CZECH TOUR 2014

It is so amazing to us that this year we would be ending our tour of Zambia, the only declared Christian nation in the world and then going on tour in the Czech Republic one of the most atheistic nations in the world. It is equally amazing that the Czech Republic is also a landlocked country. The Czech Republic is surrounded by four nations: Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Austria

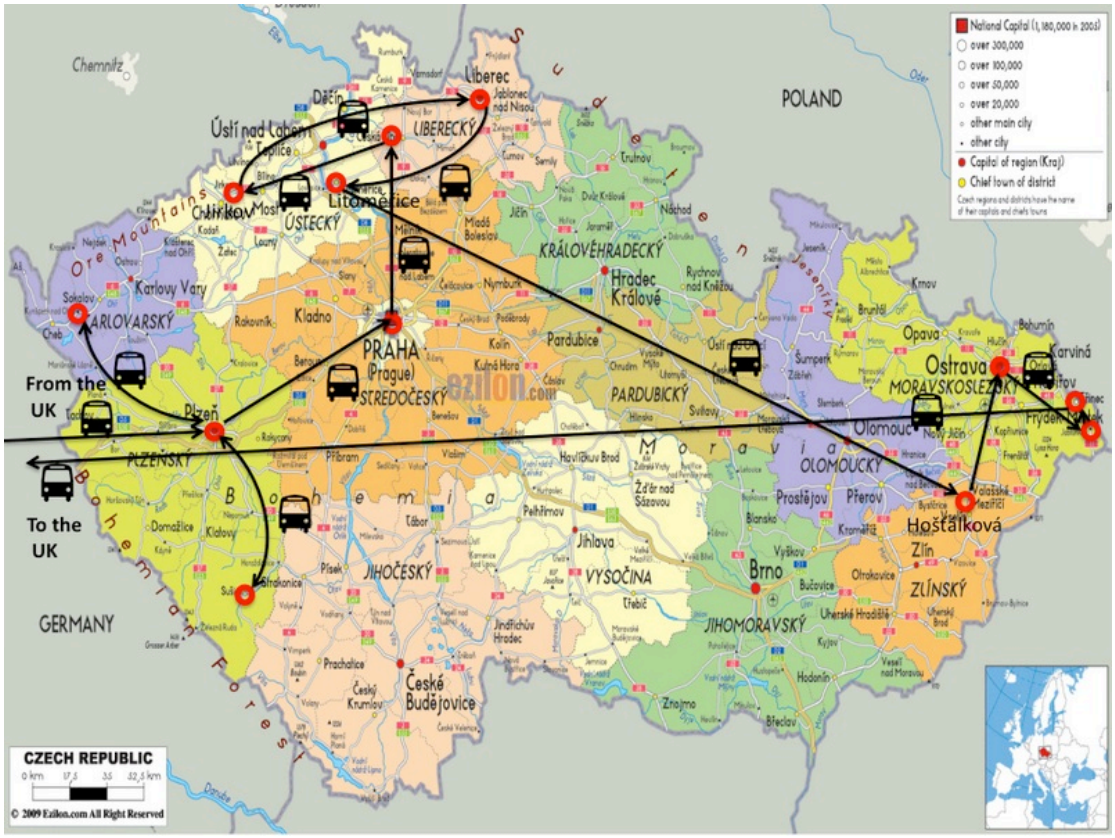
It is such a privilege to be able to minister in countries representing either end of the spectrum and to see God move in people's lives regardless of their geography. We also sang most of our songs in Czech from the Czech album that we produced following our previous tour.

This tour was put together by a Christian missions' organisation that serves the whole of the Czech Republic called KMS. They are such a blessing to the nation and were such a blessing to us in putting together this tour for us. We couldn't have done any of what we did do without their help and support. We are so grateful to Hana and Lubomir from KMS for everything that they did to make this tour possible.

THE TOUR

The tour was called 'Love Can Change The World' and below is the poster that KMS designed and distributed to all of the churches to advertise the tour.

From the tour map below you can see the towns and cities that we ministered in within three weeks.



Czech Tour Map

We started our tour in Pilsen and stayed once again with the Vavřičkovi family who hosted us two years ago. It was a great reunion and we are so thankful to them for their love and generosity to us. Whilst we were with them we also had the opportunity to run through all of our Czech songs with Karel Řežábek who translated them for us.

MINISTRY

The message of 'Love and revival' that Pastor John gave during our tour was very powerful and many people responded to it positively. As one of the most atheistic nations in the world, Czech people who receive Jesus, seem to have a tangible experience with God. Many people brought up under the communist rule were told that there is no God and they used this principle to live their lives. We met many people who said that they had been brought up as atheists, but that at some stage in their lives, someone had told them about Jesus and they knew that they had to make some kind of response. When they asked God to reveal Himself to them, He did and they made the decision to make a commitment to follow Jesus.

We were so blessed by the meetings. Very few of them took place in church buildings. Most of them took place in local town halls and neutral venues so that all churches could come together and so that Christians could invite their non-Christian friends, which they did.

Meeting at a church in Brniště

TESTIMONIES

One thing that amazed us about the Czech Republic was the amount of testimonies that we received from people about VInesong's current ministry and ministry over the years was overwhelming. We can only give God all the glory for all that He has done. Considering that the Czech people are generally very reserved and keep their personal lives very private, we were so blessed at how much people wanted to share about what God had done in their lives.

Kynšperk Prison

Our first meeting was in a prison in Kynšperk. About 120 men attended the meeting and 90 of them stood for salvation at the end. The Governor of the prison is a Christian and he was so blessed and inspired by the ministry that he asked us to come back again.

Ministering to the inmates

With the Chaplain, Governor and our Interpreter after the meeting

Horažd'ovice
Two years ago we ministered at a Catholic church in Horažd'ovice, which was hosted by an evangelical church in the city. It was a great meeting and many people from many churches in the area attended. We met with one of the church leaders, Vladimir, who had organised the meeting and he said that the Priest had really loved the ministry. Since that time, the Priest has invited Vladimir to speak at mass and the churches have become friends. There were also a couple of other churches that had supported that meeting and now there is more unity between them all and they are starting to work together in the town.

Pilsen
In Pilsen a man came to speak to us and told us that when we were there two years ago, it was the first time in his life that he can remember crying. He said that God had been so real to him during that meeting and again, during the meeting this year, he cried again. He recognised that it was the power of God and he wanted to thank us for the ministry and all that God was using it do.

One man came to us and said that two years ago his life was on a downward spiral and when he came to the meeting he recommitted his life to Christ. Since then, God has changed his whole life, his marriage, his relationship with his children and he was so thankful to God that He had sent us during such a critical time in his life.

In Pilsen another man reminded Pastor John of the music festival that Vinesong had been invited to sing at many years ago. It was a secular event and many young people were present. At the time, there were terrible floods in the Czech Republic and Pastor John said that before Vinesong would sing, it would be wrong of them if they did not pray for the nation. After the prayer, the young people were so moved they stayed to hear Vinesong sing. The man said that he is not an emotional man, but his eyes filled with tears during that event all those years ago and he really believed that it was a turning point for the nation. At our final concert in Pilsen, he said once again, his eyes filled with tears, just like they did all they years ago and he realised when we ministered, that he was in the presence of God again.

Prague
During our last visit to Prague, in our final meeting one of our hosts gave their life to the Lord. This couple had become friends with Pastor John's hosts Mirek and Hanka Hoblik through an English-speaking group that they had established for children in their area. The husband had already made a firm commitment to Christ and everyone was praying for his wife. It was a miracle when she came forward for salvation at the end of the meeting. Now, two years on and she will be getting baptised before the end of this year.

Liberec
The Pastor in Liberec, credited a Vinesong meeting 18 years ago as being the moment when he felt the call to the ministry. He organised the meeting in Liberec at a well-known venue. He was so surprised by the turnout, there were over 300

people and in the end it was standing room only. Many non-Christians came to the event and over 50 people gave their lives to Jesus in that meeting.

Standing room only at Centrum Babylon Liberec

People responding to the altar call

In Liberec, a man came up to us and told us that the meeting there was nothing short of miraculous. He said there had been many church splits and a lack of unity between churches in the area and this meeting was definitely monumental because many churches had come together under one roof.

Hošťálková and beyond

In Hošťálková, we arrived at our accommodation in the mountains, to hear 'Let Your Living Water Flow' being played over the village.

One woman from Hošťálková wrote to KMS following our meeting there and said: "I was sitting at the back of the hall and I could only look on in amazement at how, non-Christians who normally only go to the pub, were at the concert as well as teachers from our primary school, Catholics, atheists and alcoholics. The hall was really full."

One lady told us that during a meeting on our previous visit 2 years ago, that she had a vision of her heart and it had two holes indicating where she had been hurt. Since then, she has really seen the way in which God has been healing her heart.

A Pastor and his wife told us that one of their congregants had died of cancer, and be fore he died he asked them to look out for his family. They have maintained contact with the family and they invited them to one of our meetings. At the end of the meeting, the whole family stood up for salvation!

One woman told us that the last time that we were there, her family were having terrible problems and they all came to one of our meetings. She said that since that meeting their lives had been turned around and that there was now total peace in their home. Ever since they came to the meeting and put their lives and their problems into God's hands as a family, they have experienced miracle after miracle and life could not be better.

Final Meeting of the Tour

Emergency rescue

Whilst we were in Hošťálková, we stayed at a wonderful cabin in the mountains owned by a couple from the hosting church. We decided to take our van up there minus the trailer, as it would be more convenient for us to have transport. On the evening we arrived we decided to go out to dinner. The track leading up to the cabin was very small but we managed to get the van up there successfully. The ground was very wet and slippery and in attempting to turn the van around, we got stuck with the van unable to reverse due to lack of traction. Thankfully the Pastor was a great help to us and he turned up with a tractor to rescue us. The tractor had a great lifting mechanism and they were able to lift the front of the van and get it pointing in the right direction.

Stuck with nowhere to go

Tractor lift and rescue

FUNNY SIGN

We wanted to share with you a sign that we saw for toilets at a restaurant!

Please hold on. You're almost there!

AND FINALLY……

During this tour we sensed that things are changing in the Czech Republic. Despite it being a very atheistic society, we were encouraged to see so many non-Christians in our meetings. This tour demonstrated that people are hungry for the Gospel. They are hungry for truth and the things of God. When we prayed for this tour, we prayed that we would see many salvations and God did not disappoint us. We saw many people respond positively to the Gospel, which we count as a great honour and privilege. Throughout the tour almost 500 people gave their lives to Jesus. We thank God for all that he is doing in the nation and for all the lives that have been changed for eternity.

We know that the enemy is not happy with us. On the second day of our journey from Czech Republic back to the UK in our van and trailer, the gears on the van started to fail with over 400km left until we reached Calais to board our ferry. Despite this problem Pastor John sensed that God said that he had taken us to the Czech Republic and that He would get us home safely. We were left with second gear and with that one gear we were able to make it safely back to our home in the UK in the early hours of Wednesday 3rd December. We thank God that despite this obstacle, He enabled us to get home safely.

Please Give Thanks For:

- All the salvations and people recommitting their lives to Christ
- The many prisoners that attended our meetings in Kynšperk and Ostrava prisons and for those that gave their lives to Jesus
- Safe travel to and from Czech Republic

Please Pray For:

- Those that gave their lives to Jesus that they would find a good church and good Christian fellowship
- Christians as they reach out to their unsaved friends with the gospel
- Pastors to be encouraged as they serve the body of Christ
- The team as we prepare to leave for Nigeria five days after arriving back in the UK
- Our van that we would be able to get the gears fixed and working well in time for our UK tour next year
- Christians around the world who are suffering from persecution and losing their lives for the sake of the Gospel.