

engage
Kids

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ENGAGE EUROPE



CONNECTING



BEAUTIFUL HOPE

Louie and Margot jumped off the metro and hurried after the Durhams as they led the way into the afternoon sunshine. That morning they had said farewell to the Teeds in Slovakia. Now they stood in Prague, Czechia, beginning a new adventure.

Mr. Ed referenced his map. "Tonight we are with the Motovilovs, but first comes exploring. Czechia's capital has amazing places."

"Where? Where are we going first?!" Louie snagged a tree branch and dangled.

Ed laughed. "First we will see the astronomical clock."

"It's the oldest clock still in operation!" Margot explained. "It dates back to the year 1410."

Louie's mouth hung open. "That's old."

As they passed beautiful buildings and monuments, Margot shared facts about Czechia with her American friend. "Czechia is famous for its castles. In fact Prague has a castle that completely surrounds a cathedral!"

"And we're going to see it." Ed winked.

As the group paused at a shop to buy a local treat called *trdelník* (chimney cake), Louie noticed the emptiness on the people's faces. "They feel sad," he whispered to Margot.

She nodded without a smile. "Czechia is beautiful, but this country has a hard past. When they were a part of the Soviet Union, it was difficult to be a Christian. Many believers were persecuted, their pastors taken away, and

little children taught to believe that God doesn't exist."

"That's...awful." Louie stopped eating his *trdelník*.

"Yes," Heather Durham joined in, "and that is why the Motovilovs are here—to be friends with these people, shine Jesus' light, and bring hope."

They found the astronomical clock and stared up at the huge circular disks nestled beneath the clock tower. The clock told the time of day, seasons, and many other things.

Next they crossed Charles Bridge, where large statues of saints and depictions of Jesus' crucifixion guarded the walkway. Artists sat along the bridge, selling sketches and paintings of their beloved city.

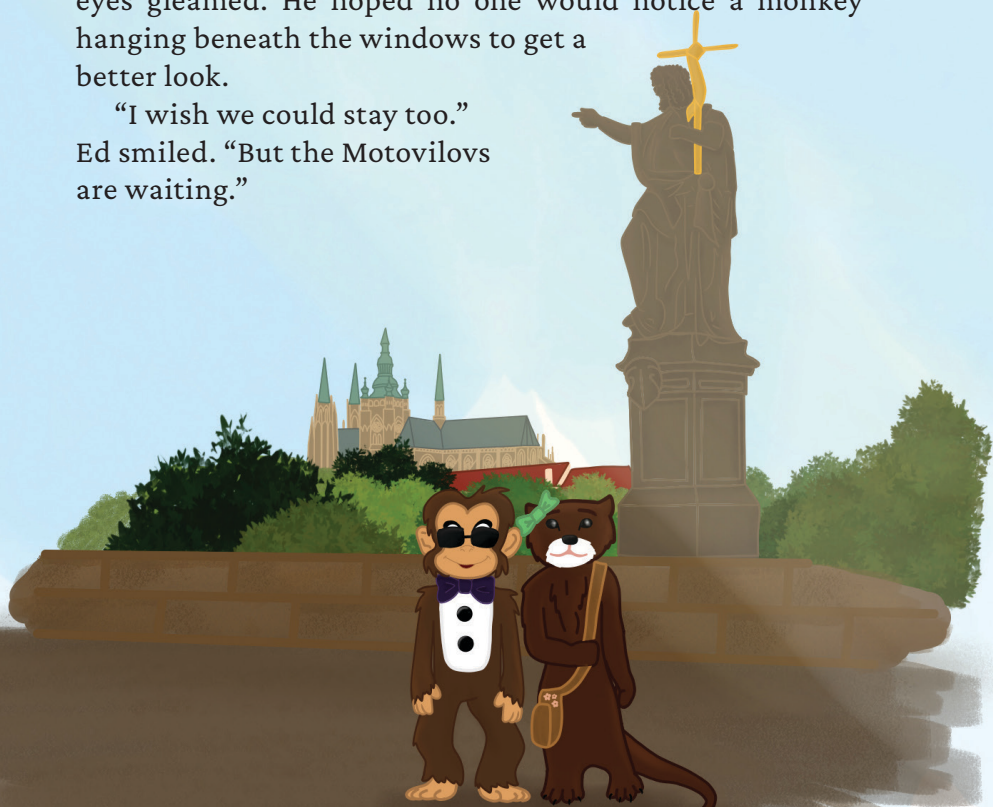
At last they were up the steep hill and before St. Vitus Cathedral. The Prague castle boxed the gothic church inside a courtyard. They went inside and marveled at the stained glass and vaulted ceilings.

"Coronations happened here," Margot whispered.

"I want to climb the pillars and stare for hours." Louie's eyes gleamed. He hoped no one would notice a monkey hanging beneath the windows to get a better look.

"I wish we could stay too."

Ed smiled. "But the Motovilovs are waiting."



Astronomical Clock

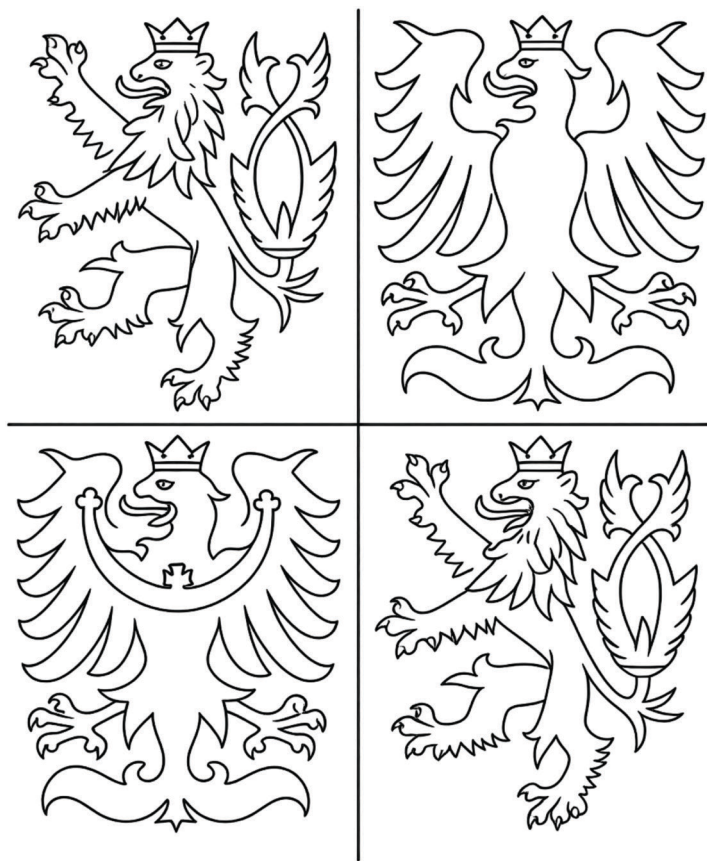
The renowned Prague Astronomical Clock is mounted on the southern wall of the Old Town Hall in Prague, Czech Republic (Czechia). Installed in 1410, it is the oldest astronomical clock in the world that is still in operation.

Each hour from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM, crowds gather to watch its mechanical display. The upper blue windows open, and the twelve Apostles appear, moving silently in procession.



Have you seen an astronomical clock before? Have your parents help you find pictures of other clocks and learn what information an astronomical clock shows. Happy learning!

Color the Czechia Coat of Arms



MEMORY VERSE

A man who has friends must himself be friendly,
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)

CONNECTING TO SHARE

Louie dragged himself up the last steps and collapsed at the apartment door. “So. Many. Stairs.”

Margot stood straight, already knocking. Louie jumped up, trying to pretend he hadn’t been so dramatic.

Nicolas Motovilov opened the door and welcomed them in. All shoes were abandoned by the door, and Louie followed his nose into the kitchen where he knew all the good stuff was happening.

“Mmmm...” Louie stood beside Maude, Nicolas’ mother, as she stirred the soup. His stomach growled. “That smells lovely, Mrs. Motovilov!”

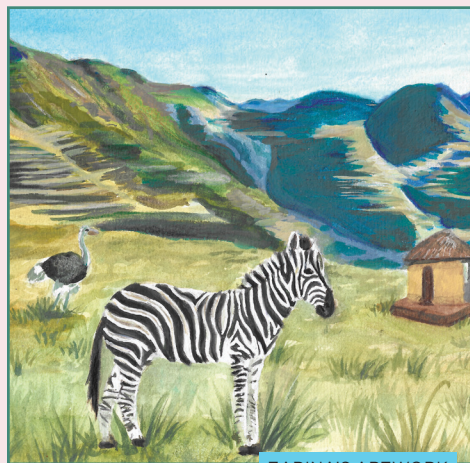
“Thank you, Louie! I hope you enjoy it.” She smiled back.

Zarina and Alex, the older Motovilov children, came and greeted the group.

Margot quietly spoke to Zarina. “Are these your artworks on the wall?”

“Yes,” Zarina smiled. “I have been doing art since I was a young child.

“They are so lovely. And lifelike!” Margot studied a sketch of two giraffes eating leaves in the hot sun.



ZARINA'S ARTWORK

“Thank you.”

Zarina explained the sketch. “I drew those giraffes from an old picture I had in South Africa. Before we became missionaries to Czechia, we lived in South Africa.”

“Oh! I’ve been there!” Louie joined the conversation in excitement. “That is



MOTOVILOVS MINISTERING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

near where the Gaults live! And Vashon!”

Valera Motovilov came up beside his daughter and asked them all how their trip had been. Louie and Margot took turns sharing their adventures. Before long the food was ready, and Margot and Heather disappeared to help set the table for their meal.

After a delicious meal Valera and Maude explained a little bit about their work with the university students. Later that evening some students would come over to play games and fellowship.

“It’s one of our ministries,” Maude explained. “We host English classes and befriend the local university students who come to improve their English. Sometimes we do activities with them, like going on picnics or playing games at our home. It’s one of the ways we can be friends and show the light of Jesus.”

“I can’t wait to meet them.” Louie smiled. He didn’t have to wait long.

Just as the last dishes were washed, a knock sounded at the door. Louie rushed over with Alex to welcome the three students in. Soon the strangers warmed up to Louie’s enthusiasm, and before long a lively game of UNO was underway.

Louie's Treehouse Lain



WHERE ARE LOUIE AND MARGOT?

Louie and Margot have left Slovakia and traveled to Czechia (Czech Republic). They rode 308 kilometers (That is 191 miles.) on a bus via the D1 highway, one of the oldest, longest, and busiest roads in Czechia.



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