

The Process of Creation and Development of the M.I.S.E. (Silesian) Evangelism Centre's Work

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The M.I.S.E. Project originated in 2005 in response to God's call to establish groups of believers praying for one another, growing spiritually together, and sharing their faith with people around them in places without any Christian fellowships. The M.I.S.E. Project began activities in 2006 among young people as a mission project of the youth ministry department in the Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession. It helped to make disciples of Jesus Christ of many young people in the congregations, based on 2 Tim 2:2: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

The first activity was the Prayer Conference that took place for the first time in January 2006. It was followed by other activities, such as prayer groups in university cities, establishment of mission teams (a key area of our work), integration and development of activities in sports, teaching English, etc. As the project grew, it became necessary to give it an independent status, and so the church-based organization called the M.I.S.E. Evangelism Centre (www.ecmise.cz) was established in 2011 under the Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (www.sceav.cz) with the purpose of supporting mission and evangelism of the church and its congregations, as well as creating conditions for establishing new mission points and congregations of the church.

The M.I.S.E. Project/Evangelism Centre's Goals and the Ways of Reaching Them

The Project has been based on four pillars expressed in its name: mobilization to prayer (M), integration of personality (I), fellowship (in Czech "spolecenstvi") (S), and evangelism (E).

Mobilization—mobilization of the church members to more active prayer life, intercession and organizing prayer conferences, prayer meetings, prayer diaries, etc.

Integration of personality—leading to spiritual growth of Christians to mature personalities, resulting in a healthy and biblical lifestyle, mostly in the area of

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evangelism and mission. We organized a summer mission training and other training combined with practice.

Fellowship—helping in the development of healthy Christian communities, i.e., communities serious about the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ and applying them in adequate ways, mostly in evangelism and mission. Mission-oriented worship services, seminars, workshops, and conferences are organized in individual congregations.

Evangelism—motivating congregations' members to evangelism activities through clubs, sports competitions and camps, teaching English, etc. The greatest emphasis was put on the development of mission teams, because they are highly effective both in sharing the Gospel and transforming the young Christians' thinking about mission and evangelism. We have seen this way of ministry accelerating the spiritual growth in a natural way, not only in the schools but also directly in action, in the ministry.

Method of the Mission Teams' Establishment and Working

The following is an example of the mission team establishment. Several young people were challenged in a congregation to establish a mission team that would pray about what neighboring village, housing project, or town they should serve in. They had to cooperate closely in searching for and confirming the selected place with the church leadership. Then the team, a group of five to eight young people aged 15–23+, had to find a place to meet and arrange the rental, research the area and needs of people living there, develop program and club activities, and invite young people from the area. They also had to raise money for refreshments, equipment, and activities. In this way, they in fact went through a process similar to that of establishing a new congregation. It was a great learning experience, as well as adventure to them.

They enjoyed it because they had been given responsibility by the church leaders, and they could experience the mighty acts and miracles of God in real life. For example, they prayed for six months for a facility to meet in a housing project with 15,000 people but without any Protestant church. They visited all blocks and other places with no success during these six months. Finally, the town leased them some rooms in the cellar of a house, which they still use. They learned a great lesson in patience, trust, faith, and answered prayer. It helped them to see God as the living and powerful One who holds everything in His hands, and who counts on them and cooperates with them. You cannot learn this from books or classroom. A coach, someone older and more experienced, was an important part of the process, coaching the team, supervising and possibly guiding it to keep the work on the right track. We could see that young people mature spiritually quickly in such environment and become Christ's disciples with a passion for their congregation and church and for

saving the searchers around them. We could see a significant move in their perception of and relationship to God and their families and in the development of their leadership, communication, and social skills. We view these mission clubs as incubators for future active church members, church planters, and missionaries who would serve outside of the Czech Republic.

Current Challenges and Goals

With the M.I.S.E. Project transformed into the church-based organization M.I.S.E. Evangelism Centre, it started focusing also on the middle-aged and older people, which can change the mission activities of this kind significantly. That is why we began to carry out a plan of starting 21 mission groups in new places in 2013, praying that the Lord would bless our efforts and give rise to new congregations of our church, which has only 21 congregations now. It is beyond our means to establish all of the 21 new mission congregations due to the size of our church and the highly non-Christian nature of the country, but we are waiting for God's grace and help, and possibly also help of partner congregations and churches from other countries who can support us with their prayers, experience, and material or financial means. May God use the above described activities to bring glory to His name.