

# Czech uP!

## with the Carter Family

Fall 2008



### *Dive Deeper!*

***This summer goes on record as the busiest we have had in several years! The Baptist World Alliance and German Baptists hosted the 15th Baptist World Youth conference in Leipzig Germany from July 30th to August 3rd this year.***

When I was a young university student I remember attending the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Urbana missions conference in the early 80's and hearing Bernie Smith, the renowned worship leader, tell people that experiencing Urbana was like trying to take a sip from a fire hose! Well my experience with the Baptist World Alliance Conference that was held in Leipzig this past summer was not much different from that description. Over 6,000 delegates from 103 countries, with 89 languages from across the globe came together for five glorious action-filled days to explore how to dive deeper into their faith with Jesus, deeper into issues of justice and in Christian fellowship.

First, for the history buffs: The very first Baptist World Youth Conference took place August 1-4, 1931 in of all places, Prague, Czechoslovakia with 400 delegates from 16 nations.

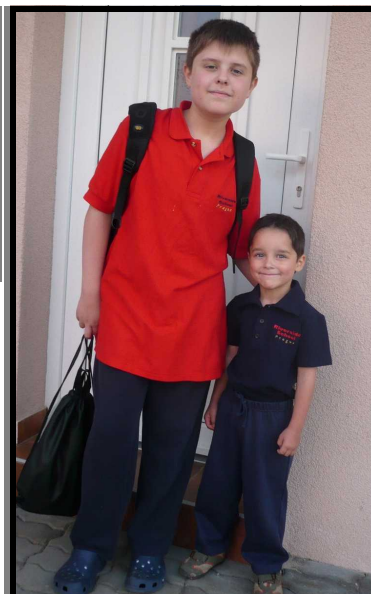
An interesting statistic to note is that the BWA's largest ever Youth Conference was its fifth-held in 1958 in Toronto, Canada with 8022

delegates from 67 nations, and among the speakers was Prime Minister John Diefenbaker speaking on the theme: Christ For The World--Now!

This past summer I wished that I could have been in three places at once! The week before the BWA Youth Conference we were hosting two teams with about 40 Canadian youth and leaders all at the same time - doing English camps in two different places in the Czech Republic. At the same time the BWA General Council was hosting its meetings in Prague, followed by the Baptist Theological Education Conference, also hosted at IBTS. It was like being at a wedding buffet with only one tiny plate — frustrating!

The week after the Youth Conference in Leipzig we hosted another team of 19 from Trinity Baptist in Sherwood Park, Alberta, who led a sports camp in Litomerice.

After sitting on the planning committee for this conference for the past four years, for me personally it was an amazing experience to see it come “alive” from the paper and detailed plans into a living, breathing, seamless event that touched thousands of young lives. The German Baptists hosted this event along with the support of those of us in Europe willing to lend a hand. They outdid themselves in terms of the organization, the venue of the Conference centre in Leipzig (one that will never be matched I am sure). We were blessed to have almost 400 youth from Canada attending the conference. People are already asking when the next one is!



### **~SCHOOL DAZE~**

**This was a banner year for us as Matthew finally entered school this fall! He was born ready for school I think! For days he had been asking when he was going to school. Last year, we had taken him for a day to get used to the idea of going to school. His first day he walked in and gave us each a hug and kiss and said, “Bye mom and dad, have a good day!” No tears! This is a child that would scream until glass would shake to be separated from us in Children’s church time! The second day we pulled up at the school and he said (at 4 years of age) “just drop me here I’ll go in myself”, we informed him it’s our parental prerogative to see him in, at least for another couple of years! Zachary is handling his first days in junior high and learning to get organized. He has 8 subjects, travelling between teachers for different subjects. It’s been a big adjustment for him as well. Mom is having the biggest adjustment... golden silence!**

The Carter Family



## Thank You Teams!



This summer brought 60 Canadians (the most ever at one time period) to do English camps and Sports camps in the town of Litomerice, through our partnership with Bethel House of Christian Help. Led by Linda Naves from CBM's Atlantic office, the number was made up of a team from New Minas Baptist Church in Nova Scotia and West Oro Baptist in Ontario. Also we partnered with Brno Baptist Church for the first time, sending a group to lead the English part of a family camp - the first one ever! Dale Stairs led the team from Kennebecasis Baptist Church in New Brunswick. Following these two teams and the BWA conference, we hosted another first - a sports and games camp at Bethel in Litomerice with the team from Trinity Baptist Church in Sherwood Park, Alberta. This team of 19 youth and leaders was led by Elden Faulkner. Thanks to Vasko, my CBM associate working tirelessly on details, we were able to pull off three great camps this summer!



Rob Spicer pastor of West Oro Baptist Church in Ontario with Advanced English students (above) Michele Cahart taught Intermediate English students (below)



## Eurasian Baptist Federation Youth Congress—August 26th to 30th Odessa Ukraine

My voice resonates in praise with the psalmist who wrote Psalm 148, while I reflect on my time spent in Odessa, Ukraine on what has truly been a historical and wondrous gathering of youth from former Soviet occupied Russian speaking nations. This was the first ever congress held by the Eurasian Baptist Federation for youth from across 15 nations representing a vast area: Moldova, Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Estonia and Lithuania, the Caucasus to name only a few. The dedication and sacrifice for youth to come to this event was also inspiring, since it took some of the young participants six days by train, one way, to arrive at the conference! The response was so enthusiastic that the organizers had a small (or large) nightmare of trying to find accommodations the first night for the 200 extra youth who showed up to add to the already 3000 registered for the event! The spirit of accommodation and hospitality of the Ukrainian hosts was humbling. The conference was held in an old Pioneer training facility that was once used for Communist indoctrination of youth during the Soviet era. So we ate, worshipped and met among the crumbling ruins of a place once used for ignoble purposes, representing a seemingly mighty empire; now being used for the Kingdom of God. As I sat as a guest at the event watching over the worshipping throngs of young people from incredibly diverse backgrounds, my heart raced to think that not less than 20 years ago something like this would not have been possible. I was asked to teach a seminar on Reaching Youth for the Gospel Using Mass Media. Each evening we worshipped under a brilliant starry sky with the lapping of the Black Sea literally mere metres from our backs. With the voices of thousands of youth raised in worship in the common language of Russian, in this setting, it was indeed a moment that evoked Psalm 148 to my memory..... one I will never forget. - Jeff

# Prayer and Praise



- Pray for Jeff and Vasil as they head to **Armenia** in early September to train 40 youth leaders from across the country using the new HORIZONS youth leadership training material. Pray for safety and for the participants that they will be equipped and encouraged.
- Pray for Jeff as he prepares for the EBF General Council Meeting to be held near the end of September in **Lisbon** and for the executive of the Youth and Children work as they plan next year's conference in Romania.
- Pray for Jeff in preparations for a training event in **Nazareth Israel** in mid-October. Pray that bridges will be built with the Bible Institute there with the new program.
- Celebrate with us as Zachary and Matthew start school this fall. Matthew in Reception and Zachary in grade 6. Both boys are doing well healthwise and in every way.
- Pray for the follow up from the summer for English Camp participants and for the Czechs who will be conducting the follow up from the busy summer activities. Praise God for the amount of students that participated and the 60 Canadians who came to give their time.
- Pray for HORIZONS and that we will be able to start translation work into **Arabic and Russian** this semester.
- Pray for the students who are considering taking the **Masters of Applied Theology** and the new Youth Leadership and Development Module that will start in February led by Jeff.
- Pray for our **support team** as we encounter some increases in cost of living in the Czech Republic and a devalued Canadian dollar and inflation. Pray for economic stability in the country that it will not have too adverse an effect on the costs of our living here.

## 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!

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## 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:

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