



# parakletos

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Czech where a seemingly long winter led to rejoicing with the arrival of a most pleasant spring! We pray you are also enjoying the new life spring brings.

The first three months of 2018 saw Pavel doing better than at any time in the last year! Praise God!! THANK YOU for praying. It has taken a whole year for him to make an almost complete recovery with some limitations probably remaining long term, one being Pavel's much lowered energy level. However, even greater joy is ours to be able to continue serving God in whatever capacity we are capable of!

We have begun to implement changes in our ministry schedule to accommodate Pavel's health limitations. One of those changes is to decrease the number of seminars and focus on increased quality which remains perplexing for Pavel who invests himself totally in preparation for teaching each time! God will show His strength in our weakness! He has been using us in a new way to touch people's lives in spite of our limitations. It is more about our faith and the availability of our hearts than the intensity of our endeavor. Praise God!

The second change we are making is in our life style choices. More rest is being incorporated into our schedule. Whenever we are able, we will not be working on Saturdays, bringing unsettled feelings, especially for Pavel. I'm sure, given time, we will learn to embrace this time of rest and renewal.

During these last months we have had a productive time with church visits, seminars, lectures and a conference, both big and small, in spite of Pavel's health. In addition, we taught several courses at the theological seminary on marriage, family and sexuality.

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## MINISTRY NEWS

### **FAMILY CONFERENCE**

In March we spoke at an annual family conference at the CB Church in Prague with attendees from across the country. Three groups of people seem to emerge at these conferences. One group struggles, is

perplexed, and often has little understanding as to why they are experiencing such pain. Their marriages are barely surviving and they come seeking hope and skills to affect change. There is a certain level of connection when they are able to identify with the stories and examples presented. We pray for the

"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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healing of their marriages and that those who do not yet know the Lord glimpse God and His presence and make a decision to trust Him.

The second group is comprised of those with reasonably functioning marriages who realize there is more, wish to deepen their intimacy and invest in their marriage relationships. This group attends conferences to obtain enrichment. Their need is



for encouragement to not give up and to have faith and trust in God. When communicating with this group, we sometimes sense when the message is touching deep hidden desires and needs in their hearts. Those are special moments indeed.

The third group attends because they wish to help others. This is a tricky group as, in fact, many of them come seeking help for

**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

themselves, but find it more acceptable to present themselves as those wanting to help others.

Of course

there are those who come both to help and to seek help as they grow in their marriages.



With so many differing needs and goals, we find it interesting and challenging to seek effective ways to address everyone's needs. However, there is always a special connection as we enter into God's realities and breathe His presence – as reported by many attendees. During these conferences, many individual conversations occur where we hear stories and specific questions allowing us to touch each others lives in a significant way.

### **KOLIN CHURCH VISIT**

During this marriage seminar and Sunday sermon, we shared about the three levels of conflict in which we recognized that ordinary, often trite, stalemates often persisting for years, indicate deeper hidden problems. Exploring those underlying streams and seeking real solutions offers the opportunity for couples to look more deeply into their misunderstandings and find open routes to increased intimacy. This allows the couple to see one another not as a threat but as a needy being. Mutual trust can begin to be built.

### **FAMILY**

We were thankful to have had Jana with us for Easter and Kristyna with us from Thailand by skype. It was wonderful to enjoy each other's company as we sat around our fireplace! We look forward to having visits from both of our girls this summer!

Thank you for so faithfully walking with us in prayer and support. We do not take your care and provision lightly!

Pavel and Julka