



parakletos

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

As Christmas is quickly approaching – the season for reflecting on all God has done to not only forgive our sins and secure our eternity but also a myriad of other blessings – we would like to praise Him for each of you. Phil 1:3-5 says it best. “All my prayers for you are full of praise to God! When I pray for you, my heart is full of joy because of all your wonderful help in making known the Good News about Christ....” Parakletos exists and serves Him because of your faithful, heartfelt, generous support. THANK YOU!

As of early December, ten seminars and conferences took place since the beginning of fall involving much prayer, preparation and travel. In addition, counseling and mentoring continue to be a vital part of our ministry – walking alongside pastors experiencing difficult times. Pavel also teaches at Evangelical Theological Seminary one day a week. How thankful we are that Parakletos provides so many opportunities to serve others for Him! God continues to be our strength, equips us to serve BEYOND our capacity, and is graciously teaching us patience.

MINISTRY NEWS

MEN'S CONFERENCE

Pavel was the main speaker at a men's conference for approximately 80 men with Seeking a Father as the main theme. Looking at the transition from our earthly fathers to our heavenly Father, with emphasis on the unique and irreplaceable role of our heavenly Father, encouraged participants to share their stories – some heart-breaking but all hope-filled.

One participant shared that his father left when he was just three years old. The next time he saw his dad was 17 years later when they happened to be prisoners in the same prison. He has not seen him since that time and does not know if his dad is even living. At one point during the conference he stated, “I have always thought that I had no relationship with my father. Now I realize that I do. I have a relationship – not an easy one – but I feel something towards my

father.” After praying with a pastor he shared that the burden and pain were lifted from him. He felt free and even decided to try contacting his father. Praise God!

Another man shared that he felt only rejection and condemnation from his father. Facing marital problems leading to his wife filing for divorce, he still felt no support or care from his father. He fought to save his marriage which led to reconciliation and remarriage. However, this man felt all alone during these troubling times. He struggled spiritually with his relationship with God, feeling no closeness or emotion. Hearing about the impact our relationships



“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.

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with our earthly fathers have on our relationship with God was new and surprising to him, enabling him to see the root of his problems.

While the conference was very intense, God carried Pavel through the intensity in spite of a cold. God is so good!

PASTORS STAYS PROGRAM

Pavel led a two day workshop/seminar on church conflict for 20 pastors with the number of participants limited to encourage more interactions and to build on each participant's experience. The group was excellent with very open discussions taking place about different church conflicts. New insights were explored as we looked at specific conflicts facing each individual pastor. We worked to understand more deeply how these conflicts impact pastors and their families. Great observations were shared. Several commented that it was the first time they were able to share openly the struggles and conflicts their

individual churches were facing. They were excited to approach the problems from a strictly biblical perspective.

Positive evaluations were given including comments

about how encouraged the pastors were and how appreciative they were for the opportunity.



Pavel spoke with the wife of a pastor who had attended a Pastors Stays program two years ago. She reported that her husband's ministry continues to be impacted by what he learned as a participant. As you can see, the impact of this ministry is significant and far reaching. We are saddened that no funds remain for this program. Would you please join us in praying God's will and provision for this vital program?

SEMINARS FOR WOMEN

Julka spoke for several Christian ladies groups with The Heart of a Woman and Mothering as the topics. She is

feeling more and more comfortable in this format – even enjoying it! Julka's compassionate and loving heart encouraged these ladies, leading to good discussions and sharing even after the event had ended.



Family

- Kristyna remains in Thailand ministering. While saddened that she will be unable to join us for Christmas due to a lack of funds, we know she is in God's most capable, loving hands.
- Jana continues to live and work in Manchester and hopes Brexit will not interfere with her plan to get a license to practice law.
- Pavel's mother has not been doing well for some time and is now hospitalized. We continue to lovingly care for her.
- Julka and I are renovating a house purchased from my brother and are looking forward to this gift from God.

We would like to wish you and yours a very merry CHRISTmas with many blessings from the Lord in the new year. May you each have a peaceful and joyous time, full of hope, during the holidays! We do, indeed, thank God for each of you – for your friendship, prayers and support.

Pavel and Julka Raus

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: ČSOB Bank, AccNo: 186 694 169 / 0300