

WEEK OF PRAYER

Day 8

Churches grow and multiply in Czechia

When Larry and Melissa Lewis and their family moved to Czechia in 2009 as IMB church planters, they knew they had a tough job ahead. Only 29% of the population acknowledges the existence of a god and less than 1% 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 came and began a Bible study in their home in the Eastern Czech city of Plzeň. 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 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 says. "It was definitely God."

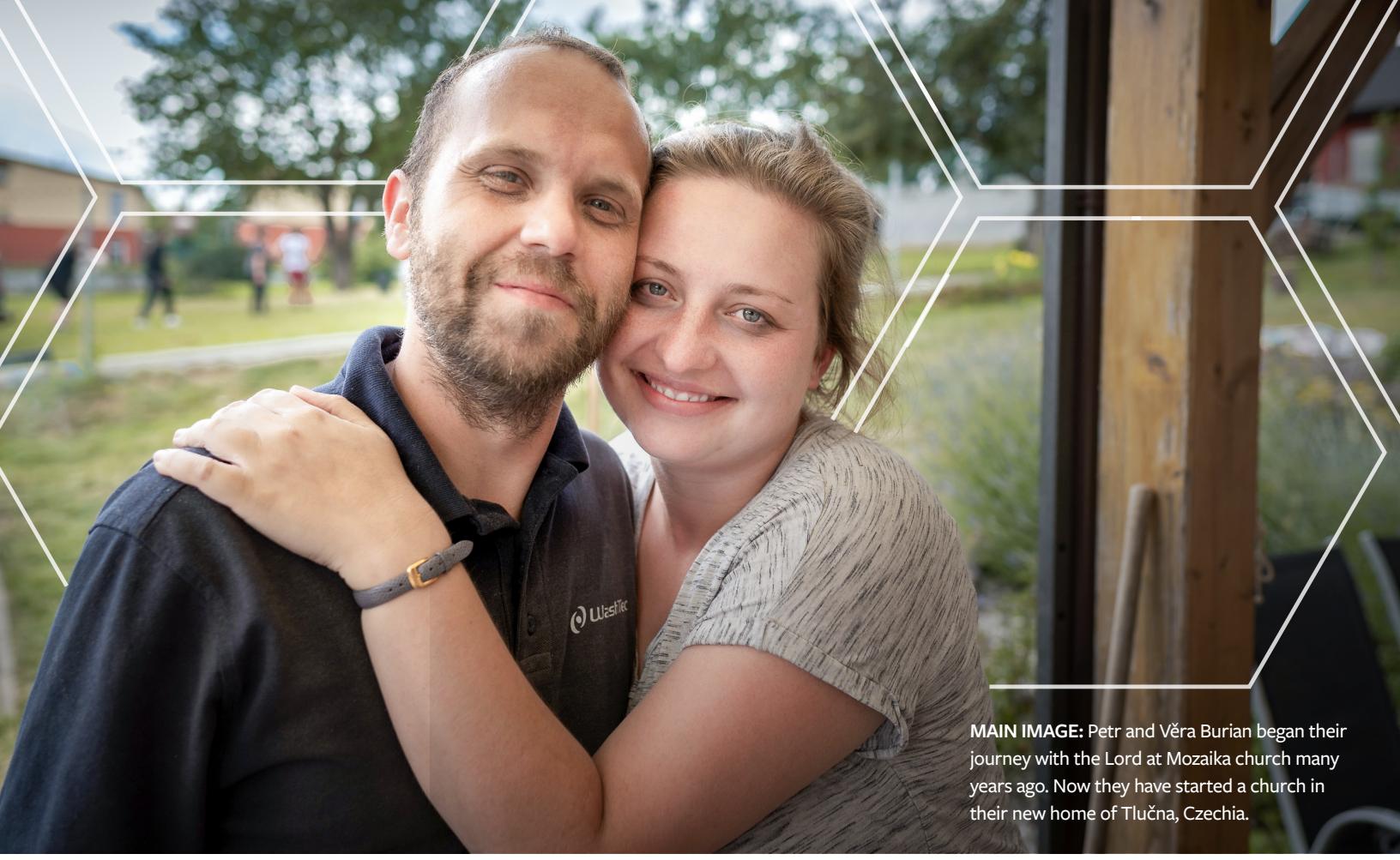
That Bible study turned into what is today Mozaika, a vibrant Czech-speaking church that is planting other churches.

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



MAIN IMAGE: Children at the Tlučna English camp learn praise songs and hear the gospel during their week at camp.

SECONDARY IMAGE: 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 summer of 2020.



MAIN IMAGE: Petr and Věra Burian began their journey with the Lord at Mozaika church many years ago. Now they have started a church in their new home of Tlučna, Czechia.

For instance, Věra 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 through COVID-19 shutdowns, and a new IMB worker is 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," says Larry.

This has happened five times in the last 10 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.' That's just a beautiful thing,"
Melissa comments.

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 pastor 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.

pray