

The Means to Get To the



the Gospel Czech People

Returning

We have not yet heard back from the Czech government on our applications. We eventually gave up on them getting approved before we return and asked the embassy to send us back our passports. At that point, we were told that they processed our application and we are just waiting for someone to do something with it. However, we can return on a tourist visa and will be leaving on February 16th. Hopefully, our visas will get approved, but even if they do, we will need to immediately apply for our next visas. The next tactic that we will be taking is that Lisa will be applying for an undergraduate program for teaching English to Czechs. That will, hopefully, give us three years. However, I am pursuing sponsorship from someone in the Czech Republic to secure a permanent solution. We are trying multiple avenues and pray that God will bless us with a visa through at least one of them.

What Have We Been Doing?

To be honest, we feel a little purposeless in America. I have been grateful that the church that Lisa and I grew up spiritually in, Windsor Baptist Church, has started a Bearing Precious Seeds ministry, because it is at least one ministry we can be involved in while in the States. Also, when we were at their business meeting and realized that they weren't running children's classes or a nursery so that all members could be present, Lisa and I were happy to take all of the kids back. Although, I found out that I am not nearly as in shape as I was when I ran multiple children's classes a week!

So I have something to do (I don't sit around well), I have been working on materials to use when I go back to the Czech Republic. I briefly mentioned in the last letter that we were working on materials for English Evening. I have developed 13 lessons for misconceptions often held about the Christian faith and 13 on apologetics. My main work has been for an English discussion style Bible study through the Gospel of John. Because I am realistic that I may not always be able to be there for the studies due to our visa problems, I am creating an instructor's guide and a student handout. I am just now getting into chapter 6 and have 16 weeks of lessons. We would like to reach out to the ~20% of people in Brno who are expats. Nationwide, 89% of 18-24-year-olds speak fluent English, and 45% of the total population does. In Brno, the percentages are higher because it is dominated by the university; I just cannot find reliable numbers. Since we are years from being able to teach in Czech, this is the path forward now.

Finally, I have been thinking for years that we (fundamentalist Baptists) are doing a very poor job of reaching people where they are. The public square of the day is social media, especially videos, but I always shrank away because I don't use any social media, and I know the enormous amount of work involved to do it right. This means both in video generation and keeping a posting schedule. However, I was convicted that I should stop complaining and start doing something. So, I have been working on turning a tract that I wrote into a video as a test run. I have found that knowing exactly what I want does not mean that the software will actually do what it is told. After arguing with machines and trying out different programs, I did not get anything that I was happy with. There are still a couple of different platforms that I want to try, but I don't have unlimited funds to try them all. In the meantime, I made a video with stock media instead of the generative one I want to get started on. The plan is to post a new video about once a week on the topics discussed in the English Evenings to maintain a continuous online presence and reach more people. This idea is still in its infancy, but I was thinking I could add church contact information at the end of the video for any church, which would enable them to post the videos under their own name and, hopefully, serve as an outreach arm in addition to what churches already do. I am trying to produce high-quality videos to keep people from just swiping off of them. I don't feel that I am there yet, but I am getting closer. If you would be interested in taking videos that I made and putting your info on them, let me know..

Prayer Requests

- * Steele's medical treatment
- * Visas process
- * Outreach Efforts
- * Salvation of Igor, Ivana, and Jan

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