

Fundraising Packet



Czech Republic Missions

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Contact

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Goals

- Goals achieved by end of 2022
 - Meet with congregations to become part of their budget for the next 5 fiscal years.
 - Take a survey trip to the Czech Republic and Poland
 - Apply for long term visas
 - Create a website to facilitate fundraising and updates
 - Website is transitioning to a church website for Olomouc
 - Be fully funded by end of December
- 5-Year Goals
 - Leave to the Czech Republic by 2023 (FINISHED)
 - Learn the language (In-progress)
 - Friendship evangelism: meet various people and build relationships in order to evangelize
 - Work with World English Institute to get Bible studies (in-progress)
 - Establish congregation
 - Increase contribution
 - Obtain a worship location
 - Establish leadership: send men to be trained to continue the ministry
 - Recruit more workers to join the work
 - Tony to continue education in a Master of Biblical Studies with an Emphasis in Missions degree (in-progress)
 - Apply for permanent residency
 - 3 more years until we are eligible
- 10-Year Goals
 - Become Czech citizens
 - Tony to acquire Ph.D. to be able to teach higher level education
 - Have an established congregation that can sustain itself with capable leaders (preferably with eldership)
 - Recruit more workers to join the work
- Over 10-Year Goals
 - Establish enough congregations to justify opening a school of preaching in the Czech Republic
 - Continue to work full-time as missionaries

Why the Czech Republic?

Statistics:

- Area: 30,452 sq mi
 - Can fit inside Oklahoma
- Population: 10.7 million (2020)
- Religion:
 - Approximately 78% of the population are without religious beliefs
 - Approximately 22% have a religious belief of some kind
 - 11.7% consider themselves Christians
 - Few Czech churches
 - Prague and Olomouc are the two locations we currently know have congregations



Background of the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic (Czechia) is a post-communistic country in Europe. It is the Western most country of what many consider Eastern Europe, and it would be appropriate to consider it Central Europe. The culture of the Czech Republic is very western as opposed to the rest of its eastern counterparts. Czechia was once occupied by the Soviet Union during the Cold War era, and the effects of the Soviets can be clearly seen. They tend to be a quiet and reserved people, likely due to that regime. They are one of the most irreligious people on the planet, and were the 3rd most atheist, only falling behind China and Japan.

There is much discussion as to why the Czechs became so irreligious when other surrounding former Soviet states rebounded in religion. One explanation is that the Czechs have a long ingrained collective memory of abuses and corruption of the Catholic church. The Czech Republic was home to the lesser-known first reformer, Jan Hus, who was burned alive at the stake. The followers of Jan Hus, the Hussites, became a large enough influence that the majority of the Czech population no longer considered themselves Catholic. This was greatly reversed when the Austro-Hungarian empire fiercely opposed the Hussites. It is thought that sentiment from this time still reverberates today. When the Soviets took control, it further pushed the Czechs into greater dissatisfaction with religion, ultimately creating a state that is now one of the most atheist in the world.

Potential in the Czech Republic

Though the Czech Republic has seemingly been resistant to the Gospel, there is still great potential there. Brother Stas Kuropyatnikov of the church plant in Lviv, Ukraine mentioned that missions in Europe are not necessarily difficult, but different. This brother and his team are doing great work in the most western influenced city of Ukraine, and they are staying true to the Word of God.

The potential of the Czech Republic is 3-fold:

1. People are starting as blank slates.
2. We will teach with sound doctrine and quality apologetics.
3. The country's central location, lower cost of living, and prevalence of English make it a great location to open a school of preaching.

Stas mentioned that the lack of previous religious bias from denominations has helped him evangelize those in Lviv. The Czechs are mostly free from this bias which has become a challenge in other mission fields. The mission then involves getting people to believe in a God and then show them that this God is the God of the Bible.

Through my experience and research of previous missions across the eastern half of Europe, I learned what our work can improve on. The few converts from previous missions were often plagued with ecumenicism and lacked Bible focus and authority. Some Czechs who did study limited their faith by using only Bible study books. They believed in picking the theologian they liked and leaving it there. Others limited their trust or closeness to missionaries due to an expectation that they would leave. Czechs are very analytical, therefore, if they see faulty theologies, they become skeptical and choose not to pursue Christianity. On top of that, various well-meaning groups from the 90s went to eastern Europe to baptize but were not able to mature disciples. The trips were too quick. The converts were not brought up to maturity and becoming self-sustaining. Our belief is that there is an untapped population that can be fed sound doctrine from His Word and come to believe, especially given our plan to not leave this mission field.

The long-term plan is to one day open a school of preaching in the Czech Republic. It is located centrally in Europe, the cost of living is relatively low, and English is spoken more frequently in cities, therefore, we think an English-speaking school of preaching would help evangelize not just the Czech Republic, but also Europe. The Bear Valley school in Ukraine has been a large impact in evangelizing Ukraine, therefore we too believe that a school of preaching will help serve Czechia and Europe well into many generations.

The congregation of Olomouc today was first planted in 2024. We saw a need to plant the church here due to two main factors: 1. A displaced member from Ukraine and her family were already present in the city, 2. Tony's previous experience in the city made it easier for the church to make contacts and Bible studies. The church in Olomouc is the only known eastern congregation in the country. The church grew by two a few months after planting through Bible studies with Tony's previous contacts and their baptisms. We have also welcomed visitors and are currently in the process of studying with the family of our members. We believe that despite slower progress compared to other missions, God has blessed this congregation!

Why Us?

Tony Orellana:

- Ministry Experience
 - Razorbacks for Christ (2013-2017)
 - Led various devotionals, taught a few series of Bible classes, and was given the opportunity to serve other congregations of the Northwest Arkansas area.
 - Summer missions (2015-2019)
 - 2015 – 1st 5 week mission campaign in Czechia as a camp counselor in English camps
 - 2016-2019 – Summer intern in the Czech Republic
 - 10-week trips as a summer intern in the Czech Republic helping coordinate English camps, teaching English in local schools, helping in local benevolence work, and bible study
 - 2019 – 2.5 weeks in Caxias do Sul, Brazil as a camp counselor at an English camp. Functioned as an improvised translator apart from camp responsibilities
 - Outreach intern for the Razorbacks for Christ (2018-2019)
 - The campus ministry added a position in attempt to reach more students on the University of Arkansas campus.
 - Performed Bible studies and hosted outreach events at the campus ministry house.
 - Evangelist in Olomouc (2023-present)
 - Equipping the church through preaching and teaching
 - Outreach into the community
- Education Experience
 - Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with Psychology minor from the University of Arkansas
 - Bachelor of Theology from Bear Valley Bible Institute
 - Some Master of Theology completed from Oklahoma Christian University
 - Currently enrolled with Bear Valley's Master's program



Why Tony?

After my first summer mission campaign, I realized that ministry is my passion. Not having been raised in the church, my drive to bring the gospel to the lost has only increased. Knowing it would be wise (if not Biblical – 2 Tim. 2:2) to be trained in the faith, I attended Bear Valley to better equip myself for a life of mission work in the Czech Republic. The goal of my life is to spread God's word in a religiously desolate location such as Czechia. With Heidi by my side, I am confident that God will be glorified in this work.

Heidi Orellana:

- Ministry experience
 - Spoke and assisted the organization of two ladies' days at Venice church of Christ
 - Weeki Wachee Christian Camp (2012-2018)
 - 2012-2015 – Served as a junior counselor
 - 2012-2018 – Lead cabin devotionals with young women
 - 2016-2018 – Counselor
 - 2013 & 2017 – Taught women and children Bible classes for 3 weeks in Ghana Africa missions
 - Taught children's weeklong VBS in Panama missions
 - 2017 – Bible class teacher's assistant at Venice church of Christ
 - 2022 – Led a 6 week one on one bible study with another Christian woman
- Education experience
 - Bachelor of Science in Culinary Nutrition from Johnson and Wales University
 - Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies from Bear Valley Bible Institute International of Denver

Why Heidi?

Growing up in Southwest Florida, my home congregation (Venice church of Christ) always encouraged me to get involved in the church. From participating in church progressive dinners, lock-ins, summer camps, and speaking at ladies' days and in the mission field. I went on my first mission trip in 2013 to Ghana West Africa where I taught women and children about the joy found in Christ. I returned to Ghana in 2017 where I used my degree in culinary nutrition to teach the women how to both physically and spiritually provide for their homes. After my first trip to the mission field, I knew missions were always going to be a part of my life. After just over a year of working in my secular career, I knew I wanted to pursue a life of fully working for the Lord. I feel the most fulfilled when I am studying and sharing the word of God.



What We Need

According to the former president of Bear Valley Bible Institute International of Denver, Denny Petrillo, Ph.D., a minister does well when they receive the median wage of the location they are ministering. The belief is for not being more fortunate than the lower 50% but not be as fortunate as the upper 50%. It is a good starting point, and we have learned within the last two years how to better adjust it for Czechia. Former Dean of Students, Donnie Bates, has seen what the negative impact of trying to live in poverty does to the work in the mission field. He does not recommend anyone to become poor to reach the poor as that does not come off as genuine. So, we aimed for around the median wage plus our unique American expenses.

After living in Czechia, I have learned what I need to adjust. I added American self-employment taxes. We have had 15.7% less due to saving for our 2023 taxes. Therefore, I updated the budget with taxes. Another thing I learned is that Czechia is one of the only EU countries that did not recover as well economically post-covid, therefore the inflation is one of the highest in Europe. Housing costs have increased even more. The last factor that affected us in our first year has been the unfavorable exchange rate. In years past, the United States dollar (USD) to Czech Koruna (CZK) exchange rate was 1 dollar gives 23-25 koruna. I used these numbers often for building the budget. Most of our first year, it has been 21 Koruna, which means our dollar does not go as far. Recently, the exchange rate dropped down to this 1:21. These factors have prevented us from saving for retirement, saving for buying a home, or other future endeavors.

On the next page we have a breakdown of costs in the Czech Republic, both for living and for the cost of ministry. These numbers give an idea of the cost of living in the Czech Republic. When we fundraised, I used Numbeo to estimate the costs associated with living in Czechia. Numbeo uses crowd-sourced information to track the costs of various goods and services associated with the cost of living. I have used those numbers as a basis but adjusted according to our own experience and prediction. These are and should be considered estimates due to exchanges, inflation, and changing situations. Numbeo did not consider the cost of insurance, health-related expenses, taxes, savings, or retirement, but I will include them. I have added the cost of health insurance (required by law). These numbers, again, are estimates, and in USD, which causes variation from day to day according to the CZK to USD rate. These numbers are rounded for ease of counting.

Living costs apart from work costs (Approximately 6350 monthly)****

	Monthly
Back to God (15%)	710
Taxes (15.7% of total)	865
Food	650
Rent and Utilities*	1,500
Bills**	1,150
Transportation	50
Travel	200
Clothing	50
Entertainment	50
Other goods and services	125
General savings***	500
Retirement	500

* Typical Olomouc rent and utilities hover around this

** Includes our unique expenses of student loans

*** Savings for home or other large purchases

**** We are not currently at this amount

Work Related Costs Apart from Salary

The goal of this section is to calculate and display the cost to do the ministry work in and related to the Czech Republic. Some of these expenses may also be covered through our contribution. We have determined that a vehicle would allow for other avenues of ministry, so it has been added to the transportation costs. Acquiring a vehicle will not be immediate, but we would allocate the money initially for a deposit when we do find a suitable vehicle or other ministry related expenses.

Due to recommendations to not flood the young congregation with American money, we have not included the cost of renting a location for the church to meet. This will help foster their participation in giving to the Lord. Many missions have failed due to church plants being dependent on American money, and we hope to not leave any church dependent on that. At the moment, the church in Olomouc contributes modestly to translating Apologetics Press material, and the goal is our contribution will lead to funding other needs, such as a large location for worship.

	Monthly	Yearly
Flights back to US	150*	1,800
Continued Education online	106.25*	1,275
Long-term residency permits (yearly)	18.33*	220
Transportation	550	6,600
Insurance	250	3000
Language school	800	9600

* calculated as monthly savings to achieve yearly need

What we are asking

Paul mentioned to the Philippians in 1:5 that he prayed with joy because of their participation in the Gospel. The Philippians financially helped Paul so that he could be unhindered doing the work of spreading the gospel. We too are hoping for your participation in the Gospel by helping fund us in this work. We ask to be included in your fiscal budget with written confirmation of commitment on a document containing contact information in case our sponsoring congregation needs to contact you. We hope that in doing this, we will have income security but also become a blessing to your congregation within this work. If you do support us, but down the line are unable to, we ask for a 6-month notice so we can attempt to recover the funds lost.

To keep us accountable, we will give monthly updates on the work provided to you by either our sponsoring congregation or through an email mailing list. We will also make time to do more thorough, in-person reports at least every few years for you, Lord willing. We hope that you will consider partnering with us to do God's work in a spiritually desolate place. God bless!

If you have any questions, we can be reached at info@CzechUsOut.church



Port Charlotte

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MINISTER
Richard Combs

ELDERS
Ron Akers
Phil Degelia
Tim Simmons
John Temples

DEACONS
Dennis Chalaire
Mike Fox
Dean Rosser
Roland Snipes
Keith Tolbert

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to inform you that Tony and Heidi Orellana are faithful members of the Port Charlotte church who intend to undertake a long-term mission effort in the Czech Republic. They will be working under the Port Charlotte eldership. We are their sponsoring congregation and will control and dispense all funds collected for their support, with regular reports going to all donors and supporting congregations.

Our eldership is made up of four sound men: Ron Akers, John Temples, Phil Degelia, and Tim Simmons.

Tim Simmons has agreed to be the contact person for any questions or concerns you may have. His email address is tvsimmons@gmail.com, and his phone number is 941-441-7586.

Our preacher's name is Richard Combs. He may be reached at rchrdcmb@aol.com or 501-749-8140.

Our church office phone is 941-629-7454.

We thank you for your consideration of this work.

--The Port Charlotte elders