



parakletos

Dear Friends,

We have just finished our fall series of lectures, seminars and conferences. The fall is the time for conferences here. During this fall season we had quite a few speaking opportunities. The size of them ranged from 20 to 250 people.

Lately, when we looked at the pictures from one of those conferences, we realized how we still find it amazing that we can live in a free country where Christians can organize such meetings officially and legally. When we look back to the communist time in our country, when we had different underground meetings, we were never quite sure what might happen. It is now so much different. The meetings in the past were much smaller and with safety procedures to prevent problems with the secret police. I remember one such meeting in the apartment of one of our church elders who himself spent some time in prison for his faith. We were probably about 12 people. After we ended, we left in groups of two or three so as not to attract unwelcomed attention. We were never sure who was watching.

We still find it so exciting that we can openly teach the truth and proclaim Christ in whatever area of life. Anybody can hear, learn and grow. We have no real restrictions except those which are inside of us. We only wish that we would be able to do more to spread the Good News which can transform every area of lives.

MINISTRY NEWS

FAMILY CONFERENCE

We were the main speakers at a family conference in the Slovak mountains. There were about 250 participants, predominantly young families. The theme was Seeking Father, we as earthly fathers and our need and hunger for fathers. Gradually we shifted our attention to the only one who can be a real Father to us, the Heavenly Father. As C. S. Lewis said, "The fact that we feel thirsty is an evidence that there is somewhere water which can quench our thirst."

It was a rather challenging conference because the conference was not meant just

for fathers, but for a diverse group of men and women of varying positions, ages, education, professions, and spiritual journeys. There were not only Christians but



"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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seekers and other people who either came for the topic or for relationships. The conference was purposefully evangelistic.

The final response was overwhelming even for us. People were deeply touched. There was complete silence and the auditorium was fully attentive. God obviously used the theme to touch a hidden longing for God. Interestingly, whatever experience with father we had, it only points to something much greater. It discloses our need for the Eternal Father.

EVANGELISTIC INTIMACY SEMINAR

Again and again we observe men and women with no church background coming to seminars that deal with relationships and intimacy. We had the opportunity to speak at one such seminar in Prague in early November. Just to outline the biblical

perspective on close relationships seems to open eyes and bring new understanding to personal experience. As intimacy is one of our deep needs,

that need is also touched. We can usually recognize those whose hearts have gradually melted. Naturally, we then bring attention to God and our need for him. It is a privilege to bring



the Gospel to those who became, by the Holy Spirit, already open.



SUPPORT OF PASTORS

This year we decided to change our strategy in working with pastors. Instead of working with a wide range of people and responding to many needs, we are focusing on a smaller group of church leaders. Also, in the past, we worked more intensely with a few so just the proportion has changed. We attempt to focus on positive development and try to support personal growth. The meetings are more frequent and are initiated by us. Somehow it happened that three of those pastors are presidents of main evangelical denominations.

In working with those men, we are very often deeply touched by their honesty, faithfulness, and perseverance. It is precious to see their hearts for God and devoted servanthood. Mostly we are those who are encouraged, challenged, and strengthened by those friendships.

FAMILY

Both of our girls plan to be home for Christmas. We look forward to being together. As we usually see them twice a year, it is a very special time for all of us.

Kristyna had a quite busy schedule in Thailand, and Jana has a busy job in Manchester. So we all need rest, good food, and good sleep. We think we will have it!

We wish you a peaceful, joyful, and relaxing Christmas! Somehow the message of the angels "Peace on Earth" speaks to our hearts and not just our minds. We pray that you would be engulfed with God's peace and your homes would be filled with God's presence to that you can enjoy good food, warmth, and relationships as His gifts!

Thank you very much for your prayers and support!
Merry Christmas!
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