**Christianity in the Czech Republic – past and present**

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The traditional Czech churches (Roman Catholic, Evangelical Czech Brethren, and Czechoslovak Hussite) face a dramatic decrease in numbers. Moreover, Czech society adopts either an indifferent or a negative attitude towards the churches. Possible reasons for this can be found in history: the Hussite movement in the Middle Ages, followed later by enforced re-catholicisation, and more recently the impact of the Nazi and communist totalitarian regimes. The churches had many courageous priests and laypeople, many of whom were arrested or even killed. A hidden church was formed, in which theology teaching and other activities were carried out. On the other hand, there were many others who collaborated with the regime. After the fall of communism, the churches did not use the opportunity presented by the newly-gained freedom, and have lost much credibility through conflicts connected with the restitution of church property. But all this is already in the (distant or more recent) past. Why do we still see a decreasing number of Christians? It seems that the churches have lost hope in a better future, and are afraid to make changes which would make them more attractive to young people and those who are searching.