

English Family

One Minute Update



12.2.2024

Ponder, travels, family news, Fusion in Ukraine

Something to ponder...

Last week I had a conversation with an older lady, Sonja, who is a member of the Ostrava Sings Choir gospel choir. I first met Sonja 20 years ago when her children joined our TenSing youth choir. Last week I was driving her home from our church scout weekend away, where she had volunteered as a cook. (She also oversees all the food for the Gospel choir, and cooks at one of our church's summer camps!). Sonja has not yet given her life to Jesus, but is very actively involved in our scout and Gospel choir community. Last week I asked her what motivates her to serve so much - her answer? "I have received so much from the Gospel choir - it fills my batteries and the charge lasts for the whole year - of course I want to serve here".

I believe it is the Holy Spirit that Sonja is experiencing, even though she is not yet able to recognise that. Her answer reminded me that we have so MUCH to be thankful for - a relationship with a loving Father, a strong community of believers and of course the guidance of

the Holy Spirit in our lives..... but sometimes.... sometimes... it is possible to get so caught up in "church" or "Christian" work that we lose sight of this, and start to work under our own steam, using our own wisdom - and then we wonder why things feel so hard.

If you are tired or weary (and many of us are these days with good reason!) please try to take time to go back to the source of everything - spend some time with your Saviour as the source of your love, commitment and motivation... Sonja knows where to go when she needs filling - what about you?

(this was our last OZG follow up event where people can come hear the testimony of Christian members of the choir - Sonia is sat at the end of the table with a pink top - please pray for her and the other people who come to explore the truth we are sharing! We have another follow up event tonight!)



January was busy - thank God for February!

Facilitating Leadership workshops in Estonia, Bulgaria and Slovakia, and running a 5 day staff development Academy in the Czech Republic - and not so much time at home. That was January for Terry. It is a true privilege to serve and equip our amazing staff (and have fun with them at the same time!) but we are all happy that there is very little travel on the table for Terry in February!





Family news

Hanka has been busy at school with her English drama club, co-ordinating the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for students, and this week some her students are competing in a regional English language competition.... if you think Terry is busy, think again!

On Saturday **Sam**'s floorball team won a regional tournament, which means in March his team will once again compete in the national finals. (yes, that is Sam scoring a goal below - I wouldn't want to be the goal keeper!!!)

Miša is undergoing intensive physiotherapy after her knee operation - we are hoping it will be strong enough to go skiing during Spring Break in March! (so far so good!) Last summer Miša started learning the bass guitar, and last week we were blessed to see her play in the church's worship band - once she sets her mind on something, there is no stopping her!

Both kiddos came home with excellent report cards last week - Miša is a very diligent student - Sam studies as much as he needs to before we let him play online with his friends!

A new semester of Terry's Masters in Leadership at Wheaton College is starting, so when he is not with the family, Terry is spending a lot of his "free" time studying!





Ukrainian Fusion students helping launch a new ministry in Slovenia!

Although we no longer run Fusion internationally, we are blessed by how it has continued to develop under Shelby's leadership. Last week something very special happened - a bus with 40 Ukrainian teenagers travelled to Slovenia to put on school concerts to help launch a new Fusion ministry in Ljubljana! We are so thankful for the work the leaders in Ukraine continue to do to share the Gospel with teenagers especially during these very difficult times! (their pre-tour rehearsals were sometimes disrupted by air-raid warnings - can you imagine???)



Thank you for your prayers and support!

We continue to be so thankful for your partnering with us on the mission field. Your prayers and support are impacting many, many people across Central and Eastern Europe and your words of encouragement really do give us the strength to continue in the times we may feel overwhelmed. Thank you!!!

Please pray for....

-) Give thanks for impactful equipping events in January
-) Give thanks the continued growth of our ministries
-) The OZG outreach event tonight
-) A more restful February

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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