



CZECH MINISTRY UPDATE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2011

If indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the Gospel. Colossians 1:21

Dear friends,

I write to deliver news from the Czech Republic which I hope will lead you to the throne, to praise and petition our Father. By its very nature, thankfulness leads us to petition, for the work of God that produces thanksgiving is often the beginning of a work whose continued existence and growth depends upon our prayers.

A primary example is the work of God in the Šoban family (pronounced Shoban). You may recall that Milan's wife, once extremely hostile to Christ and to those who follow him, began attending our Sunday fellowship a few months back. Martha is now professing Christ. Her husband informs me that her daily routine is to wake up early, read her Bible and then continue in her study of the book "The Excellent Wife" —which she is reading for the second time. She told Amie a few weeks back that the problems in her marriage are her fault. If you knew this woman and heard these words coming from her lips, you would be amazed. Pray that her love for Christ would be steadfast and that she would mature as a woman who fears the Lord. As you see, there is cause for much thanksgiving, but also much need for continued prayer.

What had the greatest impact upon Martha was the radical conversion of her daughter Jarka (pronounced Yarka). This woman and her husband were in major financial trouble. This is her second marriage, she is raising two step children, and she works up to 80 hrs/week. My first encounter with her revealed a woman greatly burdened with worries and fears, a with little desire to hear about Christ's solutions for the root problem. But then Milan (her step-father) gave her the Bible on CD, and she began listening to it from morning until night as she worked. The Holy Spirit drew this woman to the Father through listening to the Bible, and the change in her life has been so dramatic that Martha, her Christ-hating mom, began reading the Bible and attending church as well. Because of their debt, Jarka and her husband lost their home last month. Remarkably, Jarka's greatest burden is not their financial situation they are in, but her angst to see the salvation of her husband and children. Once again, our thanksgiving gives us so much to pray for.



Jarka, Milan and his wife Martha

The story of the Šoban family doesn't end here. Milan and Martha have twin sons, Jarda (pronounced Yarda) and Martin, age 34. Martin has had a rough life. He was hit by a drunk driver while riding his bicycle, went through the front windshield of the car then exited the back windshield, was comatose for a week, and on top of all this, the corrupt communist government was persuaded to find him at fault. Martin looks normal today, but he still experiences chronic pain. Then he got involved in drugs and gambling and the trappings that go along with that life. This young man is totally depressed, in financial ruin, and two weeks ago he was planning to kill himself (again). We are thankful that he was open to meeting with his dad, Daniel Adamovsky and me.



L-R: Honza, Adlet (standing), Daniel, Martin

The meeting did not progress well, and after two hours we needed to leave for our Bible study. Daniel told Martin he was welcome to join us if he ever wanted to—and Martin replied, "Great, I'll come tonight". That was not what we were expecting to hear. Martin came, listened and seemed to be refreshed by the time. The following Friday he called Daniel to ask if he could meet with him. Daniel spent a couple hours ministering the Gospel to him. Last night Martin came to our Bible study again, and it is apparent the Lord is working on his heart. He is reading the Gospel of Mark and wants to know more. Please, please pray with us that God would open his heart to believe in Christ.



Petr with my father-in-law, Ken Johnson

Thanks for your prayers for Petr Sejkora as well. He's a 34-year-old school teacher living just one village away. He began attending BSKK church a couple months back, but after some direct talks about his life and doctrine, I feared we wouldn't see him again. On the contrary, he's becoming more faithful to attend and has even shown up to our 5:30AM men's meeting. Petr says he doesn't set his alarm clock, but automatically wakes up for the early morning meeting. Last week the men had a powerful time confessing our sins to one another and praying for each other. Please pray that Petr would continue growing in a right understanding of the Scriptures and that in His grace, the Lord would equip Petr to be a godly man. His wife is an unbeliever, and they are expecting their first child in July. Pray that Petr would love his wife, Martina, in such a shocking way that she would be won over to Jesus.

Here's yet another encouraging story. We recently met two older families who live 30 minutes away. Both are former Jehovah's Witnesses, but they have been studying their Bibles on their own because there were no Bible-teaching, Gospel-centered churches in their area. Through God's hand, we connected with the two men who are now seeking our help to equip and encourage them. For me, the most dramatic thing has been watching Daniel Adamovsky minister to and lead these men, who are twice his age. Daniel is continuing to bear much fruit in his growing ability to explain the Scriptures to others. Please continue to pray for Daniel's growth as a man of God. He is definitely showing signs of being a future elder, and by the grace of God will have a mighty impact on the Kladno church and upon future church plants.



Former JW Jiri with his two great loves

I wish I had room to share more of what God is doing here, to further stimulate your prayers of thanksgiving and petition on behalf of God's work here.

Amie and I covet your prayers for wisdom as parents—there are challenges enough navigating parenting in your own country. Thanks so much for your prayers for our marriage as well. I continue to be blessed by my best friend in our life and labors together. Amie is everything and more than I could ask for in a wife. Her love for Christ and for me encourages and humbles me more than she knows. She is a living picture of God's grace as she balances life on the mission field with three kids, home schooling, and lot's of ministry during the week, all the while studying the Czech language—and she is flourishing. Please pray for her as the weight only increases. Lastly we ask for your prayers as we gather information on how to adopt here in the Czech Republic.



Recent picture from a Sunday morning gathering

Sending/Supporting Network :

- Cornerstone Bible Church, CA *(Sending)*
- Christ our Hope Bible Church, WA *(Sending)*
- The Masters Bible Church, AZ *(Supporting)*
- Faith Bible Church, WA *(Supporting)*
- Momentum Church, IL *(Supporting)*
- Hope in Christ Bible Church, MI *(Supporting)*

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