



parakletos

Dear Friends,

Time runs quickly! The first quarter of the year has passed and in the midst of our everyday schedule we wish to stop and share with you our joys and prayer requests of the last few months. Overall it was a peaceful time and we were able to concentrate on our work both with individuals and speaking. Some changes also appeared in our lives.

Pavel's mom passed away in the beginning of January. It was both sad and a relief as, especially during the last three years while she was in a home for the elderly, we visited her every day. Physically she was cared for but it was more mental and psychological support we provided. Especially the last six months were very hard as her health and mental state deteriorated significantly. We are thankful to God that He gave us strength to carry that load. Our Christmas was also affected because it was obvious that those were the last days of her life. It was good that our girls were at home and they could say good-bye to their grandmother.

We find ourselves now in a new situation because we can use the time of everyday visits differently. Honestly, in the last few months we were just recovering. Now we have already started to focus on our non-believing friends. After we moved to our new town six years ago, especially Julka who is a very relational person, developed many new friendships with different types of people. We understand the Czech culture and know that such relationships grow slowly over time. But to our surprise, Czechs, who are considered one of the most atheistic people in the world, are very often seekers. The church has been discredited in their view, but on a personal level we find many opportunities to share our lives and have discussions about salient life issues. For us those discussions are closely related to the gospel.

Evangelism has always been in our hearts and many of our seminars are pre-evangelistic. In churches we always encourage that seminars be accessible to non-believing visitors. Now we have more time for building intentionally personal relationships.

THE LOCAL CHURCH

Pavel has been an elder for the past four years in our church in Vysoke Myto. As the term ended, Pavel decided not to candidate for the next term. We now see our place rather in supporting

roles for other leaders. During the last period there was opposition to Pavel's direction on a theological ground. The opposition is constituted by very few people, but now we feel that the church needs to mature and decide

"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

which direction they want to go. We can only assist them and encourage what we consider to be a healthy direction. We do not want to do so from a position of power but rather we choose to be moral spiritual authorities. We pray that the new elders will have discernment and wisdom to do what is right.



SEMINARS

Starting with the beginning of February, we had a series of seminars, mostly in churches, on various marriage and relational topics. Marital conflict and the role of emotions in a close relationship were the predominant themes. We also spoke about the need for intimacy and the characteristics of an intimacy literate couple.

One whole day conference was devoted to pastoral care education and training for several churches from one region. It was really a basic training. There were pastors, elders, other ministry leaders, and interested

lay individuals in attendance. A very strange thing happened during a break. A lady who seemed mentally challenged approached Pavel. She told him that she was deeply touched by what had been said and went on to share the struggles of her life. The training was at a basic level but it also required an understanding of some rather complex intellectual and relational concepts. Pavel took it as one the greatest compliments he had ever received when the lady sensed a certain level of human touch together with the work of the Holy Spirit even though she may not have gotten a perfect understanding of the rationale for the complicated theories.



SUPPORT FOR PASTORS

We continued to meet regularly with a selected group of pastors. For convenience we do part of those meetings by skype. Apart from those regular meetings we get frequent requests for one-time consultations when a pastor is dealing with an uneasy situation or making a significant decision. Those might be pastors with whom we had been working in the past or new pastors.

Also, Julka has been more involved with pastors' wives. Sometimes those contacts are more frequent than Pavel's with pastors.

FAMILY

We both Kristyna and Jana were home for Christmas, and we have been in regular touch. Jana had some health problems but the tests showed nothing serious.

Kristyna is considering leaving Thailand for some additional theological and missiology education. She is exploring options in the UK and in the US. That would require some additional funds for which we are praying.

Thank you very much for your 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.

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