

# Czech uP! with the Carter Family

Christmas 2008



*Has anything  
good ever come  
from Nazareth?*

These words kept bouncing around in my head as my host Rani Saba careened around the narrow crowded streets of this incredible city nestled in the mountains of Israel. It was my first time to visit this wonderful country and it was the realization after three years of planning and delayed scheduling.

Most of the people who make up this tiny union of 19 churches are of Arabic descent. The hospitality, kindness and devotion were contagious and I found myself very much in good hands and was exposed to many things that helped me reconnect with facets of my faith. Sitting on the shores of Galilee and eating a simple bread lunch, I could imagine fishermen mending nets and see Jesus standing on the shore calling people to follow him. There were many opportunities to see various sites and they meant more to me than sites as a mere tourist but it was an affirmation of my faith journey of almost 40 years.

Of course most of my time was not spent in sight seeing as I had ample time to do some teaching and sharing with leaders at a region wide youth meeting and the local seminary.

Arabic culture (in Israel) walks a fine line. Nazareth is a divided community with Muslim and Christian

living side by side. It is not an easy existence and throughout history there has been much turmoil and terror off and on.

I have been privileged to visit “both sides of the border” as it were and believe me I can see why it's not easy to bring peace to the Middle East. The issues are complex and fraught with strong historical emotion. Yet despite that, the Baptists (almost 800 of them) continue to build relationships, and people are coming to Christ through relationship and trust building.

Youth work in Israel is fraught with materialism and a degree of Western influence especially in Tel Aviv. Jerusalem is more conservative but it is still there. I watch young Muslim women in their headscarves dressed in modern fashionable clothing.

I am sure I learned as much or more than I taught. Yet the continued relationship that I have with these wonderful leaders in Israel will continue to grow as the months and years carry us. Please pray for Israel and the young Baptist leaders trying to make an impact in a very tense and difficult area.



## Christmas In Prague

Our Family has had a relatively quiet winter so far. The boys are pining for snow and have only had really one or two skiffs of snow. Matthew sits in front of the Christmas tree and just stares at it and Zachary has the “countdown” to Christmas Eve down to the hour! It is fun to observe Christmas through their eyes and even at our age to still enjoy the wonder of the season through our young family. We have experienced a fairly good past few months in health. We have spent months in trying to get paper work and Czech health coverage now that we have our residency papers. As usual the paper work bleeds red tape here. Life is good, we are looking forward to the “silent night” of Christmas and then head into another busy stretch of work again in the new year. We again would like to take this opportunity to say a big *thank you* and wish you and yours a wonderful peace filled Christmas. With all our love,

The Carter Family



# Prayer and Praise



- Praise God that people are responding with generosity and kindness through supporting us financially and in deliberate and fervent prayer. We are conscious of prayer many times over when we face difficult situations. Sometimes in Jeff's travel and also at home, we are aware that we are protected through the faithfulness of so many prayer warriors.
- Praise God for a wonderful training conference this past October in Armenia for 45 youth leaders from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh (disputed territory between Armenia and Azerbaijan) where Jeff and Vasko led sessions in leadership training.
- Praise God for an equally inspiring and fruitful ministry in Israel with the Baptist youth leaders network. Jeff taught seminars at youth meetings and the Nazareth Bible College.
- Pray for students starting in the Certificate of Applied Theology program in January as Jeff begins teaching the Youth Course. Also pray for the brand new Masters Module in Youth Ministry that he will start teaching in the first week of February at IBTS.
- Pray for the Youth and Children Committee conference in Timisoara, Romania the third week of January. Jeff's good friend and former colleague James Penner will be the guest speaker. Pray for James and the 40 delegates from across Europe and the Middle East.
- Pray for Kendra Shields and Miro and Christy Rak (all from Alberta) who will join us for longer short term missions teaching English in Litomerice starting in the new year.
- Pray for our new CBM colleagues John and Ruth Chan who started working in Gottingen Germany reaching out to Chinese University students and pasturing the church there.



## *CZECH US OUT!*

Want to know MORE???

We update our BLOG almost every other day!

Read about our life and ministry and prayer requests in more "real time" detail at:

[www.cartersinprague.blogspot.com](http://www.cartersinprague.blogspot.com)

Or feel free to call our Nova Scotia (Halifax) number which rings us in Prague for only the cost of a phone call in Canada!

1-902-482-2195

(NOTE! Central Europe time please!)

Skype: [cartersinprague](https://www.skype.com/user/cartersinprague)

Email: [jcarter@ebf.org](mailto:jcarter@ebf.org)



## KEY TO SUPPORT

This past year has proven to put some strain on the ministry financially as we face a devalued Canadian dollar against the strong Czech Koruna. Inflation and increased taxes are also exerting some pressure on us. Please consider this as you continue your generous support this year for the ongoing support for youth leadership development in Europe and the Middle East. We ask for your continued prayers for our safety, health and over all well being. If you would like to find out how to support us or know of someone who may want to, then please contact:

Carter's Support Team  
c/o Eileen Moore-Crispin/  
Canadian Baptist Ministries  
7185 Millcreek Dr. Mississauga,  
ON L5N 5R4  
or email [eileenm@cbmin.org](mailto:eileenm@cbmin.org)  
or call 905-821-3533  
[www.cbmin.org](http://www.cbmin.org)