



Serendipity – April 2024 Update



It has been a little longer than usual since our last update, but trains, planes, and automobiles have – to Myra's displeasure – kept my suitcases open and my correspondence on the shelf. One of our favorite words, "serendipity," means unexpected pleasure, and this was also the name of our favorite date café during our first year of marriage. God's leading is also serendipitous; he surprises us on the journey, and our recent travels have not disappointed us.

On a previous ministry trip to nearby Hradec Králové, I ministered to Pastor Jakub Limr's team about the importance of seeing the lost, understanding their plight, and having the same compassion that Jesus has.

Seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. – Matthew 9:36
NASB

Jakub later invited me back to preach in their church. "Is there a particular theme?" I asked. His answer was quick: the same theme. Serendipity! It was a pleasure to preach in a church that meets on a university campus, and I only needed to say, "Just look up. You are literally in the middle of the field. Now, have compassion and go!" And they are doing just that.



Casting the vision for university students in Hradec Králové



Morning coffee and missiology with Dr. Rice Brooks

Within a week, I flew to the US for a medical follow-up, and we are thankful to report that my tests were perfect. While preparing to drive from Chicago to Kentucky for my checkup, Dr Rice Brooks, our ministry's co-founder, texted me to discuss evangelism opportunities in Central and Eastern Europe. When he learned I was in the US, he drove up to Lexington, KY, where we had an illuminating apostolic discussion. He actually does this for anyone who

encounters new opportunities, and I now have a broader perspective for our region and more opportunities than expected. Serendipity!

Partnership Needs

- Special gifts for our increase in ministry travel
- Increase in monthly partners
- Funding for Mike's seminary studies

Last week, I was in London meeting with our Europe leadership team for a few days of strategic planning. Next week, we will drive to Zagreb, Croatia, where Myra will present her research at a missiology conference and co-moderate the discussions. This week, Myra is participating in a missiology conference in Prague on how to understand and reach “nones,” the growing population of people who are spiritual but choose not to affiliate with any religion. Czech Republic has the highest percentage of “nones” of any nation in the world.



Our European team in London planning how we will reach Europe together



Prague missiology conference

As we scout ministry opportunities from home (Prague), God is bringing one priority into focus. We will now begin team recruitment and training for outreach on the university campuses in Prague and coordinate visiting teams from our other European churches. The remainder of 2024 will be filled with the church plant, our Every Nation Build conference next month in Warsaw, and my Doctor of Ministry intensive this summer. Myra finishes her PhD coursework in May, takes her PhD comprehensive exams at Asbury in November, and begins her dissertation research while teaching a class at Charles University early next year.

Our plates are full, and our hearts are also full with God's goodness. We are deeply grateful to each of you for making this mission possible. Your support and prayers have been invaluable. Blessings!

Mike & Myra

Prayer Requests

- Peace for Ukraine and continued resources for refugee relief
- Outreach opportunities with university students
- Increase in monthly partnership for our expanded ministry roles
- New team members for the Prague church plant

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