



parakletos

WARM CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO EACH OF YOU!

During this Advent and Christmas season our prayer is that you will be filled with His great joy and peace. May God fill your hearts with thankfulness for His free, yet priceless, gift of salvation, and may we all see His glory in the One who came and is coming again!

MINISTRY UPDATES

How thankful we are for your faithful prayers, encouragement and support that have enabled us to minister to so many by His strength and guidance. Since Oct. 1 we had 27 conferences and seminars (which represent a total of 63 individual lectures). To God be the glory! In addition, we continue ministering through mentoring and counseling numerous couples and individuals both during the conferences and throughout the week. While we stand in amazement at all He is doing, we cherish the times we can spend at home without travel, using the time to reflect, renew and reenergize.



BULGARIAN NAVIGATORS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We were invited to speak at a Navigators conference in Bulgaria with the main emphasis being "Discipleship Marriage". We talked about emotions, both in individual lives and in marriage. We discovered that, while Bulgaria and the Czech Republic are both Slavic nations with recent histories of communist rule, Bulgarians tend to express their emotions much more spontaneously

than Czechs. This was a completely new context for us, calling for complete humility and dependence on Him as we taught. Gradually effective communication grew, leading to quite a few couples asking for individual meetings during the breaks. One participant shared this response - "I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for sharing your time, hearts and lives with us at the conference. Many of the concepts and ideas you shared were profound. I keep thinking about them and discussing them with my husband."

Economically, Bulgarians struggle more than those in our country. In many ways we felt we were taken back to the Czech Republic of the 1990's. However, we were touched by their honest desire to grow spiritually. One evening after the closing session, a group of participants asked Julka and me to sit with them as they asked many honest questions for which they sought sincere answers. Those dear brothers and sisters remain deeply in our hearts and prayers.

"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.

FAMILY CONFERENCE

For the sixth time we were invited to speak at the 12th Family Conference in Roznov, a small town in the eastern part of the Czech Republic, organized by an evangelical Czech Lutheran denomination. How thankful we are for the ongoing relationship with this group! This year's theme was "Adversaries Into Allies" - the title of Pavel's book about marital conflict.



Attention grabbing introductory video clips shown before each lecture proved to be very effective. In addition to the main lectures, we held several seminars, with Julka's "The Heart of a Woman" being very popular and successful. She even had several men participating! Lively discussions took place and many positive responses were given in response to these seminars.

ETC

A wide range of other speaking engagements for churches and Christian organizations working on church

development, or being held as an outreach, took place this fall.

- a lecture was given on self love at a Christian Academy
- seminars were given on change in marriage, parenting, marital conflict, preventing divorce, multigenerational families, the church

Weekends saw us traveling across the country to minister. As a result, we have gotten to know many churches and people, now old and new friends. We treasure our ability



to interact with so many about the issues of such importance in spreading the gospel in our country, and communicating with such a wide range of

people from varied backgrounds about how to live out the Christian life as Christ followers in today's world.

Every conference, seminar, mentoring and counseling session led us to complete reliance on the Lord's power. At one point, Pavel was struck by a tough flu bug that affected his voice. God was faithful in allowing him to complete the seminar, with no one even noticing a difference. Praise God for His intervention on Pavel's behalf! In truth, each of us needs to daily live in total reliance on Him.

FAMILY

Thank you for upholding our family in prayer. He is faithful!

- Jana has a new job with a Prague law firm in an administrative role which perfectly fits her gifts of order and organization.
- Kristyna, after much prayer and time spent seeking His will, has decided to become a missionary in Thailand where she will work with a mission group from the Philippines in the city of Chang Mai. We covet your prayers on her behalf as few missionaries are sent from the Czech Republic so little support is offered. Prayers for safety, health, provision and adjustment for her (and her parents!) would be most appreciated as she prepares to move to Thailand in January.

We count it a blessing to have each of you on our ministry support team. Thank you!

His richest blessings to you and yours as you celebrate the miracles of His birth, His life, and His redemptive work on the cross,

Pavel and Julka Raus

www.parakletos-cz.org; parakletos@volny.cz

For financial support from the US you can send tax deductible contributions to Bridge to Life Ministries, PO Box 5024, Muskegon, MI 49445. 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

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