

First Missions – Czechoslovakia

First Missions – Pioneering Workers – Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovakia

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Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic and Slovakia

Czechoslovakia or **Czecho-Slovakia** was a sovereign state in Central Europe which existed from October 1918, when it declared its independence from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, until 1992. From 1939 to 1945 the state did not have de facto existence, due to its forced division and partial incorporation into Nazi Germany, but the Czechoslovakia government-in-exile nevertheless continued to exist during this time period. In 1945 the eastern part of Carpathian Ruthenia was taken over by the Soviet Union. On 1 January 1993, Czechoslovakia peacefully split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

During the interwar period, it seems that a number of the Eastern European countries — Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czechoslovakia — worked together during those years, so the workers were moving back and forth from country to country, and would not all have been in any country at any one time. The workers were: Tom Alexson (born in Ukraine, professed in Manitoba); Jack Annand (Victoria, Australia); Vasyl "Willie" Evanov (born in Ukraine, professed in North Dakota); Carl Leonhardt (Saskatchewan); Willie MacDonald (Scotland/Saskatchewan); Frank Patrick (Scotland); Bert Todhunter (Scotland); and Tom Turner (Scotland).

Czech Republic: There was just one man professing there during most of the communist years. Workers from Austria visited when they could, and the last few years of communism, **Phyllis Harris** from Colorado and her companions were able to stay for more extended periods and master the language.

In recent years there has been more interest, and the group has evidently grown quite a bit just lately. **Peter Zürcher** from Switzerland is overseer over Czech, Austria & Hungary, which work as one group. **Donna Jicha** from Alaska has spent a number of years there, being of Czech extraction.

Slovakia

As far as is known, there are no friends in Slovakia. During the 1990s, **Richard Davis** from Iowa and **Jurjen Pettinga** from Netherlands spent several years working there without any results. It isn't known if any workers have tried laboring there since then.

When did the workers first arrive?

Who were the first brother workers?

Who were the first sister workers?

Who was the first to profess?

Who was the first native to go in the work?

When & Where was the first meeting?

When & Where was the first baptism?

When & Where was the first convention?

Where have subsequent conventions been held?

Where is the convention currently held? Rohozna

Who have the Overseers been? Peter Zürcher from Switzerland is Overseer of Czech, Austria and Hungary.

TTT Editor's Note: In the absence of a written account, the above information has been compiled by the TTT Editor from various sources. Corrections or additions are most welcome; as well as other historical accounts for this country [Email TTT](#)