities and differences during the service. Here, two pastors place the white part of the alb over Ondra's black robe to distinguish him as a pastor and no longer a vicar. What an exciting day!



Above: Confirmation Sunday was an exciting and joyful day. One interesting feature was that the female confirmants were wearing the traditional dresses. One student told me after the service that she was wearing her grandmother's dress.

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PRAY

- For the teams that will be coming this summer for the English Bible Camps in the Czech Republic and Poland.
- The war situation in Ukraine

GIVE THANKS

- For you, my prayer warriors and encouragers
- God providing friends to support me
- The new members of our youth group
- The ability to have the night of churches event without any COVID restrictions

NEW YOUTH MEMBERS



This month at my church in Český Těšín eleven students were confirmed. One characteristic of this church's community is that they always welcome new people. Immediately after confirmation Sunday we had a special youth group combined with the middle, high school, and adults. After fellowship together around a fire, the confirmands were inducted into the youth group. As food was shared, relationships were built. It was fun to hear the confirmands excitement as they shared stories from their many field trips with Pastor Piętak. Please pray for these new members of our youth group, that they would stay connected to church and continue to grow in their faith as they enter the next chapter of their lives.

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

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