

# English Family

## One (Two) Minute Update



**4.10.2023**

*New School Year, Summer, Coming Up, Equipping*

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### **New School Year, new opportunities**

It has been a while since our last update - sorry! - below you can hear more about our summer, but here let's share about the new school year!

**Sammy** moved "up" to grammar school. He is now in the same school as Míša, and so far has enjoyed making new friends and the challenge of learning harder subjects. In his free time he is still playing "handball" - so far this year his team is leading their league. Because he plays for 2 teams, our

weekends are often spend watching handball matches!

**Miša** is happy that Fusion has started up again after the summer! She has also started voluteering as a volunteer for our church's new scout group for younger kids. During the summer she started doing Via Ferrata (something between hiking and climbing) which she loves (Terry and Miša will head to Austria for 2 days this weekend to go climbing with her cousin). This week we found out that in December she needs to have an operation on her knee - nothing too serious, it's mostly a result of her growing too fast.

**Hanka** LOVED her time in USA, and has already taught a workshop in our church on what she learned. The start of the school year was a little challenging as summer building work on her school had not been completed, but now things are back to normal, and she is exploring ways of sharing her research on practical steps towards mental wellbeing for young people with schools and churches in our region.

**Terry** started the new year with a heavier travel schedule (I am currently writing this in Estonia!). As well as leading leadership workshop in Romania, he has also been attending various staff conferences and retreats. Terry is also going BACK TO SCHOOL! He has just started studying a Masters in Leadership program which Wheaton College is running for Central and Eastern European leaders. So far he is enjoying the reading, but not the essay writing!



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## The Summer

With Hanka spending 6 weeks in USA, our summer was a little different than usual. Having said that, Míša and Sammy were able to attend the camps they love, and we were able to go to the wedding of one of our closest friends and co-workers, Shelby. After the wedding we squeezed in 10 days of camping, hiking and swimming by a lake in Italy before the school year started again. (oh, and Terry celebrated his 50th birthday!)

One special at the end of summer - our church baptized 2 people, one of whom is a refugee from Ukraine who came to Christ through our church's



outreach ministry to refugees.... a moment of joy in the pain of the ongoing war .









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## Coming Up

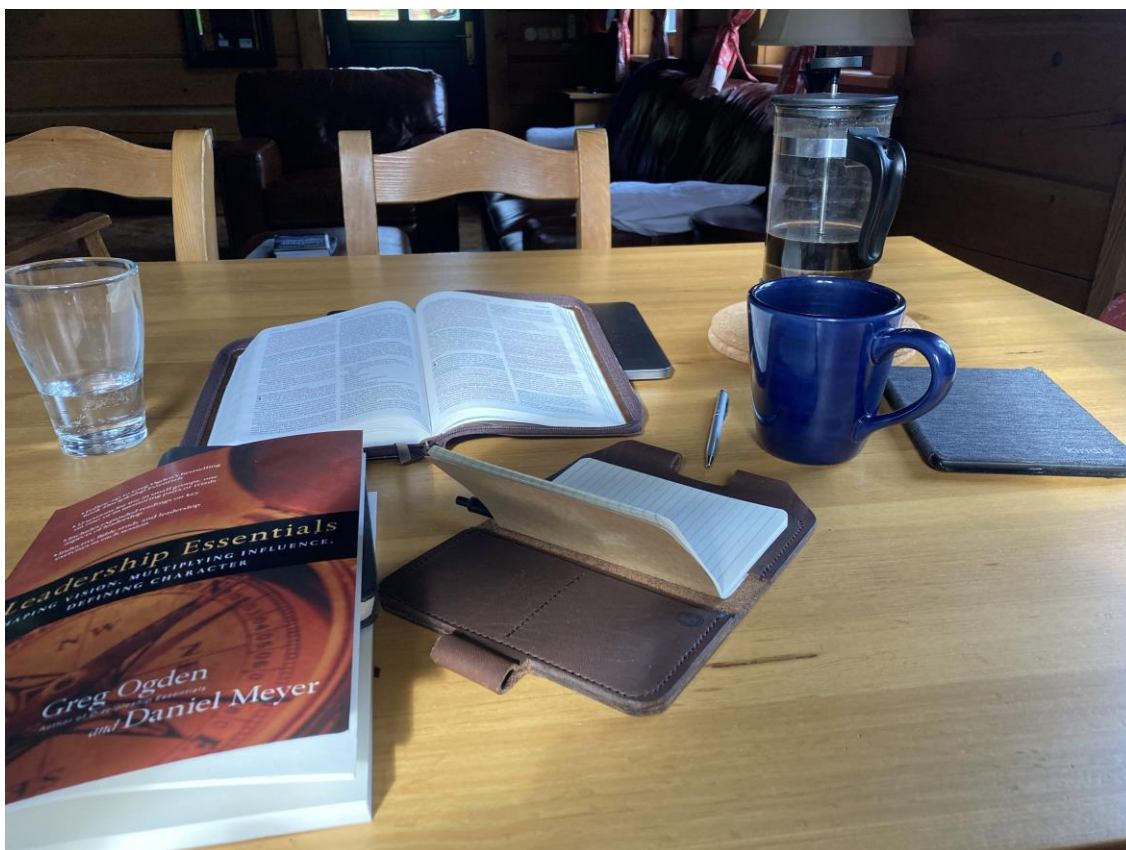
This fall will be busy with Terry running more leadership workshops for our country teams and co-ordinating other equipping programs for our wider staff.

2 weeks ago we opened registration for "Ostrava Sings the Gospel" and the soprano/alto places were gone within minutes. This year we are moving back to the larger concert venue, so the choir will have 150 people in it, and rehearsals start the end of October.

Next week we have special visitors from USA, Charlie and Suzi, who are coming over to teach at our "International Team" retreat (the I-team are central team who serve, empower and equip each of our country teams). They will then spend the weekend together in a mountain hut with our family, which we are really looking forward to.

Hanka will once again be running her school's Christmas concert and has

already started dreaming with some of her students about the possibilities this presents, and will be relaunching her English drama club in the fall as well.



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## Equipping leaders who equip leaders

I don't think anyone truly gets to see the impact their work has, but sometimes we are blessed to have a small glimpse of what happens when we are not around.

Last week I attended a "ceremony" in which the Fusion country leaders in Latvia and Czech Republic handed over their roles to their successors. This was very special for me, because Emils and Dan, the new country leaders, both came to Christ through the Fusion ministry and served in their local churches before taking on this role. (below you can see Emils thanking Dave for his many year investment in his life)

This week I am in Estonia, and was able to spend time visiting with one church we helped to launch Fusion many years ago. It was wonderful to be

reunited with this fantastic team, and hear stories of how Fusion opened the door for their church to launch other ministries reaching parents and friends. in their community.

Last week Josiah Venture held it's annual Fall Conference, this time focussing on equipping leaders be "First Responders for an Anxious Generation". We invited a team from a church in Lithuania who we first met in the network I lead for the European Leadership Forum. It was wonderful to hear how they had been putting principles and resources they received from us into practice, not only growing a very large local youth ministry, but now also equipping other churches to do the same.

It's humbling to see how God uses the little we give him to accomplish his works, not because He needs us, but because He chooses to use us. As usual, you, our parters, are a very important part of these stories. Through prayer and financial support, you have impacting churches in Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Romania and Ukraine this month alone....







## Please Pray!

- Give thanks for a strong start to the school year for Míša and Sammy
- Pray for Hanka as she continues to be a light in her school
- Pray for the leadership team and participants of Ostrava Sings the Gospel - we are praying that God will move in a special way during this 10th year
- Pray for the I-team retreat happening next week, that people would leave feeling supported and empowered to fulfill their callings
- Pray that this Fall our family will continue to grow strong together as we seek to impact the people around us

## Thank You for Empowering Us



Once again, thank you so much for your prayers and support this year. It means so much for our family and this movement of God. Thank you for being a part of it!

God Bless!

*The English Family*

*Terry, Hanka, Míša and Sammy*