

# ***The Lord's Work in the Czech Republic***

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**Report: April 2008**

**9 May 2008**

Dear Brethren,

We hope that this finds all of you doing well. We are doing fine here in the Czech Republic. We continue to make our plans to move to the U.S. on about July 31. More about that later in the report.

## **THE CHURCH IN LITOMYŠL**

**Average Sunday Attendance (April): 19**

**Average Sunday Bible Study Attendance (April): 19**

**Contribution: \$290 (April)**

Petr Novák's mother was baptized into Christ in April. She was diagnosed with a very aggressive and inoperable cancer in March. Petr and his brother Honza (from the church in Prague) used this situation to show her how very important it is to make her life right with God while she still had time. She responded to the Gospel and was baptized at home. You may remember that her husband (Petr and Honza's father) died in December, also of cancer. Sister Novák has been sent home from the hospital, since there is nothing that they can do for her, and she wanted to spend her last days at home. Please keep the Novák family in your prayers ... she has two sons and their wives, plus a daughter-in-law who are faithful Christians. At the same time, please rejoice with this family, as they can face this time with the full assurance that their mother has been saved in Christ!

The other members of the church in Litomyšl continue to do well. The Christians there are getting adjusted to the idea that we'll be leaving for the U.S. this summer. This is not an easy thing for them, especially since we've been with them since 1994 when the congregation was founded. However, I firmly believe that they will continue to carry on the Gospel work in this area, even in our absence.

## **LEAVING THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

Our plans continue to progress in regards to moving to the U.S. We have been able to make our plans firmer based on the following:

- Our house here was reserved 3 days after going on the market. The buyers put down earnest money, and now they are simply working on the final financing. They have until the end of June to make final payment. If they don't, then they lose their deposit. There is already another buyer lined up after them who can pay outright in cash should the first buyers default.
- Ivana's immigration visa is moving along nicely. We had the initial interview on April 24 at the embassy in Prague, and then she had her required medical exam at an embassy-approved doctor in Prague this week. The final interview is scheduled for June 5. The consular officer has told us that we should expect no problems, and that the visa will be issued and delivered to us by courier within a couple of days of the interview. The green card, along with Ivana's social security card, will be mailed to my Texas address later. The visa, however, is enough for Ivana to travel to live in the U.S.
- The moving company representative came to look at what we would be moving, and I expect his written estimate any day now. We have tentatively scheduled the movers to come during the first week of July. The shipping crate or crates will take about 6-8 weeks to reach the U.S. by ship after leaving here.
- I will be in Texas (by myself) from **June 12-23**. There are a couple of reasons for making this trip now, but the main one is to interview with congregations that might be interested in having me come to work with them. So far, I have appointments with two churches. I still have time during this trip to speak with other churches who might be interested in us working with them. So that our children can start the U.S. school year in their new home, we hope that we will have found a church to work with by then.

We expect, and are planning, to leave the Czech Republic during **the final week of July**. Until we actually buy our plane tickets, we won't know exactly which day of that week we'll be leaving. Our hope is to already be in Texas on or before **July 31**.

## SUPPORT NEEDS

In regards to moving, we are trying to raise \$10,000 in support for our moving/travelling expenses. So far, we have had one church commit \$2,000 towards these expenses, but we are still short \$8,000. I believe that a total of \$10,000 will cover just about everything we'll need (this includes airfare, which is very high now for a family of 5). *Any help with this would be greatly appreciated.*

## CONTACTING US

Please feel free to contact us with any questions that you might have. I have a set up a VOIP number which you can use to call me. It is charged at normal U.S. rates, but will ring me here in the Czech Republic. You can use your normal phone or cell phone to make the call. If I can't answer the call, my phone will show your number, and I'll call you back. That phone number is: **(972) 535-6205**. Of course, I can also be reached by e-mail ([sdbaxley@yahoo.com](mailto:sdbaxley@yahoo.com)).

Brethren, in closing, please allow us to thank you again for your support of the work here in the Czech Republic. Please continue to keep us, but most especially the Christians here, in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,  
*Steven & Ivana*