

Servant Leaders

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Three Ways You Can Get to Prague

by Jarda Tusek

Cesta Tam—There is a way

Our vision is to help raise a generation of fervent, evangelical, missionary-minded Czechs to restore the Czech Church to its mission and calling in the world.



When I returned recently from Prague, arriving at my home just before 4 AM, I thought this was the longest and most arduous trip from Europe I ever experienced, in the more than 50 trips I've made since 1990. Flight delays in Washington DC produced a 7-hour layover at Dulles Airport, taxing my strength and my patience.

Yet on second thought, an even longer journey takes place inside a human, when a cherished idea or belief passes from the head to the heart. Until that journey is accomplished, we remain at war with ourselves. In that regard, I have nothing to complain about, as I was able to see the perfect completion of such a head-heart journey in my 24 days in Prague (and without the cumbersome security checks).

The most important insight I gained from this trip is the affirmation of God's favor on three of the twelve possible ways my wife Sara and I have envisioned ("Twelve Possibilities for Ministry in the Czech Republic," September 2006) for our ministry in the Czech Republic, "Cesta Tam" (see sidebar).

Three Ways to do Cesta Tam

1 Partnering with one of the very successful missionary organizations already functioning in Prague. There are visible and effective missionary churches supported by Christian groups from Australia, Canada, England, New Zealand,



Ireland, Poland, Russia, Norway, Slovakia, Germany and Switzerland, among others. Any of these missionary organizations are our potential partners. Each of them is legally enrolled with the Czech government, fulfilling the financial requirements for a registered non-profit organization (having at least \$250,000 in assets) and working toward meeting operating requirements for a registered church (operating in the Czech Republic for at least 10 years, with at least 10,000 members registered).

2 Working as "tentmakers," in the way of Jesus, with no supporting organization and no official presence. Here we have several choices: we could accept a position with any of the governmental and educational organizations which have approached us already (Sara as a professor and myself in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Or, through our 22-year-old business, the International Leadership Institute, which has operated in the Czech Republic for 16 years, we could offer conversational English language lessons and career development services to young people, befriending them, modeling Christ through our own —Continued on p.2

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Three Ways You Can Get to Prague continued from page one

lives and taking our friends with us to local Christian churches.

In either case we would not need to register with the Czech government as a non-profit organization, but would operate as private citizens running our own business.

3 Working with an American organization, which would help us to fulfill the financial requirements for establishing a registered non-profit organization, as a first step to establishing a new Czech church. We have talked with potential American Christian partnering organizations over the past four years about working with us as we spearhead their European initiative.

From Head to Heart

This, then, is the outcome of a journey from head to heart. After four years of actively praying, thinking, talking and planning for our ministry in Prague; after making more than 50 trips there, many of which were focused on finding possible partners in Christian missionary efforts; after becoming involved with property management and ownership in Prague; after my gaining my dual citizenship; after preparing ourselves through the ordination process in the CCC-USA; after countless hours of beseeching God for a clear path, we now have stepped $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to our answer.

Going from twelve ways to get to Prague, to three ways to get to Prague, may not seem that impressive to some; but to us, who've lived it out, being able to juggle fewer possibilities is astounding progress. This 17-year jour-

ney to Prague has been even longer than an endless wait in an airport for your flight—it's the waiting for the "still, small voice of God," Who comes to all who earnestly seek His will. Yet for all its

stresses and strains, it has been the richest, most rewarding journey of our lives.

We thank Him for His guidance in this long journey. 

Travel to Herrnhut by Jarda Tusek

Christof Lange, pastor of Betlemska Kaple congregation in Prague (a member of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren), has restored, revitalized and reestablished this aging congregation with his fresh ideas. Reverend Lange is a missionary pastor from Germany, sent to help Betlemska Kaple get back on its feet after forty some years of gradual decline under communism. During my time in Prague, he organized an informative and inspirational trip to Herrnhut, the seat of the Unity of Brethren, in Germany which we wrote about as one of our role models in *Three Things You Can't Do in Prague*. I was fortunate to take part in this daytrip, which included a tour of the surrounding areas, the traditional home of the Lusitanian Sorbs (or Serbs, as they call themselves, but not to be confused with the Serbs in the former Yugoslavia).

During this trip it was clear to me that our heavenly Father had been there before us, as a consuming fire, clearing a path of peace, safety, kindness and abundance of grace. We felt privileged to be in such a blessed place, where time seemed to have stood still. We witnessed true convergence of Christian worship and faith, in this community of teachable, pliable, humble and effective Christians devoted to missionary work.

Originally organized by Count Zinzendorf during the Thirty Years War, the Unity of Brethren have endured and remained faithful to their missionary calling, producing Christian publications in 50 languages. Even the devastating shelling of Herrnhut by the Russians at the end of WWII could not destroy the Lord's work in this part of Germany. The restored, serene settlement is another tangible example of the Lord's protection of His own in the midst of adversity.

In organizing this trip, Reverend Lange perhaps meant to remind us of the protocol God has given us, His family, to function at the highest level of love and power. Living in unity and harmony, encouraging each other with uplifting words, using the tongue to give life, love and blessing, showing hospitality, kindness, compassion, and genuine fellowship as I saw in Herrnhut is possible only for those who truly love the Lord and follow Him in all they do. 