



# parakletos

Dear Faithful Friends,

Warm greetings to each of you from the Czech Republic! Spring has come with evidences of new life all around us. As you enjoy the works of His hands, may you rejoice in the new life He has created in you!

In this newsletter, two very different periods of ministry will be shared – one filled with news of seminars, conferences, and church. The other period has been one of struggle due to Pavel's health issues caused, in part, by exhaustion and burn out leading to *involuntary* inactivity. What started with a bad virus led to Pavel's being completely exhausted. Our schedule this last year has been extremely demanding – filled with ministry work, remodeling a house, and caring for both of our mothers....each one bringing joy in and of themselves. In addition, our church needed strong leadership in several areas, one being the selection of a new pastor. Pavel played a significant role on some of the boards of Christian organizations he is a part of. That, plus the role of church elder and responsibilities at the theological seminary seem to have been too much. We are so thankful for the gradual recovery Pavel is making while aware that there is a long way to go. WE COVET YOUR PRAYERS!

## MINISTRY NEWS

### THEOLOGICAL SEMINARS

God used two of the seminary courses in a very special way! Some students who successfully completed the *Marriage and Family* course registered to attend the class again by auditing it for their personal benefit. This rarely happens in the Czech Republic! AND – after completing *The Role of Fathers*, many students sent personal emails for after the class ended as they dealt with the issues stirred up by the class.

### PASTORAL CARE

Because there are gifted servants who seem to draw those with struggles, a need exists for these servants to be encouraged and supported as they cultivate their gifts. In a family style environment, Pavel was blessed to equip a small group of these servants

through the sharing of experiences and discussion on the best interventions for problems they encounter.

The positive and negative roles of family in the formation of functional and dysfunctional patterns was discussed in depth. It was a joy to see the movement from theological information to personal stories as involved and attentive participants listened and supported one another.

### EVANGELICAL SEMINARS

Churches across the country are now frequently hosting evangelistic seminars on relationships. Because relationships are important to everyone,



“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](http://www.parakletos-cz.org); [parakletos@volny.cz](mailto:parakletos@volny.cz)



non-believers are attracted to these programs. As they try to understand what is happening in their relationships, an opportunity is provided to share

the Christian perspective on relationships which leads to an open door to share the gospel. It is our prayer that the unchurched will understand that Christianity is about their relationships and their everyday concerns.

The hosting church had no previous experience with this type of seminar but was seeking ways to reach out. Their expectations were rather low. On top of that, their denomination distrusts psychology including Christian counseling. What a blessing to see their positive surprise upon seeing the peoples response! Not only have they discovered a new method of reaching out to the community, but they have an opportunity to better understand the struggles and concerns of those in their congregation.

### INTERNET IMPACT ON PARAKLETOS

The following is one of the many emails we have received as a result of a man hearing one of our lessons on the internet.

“Your lectures gave me answers to some of my questions. In fact, in my soul I started to talk with you. I sensed that you

#### **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

understand me because you described exactly what I feel. Realizing that I have struggled to find someone that can understand me, that is a lot.”

Most of these emails come from those who find themselves in desperate situations and are touched by some of our online programs. Some want advice, some have already begun to internally build a connection with us. We now realize we have begun playing a role in their lives without even being aware of it. The following is one of the many emails we have received as a result of a man hearing one of our lessons on the internet.

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## Prayer Requests

- \* We truly covet your prayers for Pavel's continued recovery.
- \* Please pray for all the details involved in the move to our new home in June as well as His peace in our hearts.
- \* Pavel needs strength to manage the responsibilities of summer ministries including an English camp in which he will play a significant role.
- \* We need His wisdom, direction and discernment as we make decisions regarding changes in our ministry work as we move forward.

As always, we cannot thank you enough for your continued support both prayerfully and financially.

Pavel and Julka Raus