

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

Czech Republic

General Information

- Population: about 11 million.
- Capital: Prague.
- The Czech Republic includes the historical territories of Bohemia and Moravia, as well as a small part of Silesia.
- A landlocked country in Central Europe. The country is bordered by Germany to the west, Austria to the south, Slovakia to the east and Poland to the north.
- According to the 2011 census, 34.2% of the population stated they had no religion, 10.3% was Roman Catholic, 0.8% was Protestant. 45.2% of the population did not answer the question about religion.

Challenges

- The Czech Protestants must both reclaim their heritage and demonstrate new life. Since the defeat of the Bohemians by Catholic forces in 1620, Protestants have suffered in one way or another.
- There is now freedom but also spiritual decline; the remarkable legacy of both John Hus and then the Moravians is under threat (and has been so for some time).
- Czech antipathy toward institutions weighs heavily against established denominations, but the grassroots church-planting movement (spearheaded by the Czech EA) is seeing much greater openness to Christian fellowship.
- Small congregations, house churches and cell groups all fare better than top-heavy structures.
- The total fertility rate (TFR) in 2013 was estimated at 1.29 children born/woman, which is below the replacement rate of 2.1, and one of the lowest in the world.
- The Czech Republic has one of the least religious populations in the world.

Prayer

- Pray for evangelicals – the traditional but shrinking Protestant denominations and the smaller, younger groups such as Baptists. Determined, deliberate and loving outreach and evangelism are necessities, as is the prayer that must precede them.
- Mark and Vesta Sauter came to the Czech Republic to start churches among the nation's 50,000 Deaf (IMB).

Reference

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic
- <http://www.operationworld.org/czec>
- <http://www.imb.org/main/pray/page.asp?StoryID=8700&LanguageID=1709>