



parakletos

Dear Friends,

In the midst of this corona crisis we would like to send you some news about us and our ministry. We think of each of you and pray for the Lord's special protection during this difficult time!

We are well and sensed God's mercy in the fact that our girls were able to get home at the end of March. Both their schools changed to online courses so they no longer had to stay in the UK. They can finish their programs from the Czech Republic.

Immediately after they arrived, they were quarantined. A few days later they were tested for the corona virus. Kristýna tested positive and Jana negative, and so we isolated Kristýna. She was not very well and we missed face to face contact, which was difficult for all of us. After the first several difficult days her physical symptoms receded for which we thank God. Overall she did not suffer from the most complicated version of the virus. We could not have much contact with Jana either because, at that point, we had not been tested so were unaware if we were contagious.

The way we functioned at home was rather funny because we just gave the girls food and picked up the dishes. We cleaned everything carefully and communicated only via internet. It was a bit fatiguing because every simple procedure took much longer. We had to clean house every day, and had a special procedure for laundry. But in the end, in spite of all the difficulties, we had a lot of fun as well.

After three weeks Kristýna was tested again twice and we all were tested as well. All the results were negative. We started to live normal lives. It was a real joy to be at the table together and celebrate the end of our quarantine. Just to be able to see and touch and be in one room together became very special for us.

We are sure that life changed significantly for most of you as well. This unprecedented time presents us with many challenges. We all learn to trust our God in a new way when we face existential uncertainties, anxieties, health worries, and quarantine restrictions.

PRE VIRUS PERIOD

The first ten weeks of this year were filled with seminars and teaching in churches. Our schedule was quite full as is usually the case at that time of the year. The topics covered a variety of marital issues, church conflict, and integration of theology and psychology. With increased frequency we are asked to speak on aging.

How to age well has become a theme in high demand. Several of those weekend church visits included Pavel giving a sermon on Sunday morning.

We thoroughly enjoy contact with diverse audiences and the personal conversations during breaks or even longer, private,

"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 and marital counseling, teaching, and mentoring.
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asked-for discussions. People usually open up about themselves and often are on the brink of making serious decisions. Sometimes they are just seeking direction and wish to better understand what they are going through and what they should do about the situation.



We usually stay with one family – sometimes the pastor's family, and other times with a family from the church. Each such visit offers a special time with the family. We have an opportunity to get to know each other much more closely and often have meaningful conversations. With many of those people we develop long-term friendships.

For our ministry, those visits provide rich insight into family, marital, relational, and personal needs and concerns people deal with. We can then offer help by addressing those issues at seminars and encourage discussion on those relevant topics. We can then draw on resources from the Bible as well as professional knowledge. Even simply describing issues often helps,

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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 – please note change of address: LeadingEdge, PO Box 27, Strasburg, OH 44680 for Parakletos. Online giving at: <https://www.leadedge.org/parakletos>.

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

people to identify what they are facing. That is what we have been doing in the last years.

IN THE MIDST OF THE VIRUS CRISIS

Except for one seminar, which was postponed, we accomplished what we planned right before the CZ government introduced emergency restrictions. For April and May we planned to focus on writing, designing new seminars, and working with pastors. The quarantine, therefore, changed very little in our plans. We just find even greater opportunities to be in connection with many people, pastors, and others we have been working with by skype or phone. People need encouragement and some human contact. They always appreciate when we contact them. Churches are closed so many of them are grounded at home or have home office. They have more time but also deal with very new situations. Of course, we even save travel time. We usually speak with several people a day, and those conversations tend to be very meaningful.

Mostly we just help pastors to process their new reality. Some of them are learning new skills as they homeschool their children. Others face challenges in ministry or seek new opportunities to reach out to needy individuals and families. Many churches have online services and keep the community communication going via internet. We strive to offer personal support and encouragement and find that our mutual relationships are being strengthened in this time of crisis.



ANOTHER BOOK

Pavel is in the process of writing another book, one about emotions in marriage. In the last years, it came up as one of those areas of need with which we see marriages struggling. In the book there will be a part about individual emotions and how they impact marriages.

In this time of crisis we want you to know you are in our prayers. We may not be able to see you face to face, but we pray for God's protection and safety. We trust that our good Lord has every detail of your present and future in His hands!

Thank you very much for your prayers and support!
Pavel and Julka Raus