



# parakletos

Dear Friends,

After a busy fall, and with the year coming to an end, it is good to look back and share with ministry partners and friends those things for which we give thanks to our faithful God.

With our speaking schedule usually full a year in advance this fall was really busy. In October and November every weekend found us holding one or two different seminars. We decided to move during the summer because the increased rent was beyond our reach. On top of our normal weekly programs, we used the gaps in between commitments for packing, moving, and unpacking. We moved most of our things to our Vysoké Mýto apartment and the rest to a small apartment in Prague offered to us by one family from our church for just a basic cost as support for Parakletos. We managed to move over two months and on the last day of November we turned in the key to the old apartment.

We were exhausted but also happy and thankful. God gave us really nice weather for the move. In fact, it was the most beautiful fall in many years. We are also thankful for the strength He gave us to move and continue with ministry, and for friends who helped by loaning us a bigger car for parts of the move.

We really enjoy our new place in Vysoké Mýto. We just sit there overwhelmed by God's goodness to us. What a joy to have our own

place for the first time in our lives. It has been like the promised land that the Lord led us to.

The Prague apartment is nice and cozy for the two or three days a week we will spend in the city. It is actually large enough to enable us to hold meetings right there. It is an extra cost but we feel that it is good to keep our Prague activities going.

There is a good church in Vysoké Mýto with between 50 to 60 members, which for a small town of 12,000 in the Czech Republic is not bad. The church is somewhat charismatic with good people whom we like. We look forward to getting to know the church and people more. In fact, we have already been involved there in marital counseling and some mentoring. The people in the church seem to like us too. It was hard to say good bye to our Prague church but we are very excited about the new doors God is opening for us.

Overall we feel that God is leading us through some changes. We plan to continue in all that we have been doing by traveling between places. To be in a small town helps us to get a new perspective on the lives of most people in this nation. The mentality in that part of the country is different, and we will need to make some adjustments. However, we look forward to the new life experiences God is bringing our way.

"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

Parakletos exists to facilitate the church to be a safe, honest, and intimate place to meet, know, and grow in Christ and His Body through means of individual counseling, seminars, and mentoring.

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

## Seminars

We held thirteen different seminars during the last two months, ranging from individual lectures to weekend church visits with five meetings, to different topics during Friday to Sunday. It was great joy to meet all those people and share our lives with them. How precious to meet individuals and couples who told us about their life's struggles and encouragements during the break times. We feel that God is at work during the seminars but also in those brief encounters with dear men and women whom God was speaking to and who considered it important to tell us. We may not see them again but we know that they are in the Lord's hands and He will provide all they need. We especially remember such meetings with a lady in a church we visited who shared her burdens with us. We also remember a couple, whom



we met in the stairway during the Family Conference, who told us of their deep struggles and joys. The program was about to start but they could not stop. It was so important for them that we knew and understood.

## Retreat Center for Pastors and Christian Leaders

Because of our busyness we were not able to hold regular meetings with pastors for several weeks. It was encouraging to see their desire to continue with the meetings. They understood our situation but expressed hope that we would continue to work with them.



We realized it was a great need when Pavel met with one pastor he had not been able to see for some time. The pastor was very appreciative because he had been facing some very difficult issues in his church by himself. To share his feelings and thoughts was a relief for him.

The plan is to now start raising funds for the retreat center. We are planning some fundraising trips to the Czech Republic to give people an opportunity to see the need and consider support for the center. The first trip is being planned in September 2012.

For financial support from the US you can send tax deductible contributions to Bridge to Life Ministries, POBox 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](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

## Family

We look forward to having both our girls at home in Vysoké Mýto for Christmas. Pavel's mom lives just round the corner from us, so it will be wonderful to be together.

We wish you an Advent filled with the peace that comes from the One who was born for us, to save us from our sins. We also pray that your Christmas is truly joyful!

Thank you so very much for your prayers and support in 2011!

With deep appreciation,  
Pavel and Julia Raus