

500s - 1348: The Cave and "Good King Wenceslas"

Slavs settled the eastern Alps, forming the Moravian empire by 830; Cyril & Method brought the Gospel. Visit the cave where 'St. John pod skalou' one of the earliest Christians lived. Some of the nobilities became Christians: Svatý Václav "Good King Wenceslas" (Christmas carol) assassinated by his brother in 929, had a Christian grandmother but an anti-Christian mother. By 1350 Christianity thrived under Charles IV in enlarged Bohemia, with Prague as 3rd most important European city, capital of the "Holy Roman Empire"

A.D. 1348 -> 300 years Religious free thinking.

Charles IV, founded the "Charles University" in Prague in 1348; Primary study object was the Bible, leading to early reformers (and "Unitas Fratrum" which later [1732] sent the very first modern day missionaries from Herrnhut). Studies by Petr Chelčický (1420+) led to renewal, and insights such as "The priesthood of all believers", are still foundational for Baptists today. Words of Jesus were studied and taken serious again, even leading to a refuge house for fallen women, called "Jerusalem" (1373), located besides the famous "Bethlehem Chapel" where John Huss preached in Czech (instead of Latin in 1400), reforming the society 100 years before Luther but without book-printing to spread it.

A.D. 1648 -> 200 years imposed religious thinking

After the 30 year war (ending 1648), the population became quite indifferent to imposed religion associated with the authorities (effects until today). After courageously defending reformation ideas for hundreds of years, Czech Protestants were expelled from the CZ and dispersed over Europe, sometimes living centuries in colonies in foreign lands like Romania or Poland until today. Some migrated back after 1945, starting new (Baptist) Churches.

A.D. 1848 -> 100 years growing religious freedom.

The Spring of Nations (1848) collapse of traditional authority, caused more freedom under the Austrian Hungarian rulers. Growing religious freedom led to forming the Baptists Union in 1885 and the revival of the catholic anti-papal split-off, and nationalistic "Hussites" in 1919, a new denomination relating to the old reformer John Huss.

A.D.1948 - prescribed atheism and new indifference.

Russian occupation promoted atheism to two generations After the communist totalitarian regime, total freedom of religion also lead to rapid degradation of values.

Czech Republic: (Bohemia & Moravia), together with Slovakia made up "CzechoSlovakia" from 1918 to 1991, (before 1948 it included now Ukrainian Trans-carpattia). It is currently 30.500 sq mi, (like SC). Population 10 mill. Mountain ranges are the borders with Poland (North), Germany (West), Austria (South) and Slovakia (East), the 'Bohemian Basin' has cold winters and warm summers. \$1 was 41Kc in 2001, only 14 in 2008 !! helping GDP rise to 44% of the US; The Credit Crunch trickled down only slowly.

Points of Praise:

- Young Christians find creative ways of outreach (including successful "teaching English")
- Several Czech Churches are sending missionaries.

Challenges for Prayer: (pray for Pray4 p4)π

- Freedom turned to "Free for all" and moral carelessness; Atheism rose from 40% (1991) to 60% (2001) and 71% 'non-religious' in 2010. Evangelical Christians: 0,7%. Pray that a shift in the spiritual atmosphere may occur.
- Catholic church in free-fall after it missed opportunities in 90s by offering traditionalism rather than living faith.
- Pray for the remnant of Protestants to build on their rich heritage and demonstrate new life and loving outreach
- New expressions of faith: Czech suspicion toward institutions, give alternative fellowship forms better chances.
- Leadership development; ETS Evangelical Theological Seminary for Brethren and Baptists; IBTS International Theological Baptist Seminary for post-graduate studies for the EBF European wide Baptist family; and BTS in "Pelhrimov" Baptist initiative for bi-vocational lay-pastors
- Unity among the Czech churches and for evangelism
- Pray4 "TV Noe" Christian TV for national TV broadcast
- Pray4 IM missionaries the Kalkmans - for divine appointments while coordinating volunteer work in Europe.
- Consider in prayer being part of supporting the Kalkmans ministry in Europe (follow steps below)
- Pray for sufficient support for the Kalkmans (with the newly added support requirements) to return in June.
- Pray for former USSR and Vietnamese immigrants.
- Evangelism & human rights for discriminated Roma (Gypsy)
- Pray for the Baptist Union of the CZ (Czech Republic).

Volunteer and Short Term Mission options:

- Teach English any time (or in Brno 3rd week July 2011)
- Help with different construction needs.
- See: www.kalkmaneuropa.org ask for more options.

Prayer and Support for IM-Missionaries the Kalkmans:

Based in Prague and Assigned to work as liaison & volunteer coordinators from Int. Ministries with the EBF. (European Baptist Federation); Cz.Rep. is one of our 50+ partners.

We need your help and support to do this ministry. If you feel God is leading you to partner with us in reaching out to Europe, please pray for us and consider monthly support by sending a check to International Ministries with "Target Kalkman" in the memo to P.O.Box 851, Valley Forge, PA. 19482; or go: www.internationalministries.org/missionaries/70 to give electronically; or call 1 800 222 3872 ext. 2324

Contact us through www.kalkmanEurope.org click "send us an e-mail" in the top-bar, asking for our prayer information and newsletters.

Thank you for your prayers!
Thank you for your support!

Pieter & Nora Kalkman.

