

Fwd: September Prayer Letter for the Means Family to Czechia

1 message

First Baptist Church Geneseo, IL <firstbaptistchurchgeneseo@gmail.com>
To: P Franklin <pf101069@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 1, 2025 at 9:36 PM

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From: Nathan <nathan@meanstoczechia.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 1, 2025 at 5:26 PM

Subject: September Prayer Letter for the Means Family to Czechia

To: <firstbaptistchurchgeneseo@gmail.com>

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New Life

We are busy settling into our new life in the Czech Republic. The biggest part of that is learning the language. For this, we have class every weekday. Then we spend much of the rest of the afternoon and evening doing Czech work or being out in the community to try practicing what we are learning. Part of what we are learning is how to order food at a restaurant. So, we often go out for lunch and try to get the waiters to let us use Czech instead of being annoyed and switching to English. We keep getting further before they switch to English, so we are making progress! We even had homework assigned to us to go and

try a local pastry. I can't say that we will have it again, but it was a fun assignment.

One of the biggest adjustments is grocery shopping. It is not just that the language is different, but what is and is not available is different. Also, we cannot just go to Walmart and have a one-stop shop for all our needs and have had to learn where we can get different items. We are still learning and venturing out further and further to find what we need.

The most popular sport in Czechia is hockey, through many Czechs will say that it is mushroom hunting. I guess that you can say mushroom hunting is the national pastime. It is now mushroom season, and we would like to go out wandering in the woods looking for mushrooms. However, we have no idea which mushrooms are good to eat, and which might kill us. We have hinted that we would like a to go with some Czechs that we have met with no takers. The weather was nice last weekend and Nathan went and wandered in the woods alone. Don't worry, I just took pictures and didn't try to eat any. It was good to get out of the city, but what we really want is to have Czech friends that we can go with. Pray that we can make some good contacts with Czech people. We are joining an English language club for Czechs learning English and hopefully that will be a good start.

Family

We still have not heard anything about our visas. We still are in our time window, but it is unsettling not to have answers. We have tried to contact our lawyer to find out if there is an update, but they have not responded to us. The worry is that if we do not have the Visas by mid-November then we will run out of the ninety days that we can stay without a visa. We were told that ninety days is the max time that it will take to process the visa and we submitted them July 3rd. That means that it will be ninety days on October 3rd. We would really appreciate your prayers for us to get the visas soon.

Visas

On the trip to get keys and set up what he could before the final move, Nathan had his passport stolen. This meant going to the embassy in Prague and getting an emergency passport to be able to travel with. Then going to the passport office in Dallas when coming home to get an expedited passport. While in Dallas for the passport, we were T-boned at an intersection. Lisa was taken to the hospital and we spent six hours there before being given the all-clear. We then headed to the airport and picked up a replacement rental car

and made it home. We ended up wishing that we had driven the truck because then it would have been totaled and we would not have to worry about it anymore. Instead, the truck is on consignment and still costing us ~\$800/month between insurance and payments. Because it is not paid off and the truck is deleted, this ended up being our only option. Please pray for its quick sale.

Aside from about 24 hours of travel time and an very uncomfortable international flight, getting to the Czech Republic was uneventful. All of our bags made it and we had no problems with immigration. We are still waiting on the visas, but have 90 days to get them before it will be a problem. Please pray for the visas to come through.

On September 1st, Nathan and Lisa start school. Then Makayla has orientation on the 3rd, with a full school schedule starting on the 8th. Please pray that we all settle in to our schedules quickly, learn well, and make good contacts through the schools.

Prayer Requests

- * Steele's medical treatment
- * Visas to be approved quickly
- * School/Language Classes
- * Developing relationships in the Czech Republic
- * Resolving the insurance situation

New Life

- 1, 2) These are only 4 of the 6 different types of waste that we need to identify.
- 3) Finding out that appliances don't work the same. Our dryer has a water holding tank that needs to be dumped and there are no instructions in English!
- 4) This bookstore decorated the staircase with the spines of old books.
- 5) Makayla found a few yarn stores, so all is well.
- 6) Maybe next time Makayla can make a bag useful to people instead of mice.
- 7) Taking a trip on a double-decker bus and having seats up front on the upper level.
- 8) View from the apartment



PLASTIC

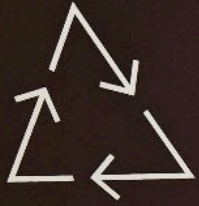
For:
PET bottles, bags,
food boxes, plastic containers,
beverage containers,
milk and juice cartons

#MUNISAVES

**MIXED
WASTE**

For:
Garbage, soiled paper and
plastics

#MUNISAVES



ORGANIC WASTE

For:

residues of plant origin,
tea bags and coffee grounds,
fruit and vegetable scraps,
pips and pits

#MUNISAVES



PAPER

For:

newspapers, magazines,
books, notebooks,
cardboard,
advertising leaflets,
paper packaging

#MUNISAVES













Experiencing Czech culture

- 1) Doing "homework" by eating lunch at a restaurant on Svobody Square.
(Obědvali jsme u Svobody Náměstí)
- 2) We were given an assignment to try this pastry (Větrník).
- 3) While trying the pastry, we might as well get some ice cream.
- 4) We went to a Leonardo da Vinci museum that was focused on his inventions.
- 5) Some of them were interactive and we tested who could blow the hardest.
Nathan had the most hot air!
- 6) Felt like we were in a movie looking over this courtyard.

7) Sample of Czech food. This is a traditional meal, where the only vegetables are sauerkraut and potatoes.

8) Not any more color to this dish.















Cultural Landmarks

- 1) This statue is called the Equestrian Statue of Margrave Jobst of Luxembourg, but the locals call it the giraffe instead of the horse.
- 2) This is the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Paul.
- 3) The interior of the Cathedral
- 4) Hrad Veveří. Found it out mushroom hunting.









Mushroom Hunting

1-9) Different types of mushrooms that I found

11) The Brno reservoir

12) Raspberries? I didn't taste it to find out.

13) Not mushrooms, but lovely flowers.

14) A tree stand! I found the feeder and the game camera as well. Made me feel at home.

























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