



## Greetings from LCMS World Mission

### David and Radka Fiala with Vašek and Emma serving the Lord in Eurasia



**“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.”**

Romans 1:16

### *Giving Thanks*

#### ***GEO missionaries who are serving with us:***

***Sarah Berta-Somogyi (Cusson)*** in Győr, Hungary

***AJ Davis*** in Prešov, Slovakia

***Juli Hirsch*** in Třinec, Czech Rep.

***Stephanie Magee*** in Český Těšín, Czech Rep.

***Melissa Karges*** in Sopron, Hungary

*A thankful heart is a happy heart.* As a parent, I often find myself repeating this phrase to my children. They may be young but they are not exempt from feeling under the weather at times. They, too, have things that trouble them. As we talk about things that may trouble them, we end up talking about the blessings of being able to be together as a family, having food on

our table, and having friends to play with.

This Thanksgiving we are thankful for our extended family here in the region where we are serving. Each Sunday we open the Sunday school time for younger children (ages 3-7) with a song about being a part of God’s family. We sing of the love of Christ that binds us together and how our song can

be heard any day whether it is Thursday, Friday or Sunday. I wish you could see the kids’ faces beaming as they sing those words! Their earthly families may not be perfect, but it sure is a comfort to know that we also have our church family. Most importantly, we have our Heavenly Father, whose love is demonstrated in Jesus. *Lord, thank You for families near and far away.*

### *Reformation Celebrations in Eurasia*

Lutherans celebrated the Reformation as started by Martin Luther when he nailed his 95 Theses on October 31, 1517. Lutherans will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Check out these photos

shared [from our missionary teachers](http://eurasiablog.lcms.org/?p=4336) around Central Europe at <http://eurasiablog.lcms.org/?p=4336>.

Also at the end of October, the first translation of Luther’s Works into

Hungarian was presented in Budapest, Hungary. **The very first volume** of twelve was published as the works have not been translated into Hungarian before. We give thanks to the Lord for this milestone!

*Reconnecting People to their Christian Heritage*

## *Rev. Dr. Carter at Theological Conference*



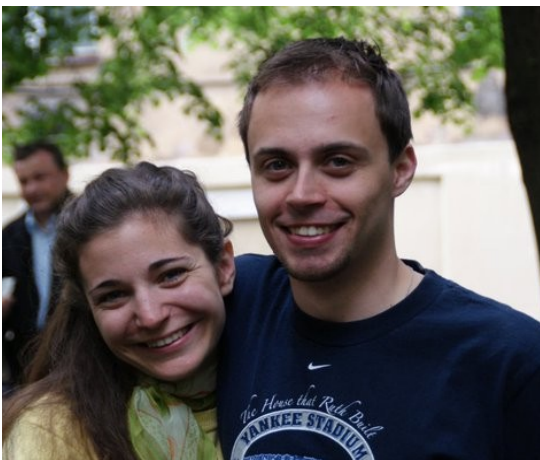
*Rev. Dr. Richard Carter of Concordia University St. Paul, MN, presenting at the Theological conference in Slovakia, Radka translating*

During his last visit to Slovakia, Rev. Dr. Carter was invited by the General Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia (ECAC) to present on the topic of *Ministry and Vocation* in relationship to missions. Both of us accompanied prof. Carter to the conference, and Radka assisted with translation especially during discussion that was a part of Dr. Carter's presentation.

About 150 clergy attended the conference, and Dr. Carter was able to expand on the topic of vocation and the Lutheran understanding. He stated, "Lutheran understanding of vocation must begin with freedom in Christ in the Gospel." Explaining that one's relationship with Christ makes the difference, he concluded, "Vocation involves living out one's servant relationship with the neighbor based on one's Gospel relationship in Christ."

Thanks to Dr. Carter's many visits and lectures in this region, he has been able to build relationships with the local people as well as the leaders of the church. Glory be to God!

## *Reconnecting in Prague, Czech Rep.*



During the International Lutheran Theological Conference in Prague in October, David took time to reconnect with some of his former Slovak students who are now living in Prague. He caught up with them during a Bible study at St. Michael's Lutheran Church. After music and a Bible study on Gideon, a group of twenty young adults spent time in fellowship. Among these young adults were four former students of the Evangelical Lutheran High School (EGT) in Tisovec, Slovakia where David taught during 2005-2008.

David asked them about their time at EGT and their plans for the future. One student, Roman Veverka (pictured on the left with his wife Zuzka), told him "*when I started at EGT, I was a non believer... an atheist. But the missionaries that taught me English also told me about Jesus and God. Soon I became a believer and now I am studying theology in Prague and I hope some day to be a pastor.*"

Please see an interview video at <http://eurasiablog.lcms.org/?p=4158>.

To read more about the conference on Lutheranism in the 21st century, please go to: <http://www.lcms.org/pragueconference>.

Each of the former EGT students are working towards a college degree in Prague. They attend a Slovak-speaking church of about 60 members and attend this same Bible study every Wednesday night. Each one told David that they would like to thank him and the others like him who answered God's call to come and teach them English and about Jesus. Praise the Lord!!!

## *Witness Workshops by Jim Found*

We truly learn so much from those who come and serve with us on a short-term basis, and the time spent together serving is a blessing for our entire family. When Jim Found, a retired Concordia University St. Paul professor, landed in Slovakia, he was scheduled to lead a witness workshop at a family camp in Slovakia. Those present discussed how challenging it can be to witness to others. Jim talked about some roadblocks and helped remove them as he underlined that God is the One who creates faith, not us. Our calling is to live a life of witness and interact with those around us, build relationships and share our stories of faith. Jim's message was about Jesus, and the local pastor asked him to lead ANOTHER 6-hour workshop at the local congregation where all generations were represented. The workshop helped God's people to see our problem with sin and that Jesus Christ is the One who was sent to die on our behalf so we can be free in Him, the Risen Christ. Glory be to Him!!!



*Participants of the camp, Jim Found and Radka translating.*

*Jim's website:  
[www.foundbytes.com](http://www.foundbytes.com)*

## *Vašek is 6 years old...which makes Emma 4 and 1/2*

Vašek could not wait for his birthday, which was on Nov. 2nd, and his wishlist was also pretty long. :) Now, his sister keeps asking about when her birthday will be as she can't wait to be 5. Since her birthday won't come around until May, I tried to explain to her that she's not only 4 but 4 AND a 1/2. Emma gratefully accepted this reality and will let you know how old she really is when asked.

The kids (and we, too) enjoyed a gorgeous fall with warm weather until last week or so. It was fun to pick up buckeyes with Grandma and Grandpa from the U.S. who came to visit us this fall. Both Vašek and Emma are taking ice-skating lessons again.

As a family, we've been teaching Sunday school for younger children this fall, and it's been fun having our kids help teach Bible verses to their friends. We've been blessed by reaching out to the children who attend as well as their families who do not know Jesus as their Savior.



*Vašek, 6, and Emma, 4, with their cousin Julian, 11, celebrating life and friendship. God's blessings!*

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## Fiala Prayer Card

<http://www.lcms.org/ca/mission/prayercards/index.asp>

To support the Fiala Family through financial gifts, you may visit [www.lcms.org?8507](http://www.lcms.org?8507), and click on the **"Give Now"** button, or call 1-800-433-3954 and ask for Debbie Feenstra in St. Louis.

Checks may be sent to: **Mission Senders, 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO, 63122.**

You may also send your gift to **Mission Central, Attn: Gary Thies, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA, 51034** or visit [www.missioncentral.us](http://www.missioncentral.us).

Please write "David Fiala" on the memo line.

***Thank you to all of you who are committed to supporting God's mission through prayers and gifts.***

## *Prayer Requests*

- Pray for the many ministries we're involved in, and that the Lord would continue to give us wisdom and guidance to be able to lead others.
- **Pray for our team and all the missionaries who are away from their families especially during Thanksgiving and Christmas.**
- Give thanks for the projects we are working on in this part of the world, and that we have the freedom to be able to do so.
- **Pray for Radka's mom, Elena, who's been having some problems with her blood pressure, was hospitalized and will undergo more medical testing.**
- Give thanks for those who pray for us daily, for those who send notes, emails, cards, e-cards and who are sending us to be witnesses of Christ to the nations. May the Lord use our prayers and our witness powerfully to HIS glory.

