

## **CZECH IT OUT!**

August 31, 1995, nearly fifteen years ago, the plane carrying our family of four touched down on the Prague tarmac, signifying the arrival of the very first resident UPCI missionary to the Czech Republic (formerly Czechoslovakia).

The Iron Curtain had come down, the challenge accepted, and what lay in wait for us was known only to God.

Without even one contact in hand, we forged ahead through uncharted waters. With reaching an entire nation with the Gospel our ultimate goal, how and where do we begin?

At times, the challenge seemed daunting; however, armed with the assurance that God was with us, we put our shoulders to the wheel and began our course of action.

With faith for the future, and before we had even one prospective Bible School student, we embarked on the arduous task of compiling a carefully planned three year Bible School Curriculum. Without a shadow of a doubt, we believed that the establishment of a Bible School in the heart of the capital city would be the vehicle to reach this atheistic nation with Truth in building the very foundation upon the study of God's Word and training others for leadership.

Determination to see this come to pass required much resolve and resilience to the many obstacles standing in our way of this dream. Once the curriculum began to take shape, where would we find a qualified translator, someone who is familiar with biblical terms and spiritual principles as the Christian community of Prague is extremely small? How much would this undertaking cost? And, the big question: Will we have students?

If God gives the vision, He is faithful! With His divine direction and through the process of time, an excellent translator was located. At a translation cost of \$10.00 per page, we commenced in the laborious task of raising the necessary funds crucial in seeing this project come to fruition, with the full amount needed reaching into the thousands and thousands of dollars.

Indescribable joy, fulfillment, satisfaction, and a sense of great accomplishment took place this year as the last page of the last textbook was completed, all in compliance with the GATS high standard and solid objectives!

With God's unwavering faithfulness, 30 translated and printed textbooks (10 per each year of study) are now completed! Thanks be to God!

Although the work in The Czech Republic is yet in it's infancy, we do not despise the day of small things. We faithfully plant the seeds of His Word in every student. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, *and that your fruit should remain: ...*" (John 15:16)

Submitted by Becky Buckland

Czech Republic / Eastern Europe