

# Sandala Family

## MISSIONARIES TO CZECHIA



### POPULATION

10.51 million (2021)

### CONTINENT

Europe

### LANGUAGE

Czech

### RELIGION

No Religion - 47.8%

No Answer - 30.1%

Other - 10.2%

Catholic - 9.3%

Christian - 2.4%

"Jedi" - .2%





Millions of souls....

...that have never heard

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Romans 10:14

## Sending Church

First Baptist Church of Mission  
5641 Outlook St. Mission, KS 66202  
1bcmisionks@gmail.com  
(913) 432-2991

## Financial Support

Global Independent Baptist Missions  
PO Box 700, Sherman, TX 75091  
gibmissions.org  
(903) 771-4772



Emma



Audrey



Madeline



Nathan



Claire



Stephen & Jeana

## Contact Info

Stephen Sandala  
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(251)786-3355

I was born and raised in Southern California. At the age of 2 months old, my parents divorced. Due to my dad being gone with work a lot, I was raised primarily by my aunts and my grandma, all of whom were Jehovah's Witnesses. My dad added the view of agnosticism to my upbringing. This combination gave me a decent knowledge of Bible stories and a lot of confusion.

After I graduated high school, I moved to Kansas and lived with my mom. I spent the first two years there out of church and the next two years in and out of a Pentecostal church that I was primarily attending to hang out with friends. Through a series of events that changed our schedules, I was separated from those friends. However, I was left with one fairly new friend who had invited me to go to a Baptist church pastored by Larry Scupham. I really enjoyed the church and the friends that I made there. I soon began attending regularly.

While I was there, I kept hearing the pastor preach about "getting saved." I was unfamiliar with this phrase and thought to myself, *I don't know what that means, but I imagine if I stick around long enough, I'll figure it out.* After attending the services for about two months, the pastor asked me if I wanted to go on an overnight youth camp trip. Most of my new friends were going on the trip, so I thought it sounded like a good time.

During the preaching that night at camp, the pressures of life began to weigh heavy upon me. I knew I needed God's help. The time for the invitation came and I went forward to pray for God to help me, not yet realizing what help I truly needed. Pastor Scupham joined me and asked me why I had come forward to pray. I told him that I just didn't know what to do anymore. He said, "First things first, do you know that you're saved?" At that point, I knew enough to know that I didn't know, so I told him that. He then took me aside and showed me from the Bible the help that I really needed. Pastor Scupham showed me that I was a sinner in need of a Saviour, and that Jesus Christ wanted to be my Saviour if I would believe and let Him be that in my life. At that moment, I repented and put my faith in Christ alone as my Saviour. That was April 17th, 2009 at Sagmount Baptist Camp.

Shortly after salvation, I was baptized by immersion by Pastor Larry Scupham at First Baptist Church of Mission in Mission, KS.



About 3 months after I was saved, a young man from our church came back from Heartland Baptist Bible College for a few days to celebrate 4th of July and preach one of our evening services. After that service, he came up to me and said, "You're next!" I nervously laughed it off while thinking to myself, *Never in a million years*. However, God took that comment of "You're next!" and would not let me forget it.

I was 2 years along in Firefighter/EMT training at a local community college and about to begin my career when I went with my church to a youth rally in late 2009. Bro. Hal Hightower preached a message at the rally about using our lives for God. He had a box of Life cereal with him as part of an illustration. God really worked me over about using my life for Him during that message, and I knew that was God was calling me to ministry. After some wrestling with my flesh, I went forward during the invitation and surrendered myself to whatever God would have. After surrendering to God's call to ministry, I enrolled at Heartland Baptist Bible College for the fall semester of 2010. I met my wife in 2011. She graduated in 2012. We got married in 2013.

My senior year, I was assigned a missions project on any country of my choice. Because my wife and I already felt led to move to the mission field of Alabama following graduation, we discussed possible countries to research just for fun. We both have Czechoslovakian heritage and wanted to research it. The only problem was that the assignment required the ability to communicate with a missionary currently living in the country we chose. We had never heard of a missionary to the Czech Republic, and we felt like we may have to pick a different country after realizing we could not find one to communicate with. The same week we realized this, while attending Southwest Baptist in OKC, Pastor Gaddis "happened to" introduce some visitors to the service. The visitors were Jon and Emilie Rettig, long time missionaries to the Czech Republic! We were shocked and went to meet them as soon as possible. I was able to do my project on Czechia with their help.

I graduated in May of 2014 as a married missions major. After graduating, my wife and I moved to Alabama where I had the privilege of serving in various ways at Grace Baptist Church in Semmes. During our time there, I served as the pastor's assistant and youth leader for the church as well as a high school teacher and assistant principal in the church's Christian school. We plugged in while we were there and God used this time to grow us in many ways.

After serving at GBC for five years, it became clear that God was trying to prepare us for a change. I did not know what the change was at the time, but I informed my pastor that I would be stepping down from my positions after one more school year. I felt a bit like Abraham in surrendering to go to an unknown place. During that last year, God started working in our hearts to give us a renewed burden for missions. I started to struggle with the question of whether this really was just a burden or if this was God calling us to the mission field.

This struggle came right before Missions Emphasis Month at our church. Through prayer and counsel with my pastor and the various missionaries that were coming through the church, it became clear that God was calling my family to the mission field. After some more wrestling with my flesh, I once again surrendered myself to God's calling, this time to the mission field of the Czech Republic. Upon informing my wife of this decision, she replied by simply stating, "I wondered what was taking you so long." God had already confirmed the same calling in her heart, and she had surrendered to this calling a couple of weeks prior while she was listening to some preaching at home.

As we tried to figure out the next steps, things took an unexpected turn with COVID-19 hitting, the birth of our fourth child, and other circumstances. After seeking the Lord and godly counsel, God revealed that His plan for us to get to the Czech Republic was going to first take us through Kansas City as He worked to prepare us for the road ahead. So, on short notice, during the summer of 2020, we packed up, sold the only home we knew, and moved to Kansas City. During our time in Kansas City, I went through ordination training and was ordained in March of 2023. God has taught us many things and grown us in many ways that will, no doubt, be vital in our ministry to the Czech people.



I was born and raised in southern Alabama by divorced parents. While I was growing up, the majority of my extended family were either agnostics who pursued prestige and education or backslid Christians that pursued pleasure. I attended a doctrinally sound Baptist church with my dad and stepmom almost every Sunday morning on visitation. I occasionally attended a different church with my mom for a year or so as well. When I was 8, a lady showed me a “wordless book” at a local fair. The concept of the Gospel finally made sense, but it didn’t seem applicable to me. Later, I attended a VBS at my dad’s Baptist church and prayed a prayer in a group setting out of a fear of hell. Fear and social pressure motivated me to copy words. After my prayer, I still struggled with peace a lot. When I did go to church on my dad’s visitations, I would feel like I was supposed to go pray for salvation again. However, I resisted God’s tug to go forward for several years because people already thought I was saved and it seemed like it wasn’t worth embarrassing myself over. I foolishly told God’s still, small voice of invitation “no” or “maybe later” dozens of times before He stopped tugging.

I became numb to God and the Bible and merely played church if I went. My grandmother was on life support at home and chose to pass away before a hurricane. She was afraid of losing power during the storm and then dying a painful death. A special liquid was placed in her IV while the family was present. I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I watched her slip into eternity. She was a highly successful woman by the world’s standards. She had helped start a business, had traveled the world, had contributed greatly to a local botanical garden and German club, had survived WW2, and had six children that loved her dearly. However, watching her die was devoid of hope or peace to me. Most of her children were non-believers and the best thing offered was a toast to her life. It was a cold, scary, life-changing experience. It caused me to contemplate the purpose of life and the reality of eternity at an unusually young age. However, I still decided to throw myself into academic achievement and worldliness, seeking prestige and pleasure. I started to believe the lie that science held the answer. However, I realized pretty quickly in public school that this would not be a firm foundation to build my life on as the “science” kept “changing”.

About a year later, I joined the youth group for a youth conference. A road trip and a week with saved people who actually wanted to live a holy life was a mind-blowing experience for me! The conference included missionary stories of real people who gave all. I decided then that the Bible might be real if so many were willing to LIVE by It, purpose to regularly SHARE It, and DIE for It if need be. It became clear that the truth source of God’s Word and God Himself were foundations that never changed. I finally saw God for Who He is as well as the reality of who I was. I saw my need and, in God’s amazing grace, He chose to speak to me again. I knew He might leave me alone forever if I rejected this time. I prayed God would let me make it to my house so I could speak to Him in private as I had a LOT of confessing to do. He did. As soon as the van dropped me off, I went into my bedroom, closed the door, fell on my knees and asked the God I finally believed in to forgive me of the sins that I finally acknowledged. I asked Him to save me through the power of His blood. He did! I realized I wasn’t scripturally baptized my first year at Heartland and got it right during the Christmas break between semesters. God is so gracious!

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

- Bible
  - The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the verbal, plenary inspired Word of God. II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21
  - The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete, divine revelation of God to man and serve as the inerrant, infallible final authority in all areas of faith and practice. Psalm 12:6-7, Acts 5:28-29; II Timothy 3:15-17
  - The Bible is to be interpreted literally within its grammatical-historical context. II Peter 1:20-21
  - The King James Version is the preserved Word of God for English speakers.
- God
  - God is the Creator of all things. Genesis 1:1-2:7; John 1:1-3; Revelation 4:11
  - God is triune – one Being eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14; I John 5:7
  - God the Son took upon Himself human flesh, was born of the virgin Mary, died for the sins of all people, rose from the grave on the third day, ascended into Heaven, and He alone is the Mediator between God and men. Matthew 1:23; John 1:14; Acts 1:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Timothy 2:5
- Salvation
  - God desires for any and all people to get saved, and He gave His Son so that any and all people can be saved. John 3:16-17; 1 Timothy 2:4-6; II Peter 3:9
  - Any and all people have a choice to make of their own free will: Accept God's free gift of salvation by placing their faith in Christ alone, or reject God and remain eternally separated from Him in Hell. Romans 6:23, 10:9-13
- Church
  - Jesus Christ started the first church during His earthly ministry. Matthew 16:18
  - The church does not replace Israel in God's promises or prophecies.
  - Jesus Christ instituted two ordinances for the church to keep:
    - Baptism – this is the first step of obedience after salvation. Scriptural baptism is only by immersion and under the authority of a scriptural Baptist church. Immersion is a picture of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Matthew 3:16, 28:18-20; Acts 2:41; Romans 6:4-5
    - The Lord's Supper – this is to commemorate Christ's shed blood and broken body. I Corinthians 11:23-25
      - I believe the Scriptures teach a closed communion as this is the only form that allows for church discipline and accountability. Church discipline cannot take place with those outside of the local membership. Matthew 18:15-20; I Corinthians 5:11-14
- Missions
  - Church planting through soul-winning and discipleship will be the primary focus of our ministry. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15

# EDUCATION AND MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

## Education

- Heartland Baptist Bible College – 2010-2014 (missions major)

## Ministry

- First Baptist Church of Mission – Mission, KS – 2009-2010
  - Door-knocking
  - Bus worker/driver
  - VBS helper
- Southwest Baptist Church – Oklahoma City, OK – 2010-2014
  - Bible college student
  - Door-knocking
  - Street evangelism
  - Bus worker / driver / captain
  - Children's church (ages 5-9) helper
  - Preaching / song leading at assisted living center
- Grace Baptist Church – Semmes, AL – 2014-2020
  - Door-knocking
  - Bus worker / driver
  - Pastor's assistant
  - Youth leader
  - Song leader
  - Assistant principal at Grace Baptist Academy
  - Highschool teacher at Grace Baptist Academy
  - Building / grounds / vehicle maintenance
  - Nursing home ministry
  - Prison ministry
  - VBS decorator / teacher
  - A/V technician
  - Wednesday Night Kid's Klub (ages 4-10)
  - Security
- First Baptist Church of Mission – Mission, KS – 2020-Present
  - Door-knocking
  - Missions intern
  - Sunday School teacher (adults)
  - Sunday School teacher (kids)
  - Preaching
  - VBS teacher / helper
  - 3-week missions trip to the Czech Republic
  - Children's church (ages 4-10)



# THE CZECH CONDITION...

*and our burden for the people*

The Czech Republic, also known as Czechia, has about the same land area as the state of Maine. However, the population is more than three times the population of Kansas. Most of the over 10 million inhabitants classify themselves as non-religious. According to a 2017 Gallup poll, Czechia is the 4<sup>th</sup> most atheistic country in the world. Religion is such a joke that .2% of people wrote in "Jedi" on their census. Many who live there, especially in smaller villages, have never seen a Bible or heard a clear presentation of the Gospel. They are the world's leading consumer of beer and 4<sup>th</sup> highest consumers of pure alcohol. Alcohol is connected to about 10% of all deaths in the country.

Czechia is a nation with a rich history. Unfortunately, that history is filled with Catholic church corruption, persecution from imperialistic countries, and many years of Soviet Communism. As a result, the Czech people are known for being skeptical of newcomers and slow to trust. They have many religious-based traditions and superstitions they are proud of despite their absence of faith. Unfortunately, these traditions have corrupt roots and serve only to blind the people to the truth rather than point them to it. For example, a Christmas tradition involves their version of a costumed Santa (that oddly resembles a Catholic official) coming to schools or homes to interrogate children about their sins. He is accompanied by a costumed devil and a costumed angel. The devil is menacing and threatens to take the child to hell in his burlap sack for his sins. The angel pleads to St. Mikuláš (Nicolas) for mercy. St. Mikuláš looks in his "book" and offers one last chance. The child can be spared from hell if he recites a poem or sings a song. Jesus is a part of Christmas too, kind of. He is a cherub boy that flies to their home and delivers presents before Christmas. He then rings a bell and leaves. No, I am not making this up. Imagine the confusion for these people – even from childhood!

There is hope for the Czech people and it is exciting to see someone so lost in darkness come to the Light of the Gospel! My wife's Czech grandfather immigrated to America as a young man. Though he occasionally attended mass, he worshipped education and drank alcohol often. However, he was saved at age 94 after hearing the Gospel presented to him by saved relatives many times. Shortly after his salvation, he began attending church and even helped lead his wife to the Lord before he passed away at age 95. We have seen first-hand how God can change a heart of stone! He spoke 10 languages and was highly intelligent. However, he realized he was blind to the God of the Bible and was forever changed after he accepted Christ. Hallelujah!

On our survey trip, God confirmed our call to the country and gave us an unshakeable peace despite multiple experiences with spiritual warfare. This country feels like enemy territory and like home at the same time. It is amazing how much of a difference the spiritual temperature of the culture makes. The enemy has made it clear that he does not want us there, but we believe that God does. Our hearts were broken each time we spoke to anyone about faith. One man, Lukáš, spoke great English. He told us that the only churches he knew of were the Catholic church and the annoying Jehovah's Witnesses. He explained that he knew 8 Catholic priests and they were all greedy drunks. One priest was the landlord for Lukáš' atheist family's property on the outskirts of Prague. Lukáš said the priest raised the rent 33% one year. The next year, the priest told them the rent needed to go up double "or else the land becomes a golf course." They had to move. Not once did that "priest" speak to them of God. Another man, Cliff, lived in a small village that only had two churches, both of them Catholic. He said he no longer attended because the church "talks about the water but drinks the wine." Hypocrisy and corruption have pushed many logical people away from even considering faith. We hope to show them true Christianity and pray God will move them to reconsider their positions and assumptions.

We covet your prayers and support. The absence of the Spirit in the people of the Czech Republic creates a strange feeling, but we know God is greater than he that is in the world. The Czech language is said to take 4 to 5 years to become functional in, and we are both over 30 years old, which may add to the challenge; we trust God will enable us to rise to the challenge and learn this language. The Czech people are skeptical of religious ideas and new people; we know it is God that softens hearts and calls people to Himself. We are excited to be used by God to return to the place of our heritage and share the light of the Gospel with those that walk in darkness. We appreciate your support!

# FIRST BAPTIST OF MISSION



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MISSION**

5641 Outlook Street • Mission, KS 66202

(913) 432- 2991

[www.fbcmissions.com](http://www.fbcmissions.com)

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Dear Pastor,

It has been my privilege to get to know Stephen and Jeana Sandala. Stephen began attending our church when he was in his early 20's in February of 2009. That same April he attended a youth rally at Sagmount Baptist Camp in Joplin, MO and accepted Christ as his Saviour. A year later he went to Heartland Baptist Bible College in Oklahoma City, graduating in 2014. After graduation, he went to work at a church in the Mobile, AL area for six years. Then, when he felt called to missions, he returned to our church where they have worked for the last three years. Stephen and Jeana were of great help as we went through a major fire at the church property in March of 2021 and I was able to delegate many duties during the restoration project the next year. In September of 2022, Stephen and Jeana were able to take a survey trip to the Czech Republic and confirm their call to go there.

Stephen has always been a good student of the Word, and is able to clearly and carefully expound the Word of God. He has taught Sunday School classes, helped with Junior Church, VBS and has preached often for us. He has a burden for souls and has been faithful to go reach out for souls.

Stephen and Jeana are sent out of First Baptist Church of Mission, KS and their financial clearinghouse is Global Independent Baptist Missions, P.O. Box 700 Sherman, TX 75091. As their sending pastor, I am very excited to recommend the Sandalas for your consideration. Please prayerfully consider having them in your missions conference or for a special service.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Larry L. Scupham

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Larry Scupham, Pastor  
[pastor@fbcmissions.com](mailto:pastor@fbcmissions.com)

# GRACE BAPTIST Church & Academy

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[www.gbcsemmes.com](http://www.gbcsemmes.com) / [www.gbacademy.com](http://www.gbacademy.com)

**Pastor Tim Whigham**

July 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great joy and zero reservation that I can recommend Stephen and Jeana Sandala worthy of consideration as missionaries to the Czech Republic. My personal connection with the Sandalas started with Jeana as a teenager in our youth department. Jeana always had a servant's heart and strong desire to serve the Lord and be involved in outreach as much as possible. She graduated from our Christian Academy and then headed to Heartland Baptist Bible College for ministry training. While there, she met Stephen Sandala and after he graduated from college, they came home to be on staff working with our youth and teaching in our Academy. It was a great privilege to be able to work alongside of them and watch them serve the Lord faithfully here at Grace Baptist Church as a family for several years in all the various ministries.

They served in the bus ministry, taught Sunday School, set up and worked in V.B.S. Stephen filled in the pulpit for me, preached in the prisons, taught in the Academy, and they were both active soulwinners. Stephen and Jeana have always maintained a teachable spirit and have shown a desire to mature spiritually and follow the Lord completely with their lives. Having Stephen on staff was certainly a blessing and tremendous help to me as the senior pastor. It was difficult seeing them head out, but we know it was absolutely for the best as they sought to obey the Lord's calling upon their lives.

I have been on staff here at Grace for 23 years and have seen many candidates come through as possible missionaries for the foreign field. It is of my strong opinion that Stephen and Jeana are servants who stand out above many who may seek to serve God in this capacity. I have personally witnessed their desire to reach the lost over the years and am confident that Stephen and Jeana are laser focused on God's will for their lives and will prove to be faithful servants for the Lord on the mission field as they have been and currently are here at home. We are excited to see what God is going to do in and through their lives on the mission field in the Czech Republic and we are fully supporting them in this missionary endeavor they believe God has called them to carry out without any hesitation.

I would love to assist you further, if need be, in answering any questions you might have regarding their ministry, family, faithfulness, or their background. Please, feel free to reach out to me at the number listed above if you would like to talk with me personally.

Because Christ Lives,

*Tim Whigham*

Tim Whigham  
Senior Pastor





Wes Stewart  
Pastor



15285 S. 169 Highway  
Olathe, KS 6062



(913) 764-3051



[faithbaptistolathe.org](http://faithbaptistolathe.org)

Eric Watson  
Assistant Pastor

Jack Parker  
Youth Pastor

Timothy Quinlan  
Missions/Maintenance

July 24, 2023

Dear Fellow Pastor,

It is my privilege to recommend Stephen and Jeana Sandala as church planting missionaries to the Czech Republic. It has been a joy to watch them grow over the past several years as they have faithfully served the Lord. I firmly believe they are ready for this next step to be sent out as missionaries.

I became acquainted with the Sandala family when I became pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Olathe, KS in 2018. I was immediately impressed with their character and devotion to their calling. They continued to exemplify this in their service to Christ at First Baptist Church in Mission, KS.

On March 24, 2023, I had the privilege to be on Bro. Sandala's ordination counsel. It is there that I became even more familiar with his testimony of salvation, his calling, and where he stands on the Word of God. I am equally confident in their sending church and pastor, Larry Scupham.

It is without any reservation that I recommend Stephen and Jeana Sandala for your consideration.

In Christ,

Pastor Wes Stewart  
Faith Baptist Church  
Olathe, KS

1 Peter 4:10-11

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ...that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

We love to help people  
by using the skills  
and abilities God  
has given us to  
invest in others.  
If there is any way  
that we could help  
around your church or be  
a blessing in any way, tell us!

We are thankful for the opportunity to get acquainted with more of God's people and would like to be able to give as God has enabled us while on deputation!

Electrical  
Plumbing  
Auto Mechanic  
Appliance Repair  
General Handyman

Painting  
Graphic Design  
Photography  
Cleaning  
General Labor