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Serving the Lord in the
Czech Republic and
Central Europe



GOD AT WORK, EVEN ON THE BUS!



Above: My car in the Czech Republic!

FOLK FESTIVALS

In the summer, a common weekend activity is attending a folk festival. Since this is one of my main hobbies, I try to go as many times as I can each year. It's fascinating to see all the different dances and traditional costumes from each region of the Czech Republic and Poland. Folk festivals are also a great place to try new foods! Pictured below are dancers dressed in the traditional Cieszynski (the city/county where I live) costumes from the early 1920s.



One of the missionary milestones I hit this spring was going to driving school and getting a Czech driving license. With the English Bible Camps coming up, I needed to get a car so that I could visit each camp in the Czech Republic and Poland. As excited as I was to get away from the relying on public transportation, I began to think of the things that I would miss about it while driving my car instead. Many times on the bus, I do like the rest of the people and bury my face in my phone and listen to music. However, there have been a handful of special instances where people began chatting.

On the last day of school, although I already had my car, I was still weary about finding a place to park near the preschool. Full of stress about the upcoming summer, I approached the bus stop. As soon as I set my bag down on the bench, the woman next to me started a conversation. She went on about the children bringing gifts for their teachers. She asked me why I wasn't carrying a gift for my teacher, and I kindly mentioned I was a teacher. Her amazed eyes made me chuckle. The next piece was almost on cue for the conversation. She said something in Czech that I didn't understand.

"Could you say that again slowly please, I'm still learning Czech."

"You're not one of ours?!" she exclaimed.

"No, I'm actually American."

In a mixture of apologies about assuming I was a child, she complimented my Czech language skills and asked me why I was here.

"I'm a missionary, and I work with the Silesian Evangelical Church," I proudly stated.

After naming all of our mutual friends from church, she asked where I was headed. I told her I taught preschool English in Třinec. She smiled as my bus arrived and thanked me for chatting with her.

While getting a car on the field is necessary for my position, I have a feeling I might find myself still taking the bus every once in a while.

Above: The bus stop where I talked with the woman.



Coordinator Nugget

If you attend one of my Home Service presentations this year, you will hear many stories of how I've seen Christ within all my administrative tasks. Often times, the coordinator works behind the scenes to equip volunteers for their service opportunity.

Although the highlight is hosting volunteers when they are on the field, God has shown me how each task is important. Whether I'm meeting with volunteers before they arrive, meeting with local hosts, or simply buying groceries, each task has value and points to the moment the volunteers are on the ground and sharing the Gospel.

Local History

If you ever go on a trip to Europe, you may come across little brass stones between the cobblestones. These stones, officially called "stumbling stones", hold names of victims of Nazi persecution. When I come across one, I always try to take a picture and Google the name on the stone to learn about who each person was.

This project began in the 1990's, and today there are over 70,000 stones across Europe. One of these stones lies just a 10-minute walk from my home in front of a local cafe. The first time I saw it, it was nearly covered with snow and ice. For months, I wondered who was this person, and what was their story?

Finally, in June, I walked past the cafe and noticed some papers tied to the railing. (Story continues on page 3)



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."

PRAY

- The war situation in Ukraine
- My Home Service presentations in the United States

GIVE THANKS

- For you, my prayer warriors and encouragers.
- That God provided me a vehicle on the field.
- For ways to learn about the people and culture in the Czech Republic
- For opportunities to spend time with my family in the United States

LOCAL HISTORY CONT.



The papers told the story of Rosalie Wiesner, the founder of the famous Avion Cafe where her stumbling stone sits. Avion Cafe served many famous guests who came from around Poland and the Czech Republic for pastries, coffee, and live music. Rosalie, a German Jew, ran the cafe with her husband until 1939, when it was damaged during the German invasion of the Silesian Region. Rosalie and her family managed to flee to Slovakia before they were later arrested in 1942 and murdered at Auschwitz.

Avion Cafe was rebuilt and opened again in 2010. It is still a place of rich culture in the community of Český Těšín. The papers on the railing stated that the pictures and information about Rosalie were provided by her great-granddaughters. These stumbling stones create opportunities for learning and remembering the names of those affected by the Nazi persecution.

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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