



The Deaf of Czech

The Deaf Community of Czech Republic

There are approximately 10,000 Deaf in Czech Republic. There are no completely self-supporting deaf churches. There is a general feeling of hopelessness and helplessness because of being stuck. Many deaf have menial jobs because of a lack of adequate trade school opportunities and/or a lack of trained interpreters to go to higher education. Deaf associations and clubs play an important role in the lives of Czech deaf because it is in these groups the deaf are together and can combat oppression, have advocacy and national networking as well as networking with deaf in other countries. Because sport teams are especially important to Czech deaf so if mission agencies can focus on this sub population you have the potential for reaching the whole population for Christ. Deaf are an egalitarian culture and place a high value on community so outreach efforts should be geared to the whole group. Catholicism is so strong in the Czech Republic and many Czech are cynical and apathetic about Christianity so a special effort needs to be made to reach them in their heart language because there is little clear understanding among Czech deaf. The cults have gone in and the people's hearts are hardened.

Primary Religion:

Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

Less than 3%

Churches:

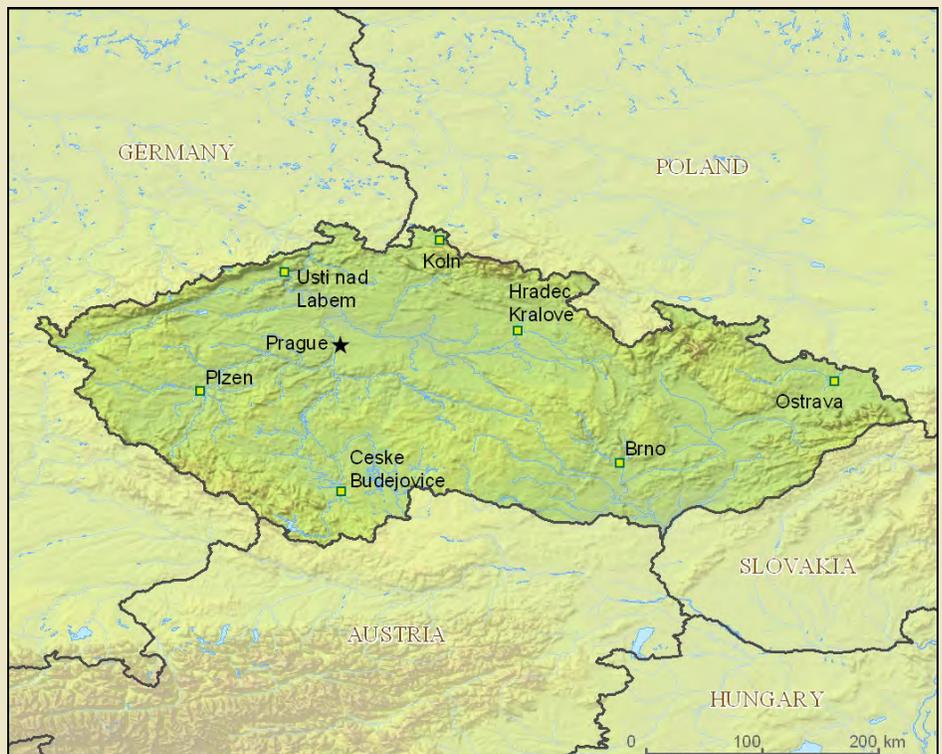
Less than 200

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

None

Population (date):

10,000 (2014)



The Deaf of Czech Republic

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian (%)	Less than 10 %
Believe In Jesus As God And Only Savior (%)	Less than 3%
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	Less than 10%
Believe In The Local Religion (%)	Greater than 90 %
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%) Comment (Pastor	Greater than 90%
Number Of Missionaries Working Comment	10 Ten expatriates
Response To The Gospel	The deaf are isolated because of the language barrier. Since sign language is the major mode of communication the deaf are dependent on other deaf and interpreters to explain the gospel in sign language. With the fall of Communism many cults went into Czech Republic. Many had bad experiences with certain cults and tend to either reject all religions or reject Christianity because it has been labeled as a cult.
Comment (Churches)	There is a deaf church in Brno, Plzen, and Prague. There are three deaf churches for 10,000 deaf, unknown available interpreted services for the deaf.
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Sign Language is a visual language and most Deaf struggle with written hearing languages. There are some videos of sermons and teaching but no actual portions of scripture. Video in expository form appears to currently be the most appealing literacy medium available at present for the Czech Deaf.
Any Hindrance To Scripture Distribution?	Of the educated Czech Deaf, only a few attain adequate reading skills due to barriers to any spoken language even beyond being a 2nd language. Thus the majority of the Czech Deaf would not read a written Czech Bible unless the written form was in an easy to read format such as sign language pictures or photographs.
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available	Most deaf can not read above a 4th grade reading level so to expect a deaf person to read a Czech Bible is unreasonable. Sign language is the heart language for the deaf and there are no video portions of scripture at this time. So availability is none.
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Missionary assistance is required to train deaf church leaders in all aspects of Biblical knowledge and doctrine. Something that has been affective has been the use of Chronological Bible Storying. The reason why this has been so effective is that the deaf love to tell stories as it is a natural part of their culture. A full sign language Bible translation is needed and missionaries are needed to train the Czech deaf in Bible translation principals so that the deaf can do the project themselves.

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Status of Christianity

Church Growth

Lay Leaders

Religion & Response

Items For Prayer

More personnel who are trained in Chronological Bible Storying
More workers to work with the Deaf
Growth in their Christian Walk, and training for national leaders
Harvest among the Deaf
Understanding of the Gospel

Scripture

Other Forms Of Gospel Available:
Literature

Yes in the major spoken languages

Other Forms Of Gospel Available:
Recordings

Not applicable

Other Forms Of Gospel Available:
Film/Videos

Yes. Some films may have a translator signing on the film but this is very rare in Czech. The Jesus film has not been interpreted into Czech Sign Language.

Other Forms Of Gospel Available:
Radio

Not applicable

Missions and Churches

Organization Name

IMB

Organization Name

DOOR

Comment (Organization)

DOOR Europe Center, 1 year Bible college