



# parakletos

Greetings Parakletos Partners,

Welcome to spring when God's awesome creative beauty is displayed everywhere! It is also a time to update you on how God has been using your prayers and support to impact lives and relationships in the Czech Republic.

Seminars, conferences and church meetings were held throughout the country.

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



### MEN'S CONFERENCE

120 Czech men attended the annual SAM conference featuring Pavel as the main speaker with Men and Relationships being the topic. (Pavel is on the board of this men's organization.)

- Lively and dynamic discussions took place even in a large group setting.
- Barriers to be open with others were discussed.
- A uniquely masculine style of relationships was traced.

- The necessity of man's relationship with God was explored.
- Every break was FILLED with individual counseling meetings.

### SEMINARS FOR WOMEN

Julka spoke several times on the topic of mother daughter relationships.

- About 30 women attended a full day seminar in Prague which resulted in many positive reactions stating that the seminar was inspiring and had a profound influence on them. Some expressed the wish that the information had been available years ago.



"I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." Acts 26: 17-18

We exist to facilitate the church to be a safe, honest, and intimate place to meet, know, and grow in Christ and His Body. Parakletos creates a safe place through means of individual counseling, seminars, and mentoring.

[www.parakletos-cz.org](http://www.parakletos-cz.org); [parakletos@volny.cz](mailto:parakletos@volny.cz)

- One participant's response was: "The part of the seminar about aging mothers and the need to work on ourselves to avoid bitterness and to mature was very strong for me. I was taking in every single word. I noticed that there was complete silence in the room, almost as if you touched a taboo in our culture."
- Another touching response - "It was an amazing seminar – I am sure that my life and lives of others will change as a result of what we learned about mother and daughter relationships."

### EVANGELISM PROGRAM

Pavel was the main speaker at an evangelism meeting in the city of Ostrava held in a cultural center with A Christian View of Relationships as the topic.

- While Czechs value close relationships, there are many misconceptions about how relationships should function. We find this desire for intimacy a natural, powerful way to lead to discussion of the gospel as well as disclosing some ideas counterproductive to the culture. This opens an opportunity to present God's understanding of relationships, which necessarily includes the gospel as the only way to make relationships work.
- Watching over 100 seemingly skeptical participants begin to soften and then end being deeply touched was a blessing! Prayerfully they will be more open to the Holy Spirit's leading them to a closer relationship with God.

### Please note that there has been a change of address of Bridge to Life for your donations!

For financial support from the US you can send tax deductible contributions to Bridge to Life Ministries, 17194 Van Wagoner Rd, Spring Lake, MI 49456. Make the check out to Bridge to Life and designate the gift for CCMCR or Parakletos. Or send check to LeadingEdge, PO Box 1893 Noblesville, IN 46060-1893 for Parakletos.

Online giving at: [www.leadedge.org](http://www.leadedge.org)

#### From the UK:

CAF Bank, Acc Name: Central Eurasian Partners,  
Sort code: 40-52-40, AccNo: 00016282,  
designate to Parakletos.

#### From the CZ:

ČSOB Bank, AccNo: 186 694 169 / 0300

- After the main program concluded, a sizeable group remained for meaningful discussion. We value highly the opportunity to be in touch with the current relational and spiritual needs of fellow Czechs! It brings a new, fresh appreciation of what God has done for us.

### OUR HOME CHURCH MINISTRY – Vysoké Mýto Church

- A personal, relational evangelism training program was held with about 12 participants – we are thankful.
- We continue to pray for unity in the church as long term goals and a biblically sound, balanced vision for the future are developed.
- One blessing and encouragement has been discipling a young man in his faith journey. He travels quite a distance to attend church. We are also building a relationship as couples.



## Family

We enjoyed spending time with Jana during her Easter visit. She was also able to spend time with some teenage girls in our church with whom she has developed a close relationship.

God continues to protect and bless Kristyna as she works for Him in Thailand.

Our mothers are quite stable at the moment with Pavel's mother recovering nicely from an urgent surgery about five weeks ago.

As always, we are thankful to God and to EACH of YOU for the privilege of serving Him through Parakletos, touching the lives of people in the Czech Republic!

May He bless each of you for partnering with us,

Pavel and Julka Raus