



The Prague Christian Fellowship POST

Monthly Newsletter of the Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF

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Richard Emereoha, PCF Member

Remnants of Godly Virtues

As believers, people of God and seekers of the promised kingdom, we face battles daily. Now you may have faced one battle that led you to throw up your hands in defeat, causing you to give in, only attending church and carrying on "business as usual." Worse still, you may have become a "contented sinning churchgoer." Some of you might have stopped feeling the touch of God's spirit, feeling empty and dry.

Romans 8.14 warns "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

Maybe we've gone so far that the word of God doesn't touch our hearts anymore. Perhaps our prayers don't seem to be changing anything. Does it matter to us at all? Do we hide under the pretense that we are saved by grace, that salvation is the free gift of God? The

question remains: are we content with that type of Christianity?

In Matthew 5.20 we hear Jesus warn: "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Professing the Christian faith has no meaning and gathers no fruit when we are not fed and led by the Spirit. It is a pity that materialism seems to have replaced spiritualism. Comfort, prayers, and waiting on the Lord have been erased from our spiritual diaries. Study of the Word is not longer exciting and fascinating.

In Luke 10.40-42 Jesus reminds us, as in the case of Mary and Martha, "one thing is needful," the Word: hearing the Word; meditating on the Word; praying

the Word; living the Word. Mary chose the Word, and it "shall not be taken away from her."

There are things we need to remind ourselves about God's past blessings to us individually.

On that blessed day you accepted the Lord, the very thing you found marvelous and fascinating was God's love. His mercies, his existence, his wonderful works. Those things that exposed the reality of God's word. Praise and worship revived our sinful, sickly hearts and lifted our burdens, as promised in Matthew 11.28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that . . . are heavy laden, and I will give you rest . . . my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Those choruses and songs that draw us closer to the throne of grace, the bed-
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John & Kelsie Mullen, PCF Pastors

PCF Leadership Team

We would like to honour the leaders of PCF and introduce them to you. Pastors, elders and other leaders serve the Body of Christ and are given to the Church as gifts from God! What are the qualifications to be on the leadership team? You must have a relationship with the Lord and be leading something! It is not an elite club of super-spiritual people, but rather humble servants who want to glorify God! God is seeking those who will lead His Church in humility and honour, those who will "stand in the gap" for those who are struggling, and who will see others with God's eyes. Here they are:

John and Kelsie Mullen (pastors) – John oversees all ministries in PCF and leads two home groups. His passion in ministry is to see others released into the ministry, confident in their spiritual gifts and callings, and effective in blessing the Body. He also loves to help

support other pastors by leading a monthly prayer/fellowship group and preaching when needed. He also serves on the board for the International House of Prayer Prague (IHOPP), and the board for the Christian International School of Prague (treasurer). Kelsie was also a founder of the IHOPP, leads the Thursday night IHOPP team, coordinates the NightWatch008, and co-leads the Úvaly English Camp. They network with believers all over the world for the sake of the kingdom and this nation.

Jan Kupidlovský and Dawn Custalow (treasurer and elder) – Jan and his wife, Dawn, have 2 sons; Joseph and James (in the adoption process). Jan is a faithful man who is loved by all. He was baptized by John in 2003 and recently began helping with the communication between the church accountant and the rest of the Body. Dawn is an educator and communicator who leads others with great compassion

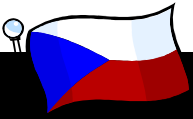
and openness. Her passion is bringing others into intimacy with Christ and deeper intimacy in our relationships. She is a blessing to many in their "life journeys." Dawn currently serves as both a home group leader and an elder of the church. She also plays a big role in our PCF retreats, the worship team, and helps in the editing of the PCF Post.

Dan Drapal (home-group leader and Pastor Emeritus) - Dan is retired from full-time ministry, sort-of. He founded the KS denomination to which PCF
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What's Inside?

- ◆ Family Profile – Šebestovych Family
- ◆ PCF Birthdays
- ◆ PCF Financial Update
- ◆ Congratulations to Kupidlovskych

Family Profile



Mira, Michelle and Monika



Hello PCF Family!

It is interesting how PCF became my church family. In fact, my family did not start out at PCF as a family at all. I visited our church first as a single mother. It reminds me of a part in the movie, *Men In Black*, when the soldiers were asked if they knew why they were invited. Will Smith mocked, "To Be The Best of The Very Best, Sir!" My family was not at its very best.

I walked in like a war refugee, like I'd had one of my arms cut off and was trying to find someone to help reattach my missing member: my husband. Our problem was that my new Christian husband and I had priority disagreements. We somehow had to find a middle ground. I would like to say that God allowed the Mullens to offer PCF as the Peace Offering Area. To have a peace offering and to find a middle ground there had to be sacrifices. Some things needed to be broken and some things mended.

The first couple of months, I walked as if I was a diabetic waiting for everyone around me to give me my insulin shot. Then I realized that I had to face issues with Yeshua and not others. Things started to change and change fast. Usually when I would speak to my husband about church or God, he would get irritable. You know why? Because I was a performance-based Christian. I'd say words, such as 'should,' 'must,' 'ought to' and poor Miroslav rebelled. This all changed, especially after I started reading the book, *The Normal Christian Life*. A light bulb came on in my soul.

Finally, I breathed in my walk with Yeshua. My husband started noticing. I was hesitant to mention all the glory that Monika and I were experiencing. One day, I just burst with joy and I shared with him all the cool miracles God was performing. "Do you think that I could visit PCF?" For a few minutes I hesitated because I did not want to be embarrassed at church if they



would see Mira and me arguing. I was afraid, but what I did not know was that Miroslav was also afraid that he too would walk in and perhaps my new church family would judge him. My fear was much smaller than his. I knew that this was one of the last things to give way for us to even enter that Peace Offering Area.

Miroslav started attending church. So our safe dating place was actually PCF. The Peace Offering Area was real. One Sunday, Miroslav reached over and took my hand in his. We did not say a word. We just sat there hand in hand and breathed before the Lord together. It seemed stupid to me that we could be joined together as one in the church but still living apart and not dating. So, we did. We dated one another, and during our church Sundays and our candle-lit dinners we grew closer. Before you know it the flood came to Prague and suddenly we were thrown back into living together again. Monika was very happy. I was going slow but relieved and Miroslav was full of joy. For the first time in our family, we talked about Yeshua as just that- a family.

Now does that mean that we became, "The Best Of The Very Best" immediately? No! We still had our disagreements and Monika got older and she started having her disagreements too. So we knew how to bicker, but we also learned forgiveness.

It's a journey and we still had to learn and grow. I am happy to say that Monika accepted Yeshua as her Savior that next year. Mira started reading the Bible and asked for prayer expecting results. I, for one, knew that to be committed was my way to go forward. I was recommitting my life to my family. I was committing myself to my church family and it was coming time to be more committed to my Father, but in a normal Christian way. I wanted to express it somehow.

I told the Mullens one of the reasons why we had left our previous church in Prague. The fact was, I was very involved (a busy bee) at this other church. I was so busy that I made sure that no one actually got to know me, for me. This means that nobody knew that Miroslav and I were having warfare. No one asked about my testimony. Well, an unfortunate thing happened when two families joined our church. From the start they were causing problems for some of the people there. It got worse when my daughter blurted out one day in front of them, "My mommy used to be a witch but now she is good." Whoops! Nothing brings on hugs and acceptance like the "W" word in some Christian settings. Well, it's fine to have privacy, but if you are in a family - and that includes a church family (home group) - you have to trust enough to open up sooner or later. Well, my trust was too slow and the "W" word was too much too fast. I was asked to leave. I knew that it was partly my fault. I wanted to join in and be open, but I could not commit for fear of judgment.

So, this next time with PCF, I knew that I had to be real with my church family. You know what happened? Absolutely nothing. No tar and feathers. You accepted our family. So, we committed ourselves to God and to each other. I showed my commitment as a prophetic act through baptism. We pray for even better things, such as these examples and we are glad that you are a part of our family.

- Shalom

side stories told by your godly parents, the Sunday school teachings, the messages you read and heard from inspired men of God, the inspirational teachings about the fiery judgment of God, the miracles and deliverance we experienced; they all excited us. If they are not the same in our lives today, we need them as godly remnants and virtues leading us to that path of eternal life that is only guaranteed by God's spirit.

My case is an example: there came a time in my life when I decided to do my own thing, worshipping God my own way, making decisions without consulting God, depending on my personal wisdom and intellect. All of my actions were based on human ability and thought without reference to God's word or guiding principles. At the end of it all, I realized that I had made the biggest fool of myself. Not only that, I got myself into trouble. I was confused and unsure how to get out of my mess.

The way to get out was not envisioned even when I decided to mend my way and come clean. Instead, trouble came my way as I came to terms with my foolishness. Although I couldn't make it out of my own mess, I came to terms with my Lord. I regained my lost sight of God's love and mercies.

I began meditating on the mighty works of God as it affected my life from the time I accepted Him as my Lord and savior. I remembered my love for praise and worship songs in the household of faith, the gathering of believers in my home church, the sounding authority of the word of God as it was dished out hot by my pastor W.F. Kumuyi (the pastor of an 85,000 member single congregation as of 1994). Also, the diversity of a praying, militant congregation reminded me of heaven as it showed the circumference of God's kingdom. The desire and longing for that glorious and wonderful kingdom overwhelmed me. I knelt down in quiet and solemn adoration, submitting thanks to our God who reigns on high, who in return showered me with His Spirit and ushered me back into His warming love and care. The remains of godly virtues turned me back to seek the Lord, back to the warm, happy sound, heart-to-heart, burning, quiet time of prayers and an intimate relationship with our Lord.

“I regained my lost sight of God’s love and mercies”

Jonah is a bible story to remember. We know the story: Jonah refused to obey God. He did his own thing, gave his prophesies, rejected God's leadership and message outright, just like we do today. But that rebellion was not going to last long. Jonah boarded a ship headed a different direction than God called him to. Jonah was obstinate, a reprobate, removing God from his agenda. God caused trouble for the ship that Jonah was on, and Jonah immediately recognized the hand of God. You know, Hebrews 10.31 says “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Jonah decided to end it all, and he quickly asked the ship's owner to cast him into the sea. Maybe it was suicide, but can we hide from God? God appointed a large fish to swallow him. There in the belly of the fish three days and three nights, Jonah started using the remaining virtue of God in him, **prayer**. God heard him, and commanded the fish to vomit him onto land. He afterwards obeyed God, returning to his prophetic ministry. He prophesied to the Ninevites. God manifested himself, and they were saved in obedience

to the word from Jonah. Jonah regained his freedom and fellowship with God.

Elisha walked with Elijah and Elijah was taken by God, carried up to heaven. Elisha could only take hold of his mantle. In confusion, Elisha picked up the mantle. Returning back, the river covered his way. Elijah was no longer there to speak to the river, making way for them. But Elisha had the mantle in his hands, the sole remnant from his master. Remembering his master, he shouted and struck the river with the mantle, saying “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” The Lord God of Elijah responded in obedience to a call of faith.

Use the remnants of God's virtues in you, and He will part your river before you. The petition between you and your creator will surely be set apart. Use the word, pray the word into your heart, work with the word, meditate on the word, and let the word lead your path and be your light.

Psalms 103.2 reminds us “. . . forget not all his benefits.” God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. We must make use of them for our benefit and to the glory of God.

Hebrews 12.14 “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord . . .” Titus 1.16 “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.” 2 Timothy 1.9 “Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began . . .” Isaiah 58.2 “Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.” Luke 18.9-14, Matthew 23.13-29, 1 John 3.4-10 - All these passages show that God is merciful and compassionate.

Those of us that are unconcerned, self-righteous, rebellious, obstinate, hypocritical, faultfinding, contented churchgoers, call on Him today in obedience to His word. It surely works; *it shall be well with you*. Remain blessed, your brother Richard ☺

DID YOU KNOW?
The best way to keep up with your giving for TAX records is via bank transfer.
 Contact Evzen Pekarek for assistance with tax receipts at PekarekEvzen@seznam.cz
 # 181730394/2400 v.s. 1029

PCF Finances

| April 2008 | |
|---|--|
| <p>+54,111 4,506 7,030 8,500 2,083 0 28,350 3,000 7,000 1,396 0 -61,865 -7,754</p> | <p>Total Income Internet & Comm. Office Rent & Elec. Church Rent Supplies & Equip. Copying & Publishing Salaries/Employ Tax Evangelism & Teach Church Giving Fees & Advertising Miscellaneous Total Expenses Net Income</p> |

All amounts shown are in Czech Crowns.

PCF Leadership Team

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belongs and served as a pastor for 27 years. His passion is to help people grow and understand their faith, thus affecting their entire lives. He loves teaching foundations to new believers. At present he preaches in various cities in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. He is active in local Czech politics. His passions are writing and his new grandchild, and he has written many interesting and helpful books.

Garth Wright (Evangelism and Missions) - Garth is involved with marketing training professionally, but his real passion is to see the Church thrive through home groups, relationship-building and sharing the good news with others. He has a heart especially for Eastern European and Slavic people. Garth has extensive ministry and missions experience. Garth participates on the worship team and hosts two home groups.

Matt Elphick (home-group leader) - Matthew is a professional trainer specializing in sports and team building activities. His consistent passion is an inspiration to us all. He has a gift with youth and currently volunteers at Boy's Scouts and co-leads the Úvaly English Camp. He is currently leading both a Tuesday and Wednesday home group.

Laura Farrel (home-group leader) - Laura is a missionary working both with PCF and the Czech Methodist Church. She has the gift of hospitality

and brings peace to every home she enters. In addition to teaching English she leads a home group, helps edit the PCF Post, and gives loving support to two other home groups. Currently, while in the midst of recuperating from surgery, she is organizing a women's retreat.

Bronwyn Trevor (children's ministry leader) - Bronny is a professional ballet dancer. She is in the process of moving from the State Ballet to either the National Ballet or another European company. Her compassionate prayers are a real blessing. She coordinates all the Sunday school teachers and helps with various children's activities. We are praying she can stay in Prague.

Jon la Plante (worship coordinator) - Jon is an entrepreneur with businesses in the software and real estate fields. He has been involved with music most of his life. Jon has recently taken over the coordination of the worship ministry which is a very challenging role. He oversees the worship leaders, the sound engineering, the multi-media and somehow manages to ensure we have a wonderful worship experience each Sunday.

Renata Vankova (ministry team leader) - Renata is serving at the Christian International School of Prague in the area of administration and business management. She could work many places but chooses to give her time to ministry. Her passion is seeing people touched by the power of God and ministers regularly in Kolin and various venues with teaching, interpreting, counselling and personal ministry. She is in the process of taking over the ministry team training from John & Kelsie.

Ray Wilck (home-group leader) - Ray is a full-time missionary with the Methodist Church. He serves via evangelizing through building relationships with English lessons. Currently Ray is very involved with a Methodist Church plant that keeps him from generally participating with PCF. However, he still leads a bi-weekly home group. His wit and wealth of knowledge are both entertaining and enlightening.



Congratulations to Jan and Dawn on their adopted son!

Up-coming BBQ, June 21st at 14:00



The Mullens will be hosting a potluck BBQ in June. Come play ping pong, ride bikes, relax in the country and enjoy the fellowship. Bring whatever you want to cook on the grill. Soft drinks will be provided.



Upcoming Birthdays

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

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Babak Falsafi | June 5 |
| Stephen Sexton | June 5 |
| Vincent Drier | June 6 |
| Lukáš Port | June 7 |
| Laurie Luby | June 7 |
| Sara Gawliková | June 10 |
| Gary Niederheitmann | June 10 |
| Eugene Martin | June 10 |
| Oliver Šedivý | June 11 |
| Sandy Duryea | June 11 |
| Peter Lovett | June 12 |
| Nathan Parry | June 14 |
| Jacquie Gutsulyak | June 15 |
| Anne Marie Bailey | June 15 |
| Jessica Crowther | June 15 |
| Sergei Razlivkin | June 16 |
| Eva Hazuková | June 16 |
| Bethany Robbins | June 18 |
| Charlie Reinhardt | June 18 |
| Rebeka Koukliková | June 18 |
| Sarah Blenkarn | June 18 |
| Joseph Mehaffy | June 19 |
| Rickey Fanning | June 19 |
| Monika Šebestová | June 27 |
| Michaela Haig | June 28 |
| Andy Faust | June 29 |
| Jana Dubová Nunes | June 30 |



Should you have a testimony to share please email us. The deadline is June 20, 2008.