



## **The First of Thirteen Isabel Sovitzky 2018 Steinbeck Scholarship Recipients**

To all those who contributed to the Steinbeck Scholarship,

I would like to thank you for the financial assistance. I live in Prague, the Czech Republic, where my father worked as the business manager for the Eurasia region of World Missions. He now serves as the regional business manager for Asia. Life in Prague is amazing in some ways and alienating in others. Nobody can resist the beauty of the city itself; it is wonderful to be able to stroll through a medieval old-world city on the way home from a mundane errand. It's easy to travel and one never runs out of fascinating history to learn. Living here also taught me how to communicate. Because of the cultural barrier, you cannot assume that the other person will interpret your actions correctly. Witnessing bizarre and often hilarious miscommunications taught me not leap to negative conclusions about people's behavior. On the other hand, the Czech Republic is 97% atheist, which means congregations are small and I have few Christian friends. At times, it can feel incredibly lonely. Outreach can be difficult because most Czech friendships develop slowly. However, Prague has a large English-speaking expatriate community and our English-speaking congregation attracts a lot of visitors.

When the time came for me to graduate high school, I heard of the opportunity to study for a B.A. in Liberal Arts and Humanities at Charles University. I have just completed my first year. This school was established in 1348, making it the oldest in Europe. This degree enables me to study courses purely for personal development, such as economic reasoning, logic, specialized history classes, and musics of the world. This coming semester, I will study on exchange in Tuebingen Germany, another old European university which has a very good theological faculty where I will take Biblical Greek. After this three-year degree, I hope to return to the U.S. for an additional year of psychology courses before continuing to master's school. If God wills, I hope to become a marriage and family counselor. I want to make God's word the basis for my work, so that Lutheran families receive guidance in accordance with God's will. I am very thankful for your assistance in pursuing this goal.

Regards,  
Isabel Sovitzky