



parakletos

Greetings Friends of Parakletos,

Praying your summer has been filled with relaxing, refreshing times spent with family and friends! We, too, have been enjoying the slower summer pace after a busy and productive spring. As our partners, we delight in reporting to you how God is working in and through Parakletos.

HOME MINISTRY

- This spring allowed us more time to enjoy the home God blessed us with, spend quiet times together, and build deeper relationships in our church home.
- People here enjoy being together so, building on that, we organized a church luncheon on a Sunday in May for anyone interested. We were happily surprised when 60 people signed up! More fellowship times will be taking place in the future!

PARAKLETOS AT WORK

YOUTH MINISTRY

- Julia led a seminar on relationships between men and women – an important topic for all young people. Many here have grown up in homes where the relationship between parents are unhealthy. While these young people desire good marriages, they are also afraid.
- As a result of the seminars, Julia is meeting regularly with one woman and has developed a network for all the women she works with.



SEMINARS FOR PASTORS



- One of the seminars was on the sensitive topic of sexual purity having been chosen by some courageous pastors who understand the seriousness of dealing with this issue. We defined what sexual purity is and what it looks like and sought practical ways to prevent pastor from failing in this area which would have saliently detrimental consequences for them and for their churches.



"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.

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- God's plan for healthy sexuality was also part of the discussion.
- One of the very involved pastors commented that – “This was a very new perspective on sexuality. Can we learn more about it”
- Another participant was surprised and impressed by Pavel's honesty in admitting he did not have an answer for a specific question, which freed this pastor from the guilt of believing he needed to have ALL the answers.
- Another seminar was a three day training session in marital counseling for pastors requested by the denomination's leaders who realized the great need for pastors to be equipped for one of the greatest cultural needs today – helping struggling marriages – theirs and those of their congregations. Much like America, there is little difference



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

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between marriages of those trusting Christ as their Savior and those who do not. Culturally, marriages are in a state of disintegration. People do not realize what the questions are making it impossible to seek biblical answers.

- We spent three intense days attempting to set theological foundations for marriage and family into the context of the social trends around us.
- Discussions were held to clarify how close, intimate relationships work and how emotions should be shared, an area of need for many Czech marriages.
- Time was spent discussing ways to help marriages in the church – those struggling and those seemingly in tact in need of positive investments in their relationships.

Both seminars are a part of the Parakletos program, Pastors Retreat Center.

PASTOR RETREATS

Six retreats – two couples in the spring and four this summer – have been very positive, individually designed to focus on the needs of each couple. The needs range from time for rest, marital enrichment, and specific personal/family needs.

Family

- Kristyna seems to be doing well in Thailand in spite of experiencing an earthquake and a military coup.
- She helped organize, and participated in, several conferences and seminars.
- Language study and the development of deeper relationships with the Thai people keep her busy.
- We enjoy skyping with her as we eagerly anticipate her return home towards the end of the year.
- Jana works in Prague and then travels home for most weekends allowing her to be somewhat involved in our church.

PLEASE KNOW HOW GRATEFUL WE ARE FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP!

Your faithful prayers and financial support enable Parakletos to be His tool in reaching lives in the Czech Republic.

THANK YOU!

Pavel and Julka Raus