



# The Prague Christian Fellowship POST

Monthly Newsletter of the Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF

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Teodora Paligorova, PCF Teaching Team

## Kingdom War

We live in times of intensive wars. Only during the 20<sup>th</sup> century were there around 100 wars in which approximately 160 million people lost their lives. While wars were much more enigmatic in the past due to lack of information, today we watch conflict on the web almost immediately after it breaks out. Somehow it is difficult to stay impartial by what we see.

Nowadays we see all kinds of wars. Even though they look different, a common feature is that they all are "armed conflicts with opposing military forces". Of course, weapons differ, but it is clear that both pro and con sides are present.

There are many different kinds of wars. One type is economic. In the

last decades we have become aware of a large numbers of hostile takeovers where one firm formally takes control of another. There are also price wars, wars for market shares, etc.

It seems that the Bible does not remain silent about war. Warfare and bloodshed are described realistically from the time of sin's entrance into the human race (*Genesis 3*). The first great messianic prophecy (*Genesis 3:15*) announces hostility between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent. The great drama is accomplished by the seed of the woman conquering the seed of the serpent, ousting his control of the earth (*Revelation 6-19*), and helping establish the rulership of the King of kings and Lord of lords at His Second

Advent.

Taking an in-depth look, we can see that Israel at its exodus from Egypt went up "according to their armies," "arranged in five divisions," van, center, two wings, and rearguard (*Ewald*) (*Ex 6:26; 12:37,41; 13:18*). Jehovah as "a man of

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David Loula, KS pastor in Zdar nad Sazavou

## Czech Wells Series – Well of Worship

Editor's note: This is the 5th of 13 articles from a paper by David Loula. Continued next month.

**"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks"** (John 4:23).

**"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth"** (Psalms 96:1).

**"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips confessing his name"** (Heb 13: 15).

In the past, a new song has always been a sign of awakening. Wherever the Lord opened the heavens and poured out His blessing, new praise arose. Whenever human hearts were overcome by God's love, they were filled up with worship of Christ. Worship of God was expressed in new songs of love. These songs arose from an intimate relationship with the Lord in His sacred presence and reflected His grace, mercy, glorious character and deeds. A deep and profound knowledge of Jesus came through the words of the songs.

While singing people felt close to God and experienced heaven on earth. Atheists were also under the influence of praise and worship and many were converted. Worship of God opened up God's power on earth. When in Acts Paul and Silas were praying to God in prison, there was an earthquake and everyone's chains came loose. Likewise in the Czech lands, the Lord shook heaven and earth and everyone's chains of sin came loose, together with the softening of their hearts. When the church united in worship in spirit and truth, the heavens opened up and God's power transformed people's lives.

John Huss enjoyed singing and also encouraged others to do so. His fondness for chorus singing accompanying worship was criticized by his enemies as the church allowed just clergy to sing and that, only in Latin. The active participation of believers in worship posed a threat to the authority of the church and its servants, the clergy. In 1378 an ordinary Prague maid named Kathy, inspired by Milíč, composed and most likely sang

her own prayer. When it was brought to light, she was accused and investigated as if she had committed a crime. In Huss's period such manifestations of personal devotion could no longer be suppressed. Choruses became a natural part of everyday life. Songs praising God and His deeds resounded from houses and cottages whenever people worked together, not just on Sundays and holidays.

Christian songs were a great comfort in times of hardship. Victorious chorus singing encouraged the feeble. John Huss sang praises at the stake as did his friend Jeroným Pražský. The thunder of choruses put to flight sizeable armies of Czech enemies. God confused them and frightened them so they often gave up before the battle - thanks to God's great mercy. If only the Hussites hadn't so soon turned away from the Lord and His mercy.

Since its foundation, the Union of Brethren has stressed the importance of worship. It is documented in several songbooks including the hymn-books

# 2006 PCF

## ENGLISH CAMP

This report was translated from an article in the Úvaly City Newsletter

### ENGLISH SUMMER CAMP IN ÚVALY

For the sixth consecutive summer, English Camp took place in Úvaly during the week of August 14-18, 2006. The camp, a tremendous success with the kids, was organized by John and Kelsie Mullen. Great friends to the community in Úvaly, they have helped those of us who live here establish a traditional event each summer in our community outside of Prague.

Kelsie, John and their friends truly enjoy working with the young children in this town. The Mullens show the children the love of God through games and by telling stories from the Bible. New children as well as those who have attended in previous years came for five days of camp. This year some 50 children took part in the camp where they were transported back to the 'Wild, Wild West of the USA'. Various activities were prepared for the children with lots of time to practice English with native speakers. Games and contests, songs in English, and puppet shows were all part of the program as well. Needless to say, this camp was about having fun.

The children were divided into six groups in the camp: Apache warriors, Pocahontas, Sioux, Wild Horses, Sheriffs and Wild Angels. Wednesday was declared 'Wet Day'. We were lucky to have nice weather that day and the children donned their swim suits to participate in five wet events. The slope above the sports ground was turned into a slippery slide and proved to be the most popular of all the water activities. On Thursday the children came in costumes representing the 'Wild, Wild West' and a fashion show was put on for the whole camp to see. The camp was full of cowboys, cowgirls and Indians that day! On Friday the children and leaders spent the afternoon at the local swimming pool where the kids played games and then performed short skits that they had worked on during the week at camp for their parents and friends at the party. It was very difficult to decide which performance was the best, hence the reason for two winners – the Sheriffs with their play about bandits and cowboys and the group Wild Horses with their parody of Little Red Riding Hood called 'Little Red Indian Girl'. The winners were allowed to "attack" their leaders with water balloons and shaving cream, giving it their all in splattering their teachers. Throughout the week, the children had been awarded 'gold nuggets' for attendance, participation, and



good behaviour. The children then used this 'money' that Friday afternoon at the carnival to buy prizes and toys. There were also raffle prizes for the adults attending, including pass to a local gym, vouchers for a restaurant in Koloděje, a boat trip on the Vltava in Prague, DVDs about Intelligent Design and private English lessons. The evening was topped off with the Prague band "Day and Night" performing a mix of contemporary songs.

There were many who helped the Mullens with the preparation of the camp – native speakers from the USA and Australia and interpreters and helpers from Úvaly and Prague. Because the children spoke English at different levels, every leader had an interpreter who aided in language communication. Many thanks go to the Mullens and the volunteers from Úvaly – Atka Stenberg, Jana Mandová, Hanka Hoblíková, Jana Baumruková, Hance Saturková, Lucie Trávníčková and the "adopted" grandmother of Mullens, their neighbour Mrs. Jarmila Mandová. Also, thanks to the director of the Úvaly school, Mr. Jaroslav Březka and the swimming pool operators for sharing the premises with us for the camp. What a week! We can't wait till next year!!

Written by Lucie Trávníčková

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produced by the Brethren. Hymns were composed by leaders of worship – the masters, but also by ministers and ordinary people. In contrast to old songs, the newly composed songs manifested God in a new and fresh way. Of no lesser importance were the educational and informative aspects of Christian songs, not only because the Bible was rare to come by, but because there was still a considerable number of those who couldn't read. This is why the songs contained whole Biblical texts. Plus people found them easy to learn by heart. The choruses spread the Gospel and reminded the people of God's deeds of mercy. All the great Brethren – Lukáš Pražský, Jan Augusta, Jan Blahoslav and Jan Ámos Komenský composed songs. Jan Augusta, bishop of the Union was imprisoned in the year 1548 in a harsh prison in the Křivoklát castle for 16 years. He never despaired despite torture, interrogations and disease, but wrote books and composed songs. During all those years he composed 216 songs that he would sing to God.

Komenský also composed several songs and as he had a creative approach to the Czech language he adapted some Psalms in different poetic styles. In this short essay for his wife Madeline called 'Contemplation on Christian Flawlessness' he says, "*Finally, the one united with God likes to sing holy psalms and hymns rendering thanks with heart and voice, praising God constantly. If capable, he likes to compose songs for the glory of the Lord. This impassions his fervour and together with Saint David he says, 'I will praise God with all my being. I will sing Psalms as long as I am alive. I will mediate on him and I will rejoice in His presence.'*"

The strongest source of worship sprang from the resurrected Union of Brethren. The conversion of the aptly named 'Moravian Moses', Kristián David was what brought him into contact with the 'true worshippers'. Kristián, an apprentice carpenter, met secret evangelists in the Moravian town of Holešově where he worked. They were imprisoned in a town hall basement because of their faith. Kristián speaks about them in his biography.

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war" was at their head (*Ex 15:1,3; 13:20-22*) and under Him they won their first victory (*Ex 17:8-16*). In Joshua 5:13-6:5 Jehovah manifests Himself in human form as "the Captain of the host of the Lord."

It seems that Israel recognized the Lord as a man of war and Lord of hosts while engaged in the middle of their battles. So it is today! We can recognize the Lord as our personal commander who leads us from victory to victory *if and only if* we enter the battle. There is no victory without a war and knowing Him costs us being part of the battle. It is crucial to understand the nature of the battle. The Word of God says that we do not wage war as the world does (*II Corinthians 10:3*). Having in mind all the wars that the world wages, we have to understand that we are in a different kind of war.

The Lord's war has nothing to do with the wars of the world. Our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (*Ephesians 6:12*). Also the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ (*II Corinthians 10:4-5*).

There are five areas we see from the Bible where we are in conflict. The first is with the devil. Satan and his demons affect most of us. Their main purpose is to stop the purposes of God. James 4:7 urges us to submit to God, to resist the devil and he will flee from us (See 1 Peter 5:8).

The second area is the flesh. The flesh hinders us from obeying God. Galatians 5:24 states we should crucify our flesh each day. Apostle Paul tells us that he made his body a slave so that he could discipline it in order to win the race. It is worth mentioning that simple rules that restrict us are not necessarily helpful. With the Holy Spirit's help, we need to submit to our new-born spirit (the new man). Many people think that the flesh is something bad and fall into legalistic attitudes. This is not totally

true. The flesh, with our desires, emotions and personality were created by the Lord, but they were not meant to lead us in our way. Finally, the question is where the place of the flesh is. Are we led by the voice of the flesh or by the voice of the Holy Spirit?

The third area is our enemies. Many times evil spirits embed in individuals or groups of individuals collectively. Then they use these individuals to set themselves against God's covenant plan in a person's life.

The fourth area is the world. The world system is usually contrary to God's will. We are enemies of the world. The god of this world is controlling the world system. Though we are not part of this system, we still live in it. We have to understand the religious and governmental aspects of the worldly system in order to move forward in the world but to never be a part of it.

The fifth area is death. Death is our final enemy (*I Corinthians 15:26*). Jesus overcame death and through His Spirit we can also overcome (*Hebrews 2:14-15*).

Our fight comes from the complete incompatibility of our new-born man and the old man. In the world, people join a battle for many different reasons such as money, reputation, duty, belief in the cause and so on. The conflict in the kingdom of the Lord and the kingdom of darkness arises because as citizens of the first kingdom we think, desire and dream in complete opposition to the world, and there is no room for reconciliation. It is the same as with light and darkness, life and death. Mixing a little bit of both is impossible; there is either one or the other. Henceforth, we do not choose to fight or not - we are born into it. What we can choose, however, is how prepared we are in battle.

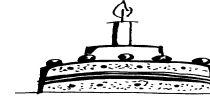
It is important to understand the timing of the battles that God calls us to war in. If we mistake the time, we will be in a serious danger of being outwitted by the enemy. This is exactly what happened to David. At the time he was supposed to enter into war, he fell into passivity and chose to stay home. Because he stayed home, he was not in the place God wanted him to be and the enemy took advantage of him and David encountered many needless struggles. There are times when we, like David, are called to war. We wage a war

against everything that tries to set itself against our destiny or our accomplishing our purpose here. Success means being at the right place at the right time, doing the right thing. When we are in this place, God's favor is upon us and we can see the true God-given desires and dreams of our hearts fulfilled. In order to be successful warriors we have to know in what war we are, if we are prepared for the war ahead, in what areas we need the most training, and if there are areas in our lives in which the enemy is outwitting us. ■



### PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) **Church Finances** – Please pray for provision to cover our expenses and wisdom in spending and giving.
- 2) **More laborers in the harvest /PCF** - Please pray for more leaders at PCF (Mullens are celebrating 10 years of ministry in Czech Republic in October) and IHOPP.
- 3) **Former PCF members involved with full-time ministry** such as David & Linda Snell, Sam & Rosalee Ewell, Steve & Emma Gower, and Roger & Robin Harsh for God's total provision and protection in their lives. **"Always keep on praying for all the saints." (Eph. 16:18)**



### Upcoming Birthdays

The following PCF members past and present will be having birthdays this summer.

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Jacob Kropf         | September 1  |
| Dave Hein           | September 3  |
| Eric Steiner        | September 6  |
| Darina Sedlačková   | September 6  |
| Petra Holubová      | September 12 |
| Nancy Effinger      | September 15 |
| Lincoln Sposaro     | September 16 |
| Zhanna Khimishinets | September 17 |
| Teirany Mehaffy     | September 18 |
| Jack Reinhardt      | September 21 |
| Kamil Dětky         | September 24 |
| Sylvia Apodaca      | September 24 |
| David Lubwama       | September 26 |
| Robin Harsh         | September 30 |



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*“There were numerous honest people in the town whose hearts searched for God, praised Him and secretly gathered to worship Him. These secret gatherings were discovered, as well as prohibited books they secretly owned and as result 12 men were imprisoned in the town hall basement. They didn’t lament their captivity, but kept a joyful and good mood, sang and prayed to the living God day and night so sincerely that many who listened to them were touched as they could hear them through a hole in the basement. Many people gathered often. Some cursed them but most listeners were reduced to tears.”*

Kristián David was one of those listening from the street. After a period of deep wrestling, he came to know God for himself. In order to preserve his inner peace and conscience he decided to leave his homeland and serve God without restraint. The Saxon Earl Zinzendorf received him in his earldom and allowed him to build a settlement called Herrnhut. From the year 1722 Kristián brought hundreds of people there.

Since the famous Pentecost in 1727, Herrnhut was literally inebriated with new song. A spirit of praise and worship wrapped the community like a cloud. People sang to the Lord in gatherings at home or at work. The Herrnhut corps was orderly, hard working and prayed day and night. There was no segregation of religious and secular life, nor private and social. Only the period from 11:00 PM to 4:00 AM was reserved for rest and sleep. Every hour of this time was announced by a song and those on prayer watch stayed awake and prayed.

The earnest spiritual life of the Herrnhut people also took the form of ‘singstunde’ – singing classes. Singstunde was founded by the Earl himself who took great joy in them. The Christians gathered every evening for evening prayer (vespers). They usually started with singing general praise songs and then went on to singing verses on a particular topic.

Single brothers had evening prayers on the village streets. There were a variety of songs as new songs were always being composed. The Earl actively supported those whom he regarded as gifted composers. He did so by presenting a subject matter for a possible song to several people. The people then gathered and compared their results. These gatherings often brought new inspiration and gave birth to new songs.

So what happened to the Well of Worship? Did it dry out? Or did the enemy fill it up with stones and dust? Is it possible to restore it and purify it so that fresh waters spring out to refresh God, the earth and its people? God is looking for true worshippers who will worship Him in spirit and truth. Not with words (form and ceremony), nor dishonesty and superficiality, but with spirituality and truth. The Lords seeks for those who will become the praise of His glory (Eph 1:12), those who will open up the sources of passionate, loving worship. If He finds them, He will rejoice and flood the earth with His blessing and His glory will fill the earth as the waters fill the sea. Where will they go, those who restore the springs of worship in our country? The Lord will show them the way. The enemy has thrown a large piece of rock in the purified well. The rock is half-heartedness and being satiated with the excesses of the world. If a Christian says, “I am rich. I have everything and I have no more need,” he has closed up the spring of worship in his heart. The Lord replies, “Awake and repent.” It is evident that hardship, poverty, suffering and persecution didn’t muddy the well, but by contrast worldly passion, excess, wealth and security did. Whenever the church was under pressure, it resounded with praise more than in calmer periods. Thank God for peaceful times, but it is necessary to rely on God’s mercy, and not on the false peace provided by the addictions of the world around us.

Another stone in the well is pragmatism. If arguing replaces the revelation of the Lord as well as His character and acts, we perhaps have the right knowledge of God, but our souls become indifferent to Him. True praise doesn’t rise from

the mind, but from the heart. There is a big difference in knowing and admitting that God is good and having an overpowering experience of the revelation of God’s goodness in one’s heart. It is necessary to remind oneself of God’s acts and creation, to remember the holiness of the Lord and His promises and to live in His presence. The human soul will then surely rejoice when the Lord confides His secrets in it. **“The Lord confides in those who fear him”** (Psalms 25:14).

The third stone is human fame. Those who love it don’t want to give it up and worship God in truth. King David gave it up and danced half naked in joy in the presence of God for everyone to see. He wasn’t ashamed of the Lord. It was the other way around – God was his pride and grace. He didn’t mind that his wife Michal despised him in her heart (II Sam 6). Likewise the twenty four elders did as David had done when they laid down their crowns and fame proclaiming, **“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being”** (Rev 4:11). Let us do the same. ■

| <b>PCF Finances</b> |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| June 2006           |                            |
| <b>+41051</b>       | <b>Total Income</b>        |
| 3915                | Internet & Communications  |
| 5,000               | Office Rent & Electricity  |
| 8,500               | Church Rent                |
| 3750                | Supplies & Equipment       |
| 540                 | Copying & Publishing       |
| 19709               | Salaries/Employer Tax      |
| 0                   | Evangelism & Teaching      |
| 13130               | Church Giving              |
| 838                 | Fees & Advertising         |
| 488                 | Miscellaneous              |
| <b>-55,870</b>      | <b>Total Expenses</b>      |
| <b>-14,819</b>      | <b>Net Income</b>          |
| <b>23,594</b>       | <b>Current Liabilities</b> |

*All amounts shown are in Czech Crowns.*

PCF Bank Info:  
Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF,  
ČSOB a.s., Kamenická 26, Prague 7  
Account No. 181730394/0300  
Variable symbol: 10261  
Contact Tomáš Landovsky for assistance  
+420606787121

Should you have a testimony to share please email us. The deadline is September 20, 2006.