

CHURCH PLANTING IN CZECH REPUBLIC



I served as an elder in our church plant in our small city in the Czech Republic when we did our Community Analysis in 2008. Interestingly, I encountered some of the most spiritual opposition of my ten years here while pursuing this data and doing this work. But God always leads us into triumphal procession and we succeeded in the work. Here is what we learned and how we responded:

By Mark Krupa
Youth Worker Life and Ministry Coach
Josiah Venture, Czech Republic

Distrust and fear is strong. Almost all of the respondents said they'd turn to a friend or family member if they had a problem. Only one said they'd turn to a priest. So we responded by focusing on relational outreach that allows people to see us in our day-to-day activities around town rather than just listen to us on Sundays. We looked for and found housing for the pastor in the very center of the town (even though it's cheaper further away).

Commonalities draw people together. So we responded by creating music, sports and mommy clubs officially. We've challenged one another to join motorcycle, car, garden, nature, music and sports gatherings in the town.

Church buildings scare people away; so we have church in public buildings and have set up small home groups open to our friends.

Half of the respondents said they have little (only 1 on a scale of 7) emphasis on the role of faith in their life; so we fish for people rather than expecting them to come to us.

Forty-eight percent of the respondents said they have never heard of our church...since then we have put up signage.

Forty-five percent of respondents said more employment is the greatest need of the city...so we pray for that!

Loud announcements are culturally insensitive...so we reach out face-to-face seeking multiplication in this sensitive culture, rather than using bullhorns.

Seventy percent of those we surveyed rated nature as the best thing about our city...so we hike with them, create a nature picture contest, and go on weekend trips to the mountains together.

Religion is disliked...so we do our best to teach the core of Christianity, not human traditions.

There's no answer for the issue of death...the intense government social network tries to meet the needs of the population, but they have no answer for what happens after death. We want to minister to people regarding death and the afterlife.

This study was extremely valuable for those who helped create it. Five years later it has helped trigger some of the above changes. It would be helpful to do another survey, edit the work, and present the material again on a "vision talk" Sunday.