

MESSENGER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER & PRAYER GUIDE



A March 2025 training event for church planting in the Czech Republic.

PHOTOS BY THE AUTHORS

ONE HOUSE AT A TIME by Stacy and Vojta Prknovi

STACY: Church planting is something I have felt called to for a long time, even before I left for the Czech Republic. Before coming to Prague, I was a member of West End Mennonite Fellowship, where church planting is a vital part of the DNA. For a season, I was involved in one of their church plants, knowing that it was important to learn how a church plant works practically before trying something overseas. So, when I felt God's nudge to join EMM in the Czech Republic doing church planting, I was ready. Little did I know how many years it would take.

For years, this desire has lain dormant in my mind, waiting for the right time while I engaged in other ministry opportunities. At various points along the journey, I even questioned whether I would ever be a part of a church planting team or movement in the Czech Republic. And then I met Vojta (my now-husband). His experience with house church was one of the things that drew us together.

VOJTA: I am the fruit of missionary work. I believed in Jesus Christ through a team of North American missionaries in 2012 when I lived in Prague. The team modeled and later

planted a house church consisting of mostly new believers. They also cultivated a connection with a Czech house church network. Through this connection, I got to meet a number of other believers from the larger network. If I were to summarize what the network is about, it would be "obedience-based discipleship of Jesus." The leadership of this network formed a vision to see a movement (i.e., four streams of four generations of disciples who form in churches) in each of the 14 regions of the country. People who have influenced the network through a personal connection and mentorship

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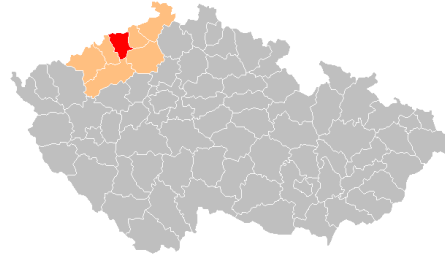
were Curtis Sergeant, Steve Smith, Jeff and Angie Sundell, and, recently, Troy Cooper.

STACY & VOJTA: A few years after we got married, God led us to move to Teplice, a city in the northern part of the country. We moved, not knowing anyone and having no real connections, just a deep sense that God had led us here. After a short period of searching, we found a church to become a part of, which helped us to get established in the area. We still had the desire for church planting, but the timing still didn't feel right. However, it was coming. We continued to share the gospel and disciple people as we had opportunities.

In 2022, Vojta participated in an online training with the house church network. Not only was he able to sharpen tools he'd previously learned, but he was able to reconnect with a group of people who had been influential in his own story. Throughout 2024 and 2025, we participated in a few different training weekends, hosted by the house church network. These trainings focused on different things: how to connect with non-believers, different tools to use to share the gospel (they tend to use tools like the 3 Circles and 4 Fields taken from No Place Left), and how to build your team.

In March of 2025, we attended a training for leaders within the net-

work, which was focused more on strategy and dreaming big for what God has for the Czech Republic. During that weekend, we were encouraged to pray together with our team and simply ask God what vision he was giving us.



A map of the Czech Republic (10.9 million people), with orange showing the Ústí nad Labem Region (820,000 people) and the red showing the county of Teplice (128,000 people). Despite its Christian past, today the Czech Republic is less than 1% evangelical Christian.

As we prayed and talked together, we felt God clearly give us the vision to see 1,200 new house churches started in our county of Teplice by 2035. (This is about 10% of the population of the whole county, supposing each house church would on average consist of 10 people).

The house church network leads different trainings throughout the year to equip individuals and churches in how to connect with people, share their faith, and start a Discovery Bible Study. We're excited that our church is planning to host one of these trainings in November, and hopeful that from that training, we'll have people to partner with as team.

In addition to the trainings we've done, we are currently working through another course on Disciple Making Movements, which gives us additional tools and practical steps we can take to start a movement here where we live. One of those is to form a disciple making team, who will join in the vision. Another is focused on prayer and getting out into the community in order to pray and to meet people.

We're starting small. Right now, we have one Discovery Bible study. But we're praying and believing for more. In fact, we're celebrating the fact that two people in our Bible study just made the decision to be baptized! We believe that this vision came from God and that it's up to Him to fulfill it. Our part is to be faithful to what he's called us to. For now, that's prayer, Discovery Bible study, and meeting people. But tomorrow or next year? We'll have to wait and see what God does!



Stacy and Vojta Prknovi serve as EMM workers to the Czech Republic and regional representatives for Central Europe.



During a retreat in March, the Prknovi were encouraged to pray, asking God what vision he was giving them.

CELEBRATING LEGACIES



Martha (Hartzler) Rohrer, 93, of Dayton, Va., went to be with the Lord on August 21. Martha served with EMM in Ethiopia from 1956 to 1976.



Jay Clarence Garber, 92, of Lancaster Pa., went to be with the Lord on August 31. He served on the EMM Board from 1965 to 1989 (15 of which were as Board chair) and also from 1998 to 2008. Jay served as EMM overseas personnel director from 1991 to 1998 and later developed a new Human Resources department from 1999 to 2000. Along with his wife, Lois, he served in Kenya in 1998.



Heidi N. Hershey, 67, of Parkesburg, Pa., went to be with the Lord on September 5. Heidi served on a summer VS team with EMM in Philadelphia in 1975 and in Peru from 1990 to 1993.

OCTOBER DAILY PRAYER

LANCASTER, PA.

- 1 | Pray for God to call volunteers for the programs at Neighbors Community Center, at Hub450, our building in Lancaster, PA.
- 2 | Pray for refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who have settled in Lancaster, Pa., as they continue to acclimate to life in the U.S.
- 3 | Thank God for bringing Nour Abuamsha to serve with EMM through MCC's International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP). Pray for her in her work, adjusting to her housemates and leaning on God's comfort as she misses family and friends at home in Palestine.
- 4 | Pray for Bhutanese-Nepali refugees who have settled in Lancaster, Pa. Ask God to provide for their needs and to equip them.
- 5 | Pray for the upcoming "Called" retreat, at the end of this month. Pray that this would be a meaningful opportunity for participants to discern callings that God has placed on them.

CENTRAL ASIA

- 6 | Join Elizabeth* in giving thanks that her parents and her niece can visit her in Central Asia for the first time in seven years. Pray that their trip will be spiritually and physically protected.
- 7 | Pray for the Balkar people, who are traditionally mountain dwellers. Because of the scarcity of usable land, many have been forced to move to cities for education and jobs.
- 8 | Pray for Buriats in Central Asia, who have incorporated Mongolian, Tibetan, and Chinese elements into their culture. Pray that the Lord would reveal himself to this Buddhist people.
- 9 | Pray for God to send workers to the field to work in business for transformation and teaching English.
- 10 | Pray for the Avar in Central Asia. Islam is a strong part of their identity, as well as placing a high value on honor. Pray that Christ would be revealed to them in a way that is compelling to them.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- 11 | Join Jeremy and Jennifer* in prayer for the conflict along the Thailand-Cambodia border that has been going on since mid-July to be resolved. Pray for brothers and sisters in Life Enrichment Church who have been affected by this conflict. Pray for safety for all.

- 12 | Pray for Owen and Abby* as they focus on language acquisition. Pray for good friends for themselves and their children. Pray for direction on their future step on where to serve long-term. Pray for opportunities to share the message with their language helper.
- 13 | As the Schoenhals family returns to Thailand after home assignment and medical leave, pray for safe and smooth transitions.
- 14 | Pray for God to call pioneer church planters into the harvest field of Thailand to join the team there.
- 15 | Pray for the Brao people in Cambodia. Adhering to pre-Buddhist traditional religion, Brao people focus significantly on trying to appease spirits. Pray that they would find freedom and life in Christ.
- 16 | Pray for God to continue to prompt young men and women to explore a call to missions through a mission internship in Southeast Asia with EMM.

CENTRAL EUROPE

- 17 | Please pray for open hearts for the people who will attend a regional missional training event that will take place at Vojta and Stacy Prknovi's church in the Czech Republic on November 15.
- 18 | Pray for individuals to be called to join an international church planting team in a village on the outskirts of Prague.
- 19 | Pray for God to continue to prompt young men and women to explore a call to missions in Central Europe through a mission internship with EMM.
- 20 | Pray for the Turkish people in Germany, the majority of whom are Sunni Muslims. Pray that they would receive invitations to journey with Christ.
- 21 | Pray for the Carpathian Romani in the Czech Republic. This group maintains close knit community bonds. Pray that they would receive invitations to join communities of believers.

WEST AFRICA

- 22 | Pray for long term workers to be called to join the work of leadership development and church planting in West Africa.
- 23 | Pray for God to continue to prompt young men and women to explore a call to missions through a mission internship in West Africa.

- 24 | Pray that the Lord would give guidance to Krystle Thorne in her involvement with My Sister's Company in The Gambia. May the group of artisans encounter the love of Christ in a powerful way.
- 25 | Pray for the Bainunk people in Senegal and The Gambia. Pray for adequate access to water and medical care, as well as for an encounter with Jesus, the Living Water.
- 26 | Pray for the Ahanta people in Ghana. The majority identify themselves as Christians. Pray for authentic life in Christ and for opportunities for transformative discipleship.

OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

- 27 | Pray for Phil and Linda Gottschalk as they serve in Bucharest, Romania, and teach multiple courses at the Baptist Theological Institute. Their course areas include church history, doctrine, ethics, Christian thought, and apologetics.
- 28 | Pray for God's grace and joy as Sonya Harnish and her team welcome a new group of international young adult students to Crossroads Bible School in Albania. Pray for a healthy balance as she invests socially and spiritually, in addition to handling many administrative details in the office.
- 29 | Pray for wisdom and discernment for Daryl and Jen Hoover as they serve at VidaNet in Costa Rica. May the love of Jesus be evident as they manage finances, mentor students and staff, and homeschool their youngest son.
- 30 | Pray for a harvest of righteousness and praise to flow forth from EMM's efforts around the world. Ask the Lord of the harvest to supply the finances for the Impact Fund to support such work.
- 31 | Pray for Leon and Naomi Zimmerman as they minister to others through training around the world. Ask the Lord to equip them as they lead marriage courses and mentor leaders. Ask God to direct them to effective strategies, as well as empower their training and teaching.

Some prayer requests adapted from joshuaproject.net.

*Names changed for sensitivity reasons.

**VISION & FUNDRAISING
BANQUET**

NOV. 13
DOUBLETREE RESORT BY
HILTON HOTEL LANCASTER
6 P.M.

DEC. 4
WESTVIEW COMMUNITY ROOM
AT LANDIS HOMES
10 A.M.

RSVP NOW AT
EMM.ORG/BANQUET





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Kairos

God, the Church and the World



This course is for Christians at any point in their journey with God, guiding each participant into a biblical worldview. It is not strictly a “missions” course but is an opportunity for all God’s people to be transformed and aligned with God’s heart for the nations. It uses a unique combination of facilitated introductions, reading, videos, group discussions, special activities, and prayer for unreached peoples. Kairos is one of several mobilization tools produced by Simply Mobilizing International, based in the Philippines but active in over 100 countries around the world.

Monday nights, Oct. 20–Nov. 17 450 North Prince Street
and Saturdays, Oct. 18 & Nov 15 Lancaster, PA 17603
\$125/person (\$95 for LMC)



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When you support EMM’s Impact Fund, you enable us to recruit, equip, and send EMM workers around world.

\$826,224 RECEIVED
AS OF SEPTEMBER 5

\$1,862,923
2025 IMPACT FUND GOAL



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