

## DAY 8: CHURCHES GROW AND MULTIPLY IN CZECHIA

When Larry and Melissa Lewis and their family moved to Czechia (*CHECK-ee-ab*) in 2009 as IMB church planters, they knew they had a tough job ahead. Only 29 percent of the population acknowledges the existence of a god, and less than 1 percent choose to follow Jesus. In fact, Czechia is well known for being the most irreligious country in Europe.

But trusting God's call, the Lewises went and began a Bible study in their home in the Eastern Czech city of Plzeň (*PLzen*). That Bible study outgrew their home, so they moved to a local community center. On the first Sunday in their new location, Daniel came. Daniel Kuč (*Kooch*) had been a pastor before but was new to the city and unsure how God wanted him to plug in. He heard about the Lewises' work and was curious to meet them.

"He was a pastor with a beautiful pastor's heart without a church, and we were a beginning church without a pastor," Melissa said. "It was definitely God."

That Bible study turned into what is today Mozaika, a vibrant Czech-speaking church that is planting other churches.

As Mozaika emerged, God began multiplying the church. As members transitioned through life and moved away, the church didn't say goodbye, but instead it sent them out and helped them begin Bible studies and churches in their new homes.

For instance, Věra (*VyEHrah*) was a teen when she was baptized. A few years later she married and started her family in a smaller city. Daniel and the Lewises helped her and her husband start a work there. This little group has grown even



IMB PHOTO

*IMB worker Larry Lewis baptizes new believer Christian Dajbog. This 19-year-old first heard the gospel at an English camp outside of Prague when he was 12 years old. He committed his life to Christ in the summer of 2020.*

through COVID-19 shutdowns, and a new IMB worker has been appointed to join them by the end of the year to help with their burgeoning fellowship.

"We haven't had to just pick a new place; God has really picked the places, and we're just following," Larry said.

This has happened five times in the last ten years, and each time Daniel walks alongside those leaving and takes laypeople with him to help build up the new work. The result has been life changing. Mozaika members have caught this vision and are eager to see what God has next for them.

"They're always saying, 'What's next? What can I do? I want to help,' and that's just a beautiful thing," Melissa said.

So what's next for Mozaika?

Larry and Daniel have begun a Bible training center for pastors, and they have ten church members going through the program. These members will be prepared to serve as pastors in the next few years. They are praying for ten new places to start churches.

**PRAY** for the Lewises and Daniel as they lead Mozaika and for the leaders of other new churches beginning in surrounding cities.

**PRAY** for the Bible training center for pastors and for the ten men who are training for future ministry.

**PRAY** for two new IMB families coming to join the work in Czechia this year.