



Arrived! – January 2024 Update

After several months of visa processing, packing, and shipping, we are finally in Prague! We found a nice apartment in time to host our family for Christmas, and we are very thankful for God's provision. It will take a few more weeks for the dust to settle, but there is work to be done, and the work has begun. You may remember that we are building upon the outreach group that our friends started here a few years ago, and this has allowed us to start ministry more quickly than expected. Three Czechs came to our church Christmas party, and two came to our home for dinner. Now they want to invite us over, which is a significant step. One of our seminary professors once said, "Some places in Europe are so post-Christian that they are pre-Christian." Our ministry landscape is not far from this reality, so we will be in true pioneering mode, making the gospel understandable to those perhaps hearing it for the first time.



Our family enjoying Christmas with Ken and Merly's family



Carol, a Ugandan Ph.D. student from our church (L), invited friends from the Czech Republic, the US, and Turkey.

We are encouraged to live a few minutes' walk from the Polytechnic University, where we plan to start campus outreach, and most of the cafes in our neighborhood are packed with students. But tragedy struck just before Christmas as a disturbed student opened fire in a building at Charles University, killing 17 and injuring 25. The security response was massive, shutting down all transportation in the area, and our tram passed the blockaded bridge leading to the shooting just after the crisis ended. Myra has colleagues at Charles University, and they are thankfully safe.

Such tragedies are almost unheard of in the Czech Republic. Still, the aftermath reflects the pain of damaged humanity, where a neighboring war, human suffering, and the collapse of families cry out for a reason why and any path for healing. Jesus sees it all, and the gospel made the way to heal the nations (Rev. 22:2).

"Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd."

Matthew 9:36 NASB



A memorial the the shooting victims at Charles University

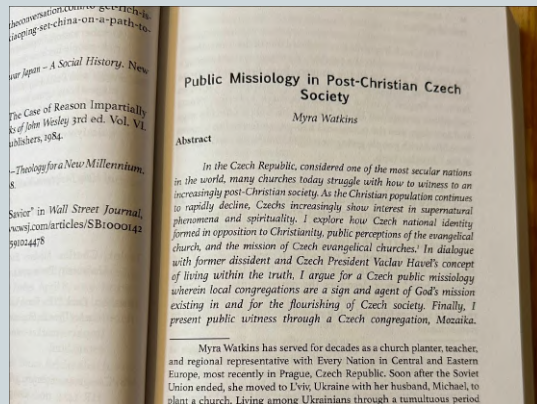


Vlad & Ana from Ukraine lead worship in Czech

So, how do we reach these people? Part of Myra's doctoral research focuses on the mission of the church in post-Christian Czech society, and one of her articles was just published in a book. Our sponsoring pastor, Jakub Limr, was an example in her research, and we have started to work with him and his church, Mozaika, to gain a deeper understanding of reaching this culture, especially university students.



Giving Jakub a personal copy of the book where Myra features his church



Myra's article in the book

We have a busy year ahead with local outreach, team recruitment and training, teaching in our Europe ministry school in Krakow next month, visiting Croatia in April, and a leadership conference in Warsaw in May. Myra is also co-teaching a course in Every Nation Seminary on the History of Missional Movements. We are doing all this while completing our seminary studies, which contribute directly to our mission.

Thank you for standing with us as we returned to Europe for a greatly expanded mission.

Mike & Myra

Prayer Requests

- Peace for Ukraine and continued resources for refugee relief
- Mike's health: continued energy for this busy ministry season
- New team members for the Prague church plant

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