



## Life That Is Light

Young Life, that is. We were first introduced to Young Life in the Czech Republic by Ken & Linda Stapleton – during Covid in 2020. Three years, several camps, and many new friendships brought us to be part of the 2023 Young Life Czech Summer Camp in the Beskydský hills – in the far east Moravian-Silesian region of the country.



Gary was asked to be the camp speaker. 100+ high school kids and 50+ Young Life leaders and staff from across the country would gather and be part of what the Lord had in mind for this powerful week of ministry. The task seemed straightforward enough ... at least in the beginning. But as Gary gained additional insight from the Young Life Czech area leaders, a 6-message week – from introducing Jesus, to sharing the entire Gospel story – would prove to be incredibly challenging. The Czech Republic is one of the least churched countries of Europe, having less than 1% of the population that claim to be Evangelical Christians. And not only do the vast majority of Czech people not participate in communities of Christian faith ... the belief that there is no God – atheism – is both prevalent, and creating a very atheist environment for these kids to grow up in. So presenting the gospel in any kind of traditional way was just not an option. Many Czech high schoolers, in fact, believe God's Word is a fairy tale.

All we can say is that we were in awe of how God worked through an incredible Young Life team, caring cabin leader relationships, and the humble pieces of a gospel message that simply sought to share the incredible person of Jesus. At the end of the week, the kids all did a “walk of light”. Six stations that brought them to a place of reflection on each of the week's six messages – the person of Jesus, Jesus is God, Need, Sin, The Cross, and Resurrection. And at the final station, each was asked to light a candle and place it as close to the cross as they wanted to be to Jesus. The picture speaks for itself. Jesus truly does His work when we say yes!

## Caring for Global Workers in Germany

It had been since before Covid that we traveled to Bielefeld, Germany, to be with Anna Marie Mazzone and her amazing Street Church team. What a privilege to be part of their compassionate and faithful work with the “least of these”, among whom are refugees, drug addicts, and homeless. You could see and feel the tangible love these people have for Anna Marie and the team that serves each week. Yes, giving out sandwiches and coffee or tea, but always accompanied by the gospel of hope ... the gospel of Jesus. We used part of the week to also spend time with and welcome Toby and Ginny Huysen – new FMI global workers who will serve in Bielefeld as well. What a privilege to care for these precious global workers!

*Gary & Joy*

Gary & Joy Peiss

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