





Dear Friends,

When I started writing this update, it was Easter, what a lot has happened since then!

I am so sorry for my delay in bringing you this update. It is easy to say that it has been a busy season, but I always want to include you in what God is up to here in the Czech Republic. Let me catch you up on all that's been happening...

School Ministry Update

 **Thank you**, everyone, for praying for my time in schools. I am now volunteering in two schools each month, and it is so fun to recognise more and more students around town, especially when they stop and say hello. The aim of my time in school is to shine light in dark areas where students struggle and to be a bridge to the local church. This month we will be discussing the topic “What is my purpose?” **Please will you continue to pray for inspiration as I plan lessons that point to Jesus, and for boldness when I am in the classroom.**

 **Thank you** for your prayers for the EXIT tour in March. It was exhausting, but such an encouragement to be part of this event. Each day we went into a different school to teach English and “prevention” lectures on topics such as addiction, depression, mental health, etc., and each evening we held an after-program with games, music, food, and discussion. The number of students who came grew every evening, with 24 students on the first night, 56 on the second, and over 120 on the final night! Students came to the events seeking community and answers to big questions, and many stayed around to keep talking with leaders about the difference that Jesus can make in our lives. On the final night, so many students asked for

Bibles that we ran out and had to take names and school addresses so we could send them a Bible!

🙏 Please will you pray that those students who took Bibles will really engage with God's word, and for those students who were searching for answers, to find them in Jesus.



JV Events

🥰 **Women's retreat** - Thank you so much for praying for the JV Women's Retreat in March. We had such a blessed time together, and I was especially blessed by our time of worship together - 120 women from 18 countries singing to the Lord, sounds like heaven to me! We did not have a guest speaker, but instead studied John 15-17 together, about abiding in Christ, and it was so encouraging to study the word together. **Thank you for your prayers** for our travels and protection. All children and husbands who were left at home survived (as far as I'm aware!).

🎵 **Fusionary** - Fusion is a relational ministry that uses music as a tool to bring young people closer to each other and to Christ. This looks like choirs and music

groups that meet regularly across Central and Eastern Europe. I have heard many testimonies of colleagues and young adults who first heard about Christ through joining Fusion and are now Christian leaders in their countries.

🤔 Fusionary is the cross-cultural music festival that we host once every 3 years to bring all the Fusion choirs together. 500+ students from 10 countries gathered together in April to put on concerts to showcase the musical skills they have learnt and to cheer each other on. It truly felt like a celebration! The students were so encouraging of one another, and the concerts were spectacular. Check out the JV social media pages to see some of the concerts and get a feel for the festival.

⚡ The theme of the festival was “Dare,” and during the main sessions and seminars we explored topics such as “Do you dare to try? Because He is in it with you.” “Do you Dare to Open Up? Because He is going to listen to you and care for you.” “Do you Dare to trust His intentions for you? Because He has a future for you.” And I heard of one young man from Ukraine who gave his life to Christ after the final talk.

👊 **Please will you pray for all of the students who came to Fusionary?** That they will understand Christ’s love for them and draw close to him in all of their different situations. **Please pray** for those who accepted the gospel for the first time, that the good news would not be taken from them, like a seed planted in shallow soil, but would go deep and make a lasting difference in their lives and the lives of those around them. **Please pray** for protection for the students and leaders who travelled from Ukraine. They gave such a powerful concert and are struggling with their emotions of whether they are allowed to celebrate or feel joy amongst so much grief and hardship in their own country. **Thank you for standing with us in prayer for these things.**



🌸 **Spring Conference** - Most recently, we had the JV Spring Conference. This is a time for second culture staff to gather together for a time of teaching and refreshing. The theme of this year's conference was "Divide and Conquer," recognizing the enemy's trick of turning allies into adversaries and how we take back lost ground. The teaching sessions were really challenging, helping us to reflect on relationships that need restoration, and how we can truly forgive and heal through the power of Jesus sacrifice. We also looked at ways to thrive on the field, through language development, building community, and small steps that can make us feel more at home. Spring Conference is also a time to have fun with other missionaries, and I really enjoyed this time together, catching up with people I have met over the past year. And I also improved my ranking in the second annual singles crazy-golf tournament!

🙌 You may wonder what I am doing during all of these events! Well, my role can change depending on the event's purpose, location, and my responsibilities as part of the international team. Sometimes I am moving chairs and tables, sometimes I am preparing food, sometimes I am leading discussion groups, sometimes I am driving people to the airport, sometimes I am leading crafts, and always I am praying. It is my greatest blessing to be able to stand and pray with and for people during these events, and God is teaching me a lot about my relationship with Him.



Life in Český Těšín

🏠 With the snatches of time in between all of these events, God has still been blessing and growing my community in my town. God has given me a beautiful home that I have been able to open up to host friends from the UK and Ukraine, to have families from church around for Sunday lunch, to host and lead a women's Bible study, and to have my Mum and Dad to stay. It was so fun being able to show my parents more of the places where I work and play, especially with the deep snow we still had in March.

🗨️ **Thank you so much for praying for my language learning.** After sending out my last update asking you to pray for more opportunities to practice Czech conversation, I laughed so much when God answered immediately, with so many opportunities to practice speaking in Czech that week! I am pushing on with my language lessons and appreciate your ongoing prayers in this area.

📌 **Thank you** to everyone who has been asking about my visa. It got granted yesterday, with 7 days to go until the old one expired! Having the correct documents in Czech has been a source of anxiety from the moment I moved, and God is teaching me to trust that He is bigger than governments and bureaucracy and He is never late.



Still to come...

✈️ **Free Methodist Annual Conference** - I will be coming back to the UK for the Free Methodist Annual Conference in May. I am really looking forward to catching up with those of you who will be there and spending some time with my family whilst I am in Lancashire. **Please pray for safe travels** during this time.

💡 **School Ministry** - I will have my final stretch of teaching in schools before the summer holidays. **Please will you pray for good conversations with students and staff in the schools.** I have also been asked to lead a session for the younger youth group at church. This group (Dorost) is for students from 11 to 14 years old, and they

are so much fun! I will be leading on how we hear from God and how we can trust Him. **Please will you pray that they understand the message, as I will be speaking through a translator. And please pray that I will continue to build relationships in my church despite being away a lot this season.**

🏆 **Amazing Race and Intern Training** - It's the time of year again when we are preparing for interns coming! 34 young people will be joining us this summer to serve across Central and Eastern Europe. **Please will you pray for energy, joy, humility, and perseverance as they give their summers to serve young people in our countries, and point to Christ in all they do.**

😓 With travelling by trains, planes, and automobiles, and high-fiving so many teenagers lately, I have been a little under the weather. **Please will you pray that I would be able to rest well between events and draw all my strength from God.**

★ Thank you, as always, for being part of my team. You are a real support and inspiration to me.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 “Anyone you forgive, I also forgive... in the sight of Christ... in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.”



Thank you for all your love and freidnship.

God bless,
Cath

Email: cleech@josiahventure.com

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