

Parakletos News Letter August 2022

Parakletos Ministry

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 counselling, teaching, and mentoring.
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Dear Friends,

Lately Julka spoke with one lady with whom she has been meeting for several years. She was encouraged because that lady told Julka that her son who was going through a rough period is now getting out of it. She was greatly appreciative that he was meeting regularly with one pastor whom he respects. He was helped a lot by that pastor.

Julka did not tell her but it was especially encouraging for us because Pavel has been having regular meetings with that pastor for quite some time. That pastor has grown a lot in the last years and has now a successful ministry in his church and with many young people outside that church.

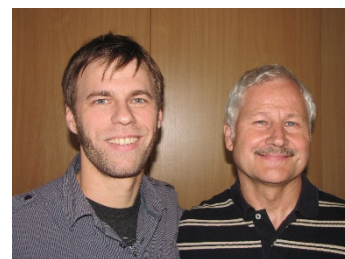
It is always rewarding to see how God works in the life of one person and then through that person in lives of many more people. Even though the multiplication model may be overly simplistic, it also represents God's amazing way to reach many through the transformed life of one individual. It gives a lot of joy to see one person making progress. It gives much more joy to observe manifold fruit of the Gospel in the lives of many others. It does not often happen that we can observe that fruit but when it happens, we see God's glory visibly.

During the last months covid restrictions were gradually withdrawn so that from June there were virtually none. We therefore were busy with many different speaking endeavours. Especially encouraging was to begin to work with one fast growing church for millennials. We had a seminar for new parents, a timely need for them.

We would like though in this letter to focus on our ministry to pastors and Christian leaders and their wives. And we thought that the best way is to share with you their own feedback.

Some of the Christian leaders' comments:

“Pavel and Julka have been like adoptive parents for us. As a pastor I deal with problems which I cannot share even with my wife. It is invaluable to open them with someone I can trust. Whenever there is anything that I need advice from someone, Pavel is willing to listen and provide an impartial perspective. Many times that saved me. Pavel has a special gift of listening and then posing a stimulating question which I usually ponder on for some time. Thanks to him I discovered my inner world and I started to learn how to manage it so that I was able to increase my self-control. Pavel and Julka have been directly or indirectly in most of our accomplishments and not many people had such an impact on us as the two of them.”



“When we first met, we were in a difficult position. We were unable to look at our situation objectively. It was only after our discussion with you that we began to scrutinise reality. I

very much appreciate your impartial perspective. I never had the feeling that you were on my or on the other side. You asked questions which I had not considered, and that helped me to detect unhealthy aspects in my or the other party's position. I especially appreciate that you led us to biblical principles drawn from Scriptures. At the end we reached a resolution that we would not have managed on our own."

"Pavel and Julka create safety, a place of trust for us. We can disclose very openly our successes and our failures and we know that they do not judge. Quite the contrary, we obtain a kind and wise insight into our condition. In the midst of a pastor's stresses it is more precious than gold. They have been an inspiration and endless encouragement but also a stimulus for us to work on ourselves. Our physical family is very distant but we experience Pavel and Julka's almost parental love for us."

"I have been planning to write to you for some time. I wish to thank you. For an important period in my life you were going alongside me, patiently helping me during very hard internal battles. This year I will celebrate tenth wedding anniversary with my wife and I really appreciate my wife as a great gift from God. We have a flourishing and growing ministry and a great family. I feel gratitude and satisfaction on a deep level. I want you to know that God greatly used you in our lives!"

"We also started discipleship Bible study with two couples. That has been very rewarding for us and for them"

"When you suggested that we can study Bible together, honestly, I saw no need. Only not to show myself impolite I agreed. But it turned out to be exactly what me and my wife needed. We were so focused in our Christian ministry on helping others that we completely neglected our own real Christian life. Now we know how salient that is!"

Autumn Plans

Because the situation in the future months is rather unpredictable, we have plans for several seminars, even a big conference. In recent years we learned to be flexible. But we hope for in-person meetings. When the needs are there, also manageable means will be found.

Family

At the end of June we both contracted covid. It took us two weeks to recover and we still suffer from some post-covid symptoms. We also have been more involved in taking care of Julka's mother. We were with her in May and we plan to have her in our home in August and September. Even though such commitments limit us, we trust God that he has plan to use us even with those limitations.

Thank you for standing with us! Thank you for your prayers and support!

Pavel and Julka Raus