



parakletos

Greetings Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

We pray your summer has been refreshing, renewing, and filled with blessings! Seminars for church retreats, counseling (at the slower summer pace), and family have filled ours. As summer winds down we would like to share the latest PARAKLETOS news, the result of your prayers and support and the mighty working of our great God. May the news of God's impacting the lives of many in the Czech Republic encourage you to pray as a new season of ministry begins.

MINISTRY NEWS

MARRIAGE CONFERENCE – SLOVAKIA

Julka and I spoke at a marriage conference with the main theme being *“How to Surpass a Mediocre Marriage”*. We discussed the danger of an average marriage which, though convenient, avoids conflict and prevents growth. Deeper intimacy is sacrificed for the sake of safety. Detailed descriptions of the limitations of an average marriage were shared as well as proposals for honest growth. Couples of different ages and life stages attended enabling effective passing of wisdom from one generation to another.

At the same conference we led a seminar about the joy and challenges of raising teenagers. Here too wisdom and experiences were shared.

Other conferences focused on themes such as *“A Christian Marriage”* and *“The Need to be Loved”* as they affect the dynamics of a close relationship.

PASTOR SUPPORT AND MINISTRY

We would like to paint a fairly typical picture for you of our ministry to pastors. A phone call came from a

pastor on the edge of burnout, struggling with feelings of being alienated from his work and finding

himself avoiding relationally difficult tasks. Disliking to disappoint anyone, he tended to make promises he realistically could not keep. As a result, people became frustrated with the unmet deadlines and expectations. On top of that a physical injury confined him to his bed for several weeks.

The crisis occurred when he recovered physically and was able to return to work. He quickly realized he was not able to meet all of the expectations placed on him and found himself depressed and completely exhausted with all inner resources depleted. Whenever he thought about ministry work his despair intensified leading to thoughts of feeling abandoned and betrayed by the very God he wished to serve.



“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; parakletos@volny.cz



Severe exhaustion with features of burnout are typical of the pastors who contact us.

Recovery usually

takes several years and requires a solid support system. We are honored and thankful to be able, through God's grace, to have a part in the healing process.

Another pastor called us not because of burnout but because he found himself at a turning point in his life. After successfully planting and developing a new local church, he had a feeling of dissatisfaction. He wished to talk with someone who could *understand* and *listen* as he strove to collect his thoughts. Desiring to do God's will more than ever, to discern God's voice and be obedient to his Lord, yet having some confusion as to what God was asking of him, he sensed he could no longer mechanically continue in ministry. Although he did not know what the new call was, he was convinced a new call from God was being born.

In addition to meeting with these pastors for personal counseling, we offer a four day stay in our town to assist in meeting these kinds of needs. The time is filled with meetings

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

From the UK:

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

From the CZ:

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in which we talk and pray together. Most often the pastors are accompanied by their wives allowing understanding to grow between husband and wife as the different perspectives are shared as well as strengthening the marriage.

We feel as blessed as the pastors to spend time with people who love God and desire to serve Him even though they find themselves in a difficult time. God works mightily in each of these stays. Some turn out to be critical moments of God's gentle affirmation of His presence. Others are filled with discussions about salient personal issues of concern. Each one is unique and we are learning to design diverse ways to best fit specific needs. Through these visits we find encouragement and stimulation for our continued faithful walk with Christ.

TECHNOLOGY & MINISTRY

Because ministry takes place over such an extensive area, Skype has become an effective tool in enabling us to stay in touch with pastors more effectively and in a more timely manner. While we are still learning the advantages and limitations of this tool, it usually works well after several face to face meetings during which we all get to know one another on a more personal level.

Family

What a blessing to have both Jana and Kristyna visit us this summer! Jana will return to the UK to complete the necessary requirements to receive her license to practice law. Kristyna will return to Thailand to continue in her ministry work. We are grateful for God's touch on each of their lives.

Pavel's mother has had a difficult summer physically requiring a significant amount of our time.

We apologize to our supporters in the United States. Our desire is to be able to personally fellowship with you more frequently. However, in this season of life, we find ourselves needed here to care for Pavel's mother on a consistent basis. We remain so thankful for your continued understanding, prayers and support! May God reward your faithfulness.

Pavel and Julka Raus