



# Bella Vista Church

5100 Belding Road, Rockford, MI 49341



## 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Michael Carlson 2/29/2016

*2 Cor. 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

### *"Oh, You Are Just Like Your Daddy"*

Americans get a lot of identity from their jobs. An American will introduce someone by saying, "This is Joe. He's an architect." To a Czech trusted relationships are important (due to communist internal spying during the cold war), so a Czech might introduce someone as, "This

### Regional Facts

According to Wikipedia, "The Czech Republic has one of the least religious populations in the world." This is not surprising given its many years under a communist regime. The 2011

is Josef, the friend of Freddie who was my roommate at university.” Just reading in Scripture you will sense immediately that in the ancient Mediterranean cultures, much of your identity came from your father. Thus, a person would be introduced as, “Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat...” (Luke 3:23-24).

Your identification with your father defined you as a person faithful to the family, as a good person, as a trustworthy person. A father’s characteristics were meant to be passed on. If your father was honorable, people expected you to be. If your father was loving or wise or generous, people assumed you would be loving, wise, and generous as well.

Jesus could have described His disciples as being like a trade guild, an army, a body, a temple, or a business partnership. In fact, you will find some of those comparisons in the Word, but by far the most important description of Jesus-followers are that we are family, descendants of the same Father, and each family member is expected to be like their Dad!

Let’s take a moment to write down 10 words that describe our Heavenly Father. Today’s verses in 2 Corinthians will give us a good start, but feel free to use any description of God you’ve found in Scriptures and experienced in your relationship with Him.

Now, let’s notice how 2 Corinthians shows that what characterizes our Father should characterize us, His children. “Like Father, like son!”

Please take a few minutes to ask the Father in prayer what are one or two of His wondrous characteristics that we need to show more in our lives today. Circle them, pray over them, and live them out today! Maybe someone will think, “Oh, you’re just like your daddy!”

census asked the Czechs to declare their faith. The results were as follows:

- 79.4% Undeclared or non-religious
- 10.4% Roman Catholic (not necessarily practicing; see below)
- 0.8% Protestant (of all kinds)
- 9.4% Other religions

Missionaries living in the Czech Republic estimate that:

- Less than 2% of Czechs are in any sort of church on any given Sunday (Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical, Orthodox).
- Only 0.17% of Czechs are evangelicals

#### [BVC Missionaries](#)

Carlsons have been BVC missionaries since they moved to Europe in 1996.

#### [The kids](#)

Rebecca is a junior at Michigan State

Sarah is a freshman at North Greenville University in South Carolina.

Elizabeth is with Michael and Sherri in Czech. Republic.

