



# The Prague Christian Fellowship POST

Monthly Newsletter of the Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF

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Richard Emereoha (writing from prison)

## Part I: Spiritual Tithing

The Bible mentions tithing one tenth of our income as one of the cardinal principal doctrines all throughout- in the Old Testament before the law was given, during the Law and continuing throughout the New Testament. The principle of tithing is similar to giving, but it is only for believers, not unbelievers. Tithing is also an obligation; it is not voluntary as in giving. We cannot be glad in tithing until we know what it means to be committed to God. The truth of tithing needs to be taught just as we need to teach people to be born-again, get baptized, have faith in God, to pray, and read the Word of God. It is my prayer that ministers of God should not be afraid in letting believers know their duties and obliga-

tions regarding tithes and offering. I believe the truth as light, and that light is a center of attraction. I think that even if only five believers stood by the truth of the Word of God, revival and outpouring of God's blessings into that church would result. Therefore, ministers should preach and teach without fear or favorites, because God is not a respecter of persons.

When a congregation sees the church's financial report, most of the time we see the church borrowing money to pay bills. I sometimes pray asking God, "Why have you not blessed the people so the church can be blessed too?" What normally flashes to my heart is that the people are selfish; they only

care about themselves. This is because we are not faithful in tithing and offering, and then we see that blessings don't pour as God promised. God has many blessings for obedient believers, but instead curses are brought down as a result of disobedience. When we refuse to abide by the truth that we know, we are

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John Mullen, PCF Pastor

## Autumn Baptism Report

On Saturday, September 6th we gathered together at the home of Dan Drápal to witness Jana Milfaitová, Tomáš Dvořak and Joseph Kupidlovský sealing their faith by identifying with Christ's death and resurrection in the holy sacrament of baptism.

The invited guests from the PCF community gathered to witness the confessions and participate in the personal prayer ministry offered to each candidate. Markéta Lišková led a time of worship, and Dawn Custalow and Matthew Elphick assisted John with the baptism.



Jana shared her testimony of meeting Laura Farrel in the hospital and finally hearing the gospel. Tomáš expressed how his relationship with Jesus continues to grow and grow. Tomáš has been attending services and home groups at PCF for four years. Joseph told us how he received Jesus into his heart and how much he loves God.

Together we enjoyed the beautiful weather, great worship, wonderful hospitality, and an intimate prayer time. The confessions were encouraging to all of us. All were very thankful to God for the work he has done in the lives of these three, and hopeful for what He has

in store for the next part of their spiritual journeys."

Baptism is a first step in a lifelong journey to come to know God and fulfilling the purposes He has for our lives. As a community we are responsible to help these new believers get grounded in their faith and move on with God to bear fruit and multiply themselves.

Thanks to those of you who participated in the lives of these three and helped lead them to the Messiah. And, a special thanks to Dan Drápal for organizing the venue and opening his home to us.



# Family Profile

## Albert (Junior) Espinal

Hello! Some of you have seen me play drums at Sunday services. I am from a large family in Honduras (if you consider 6 children a large family). My spiritual journey began early in the Catholic Church – baptized as a baby, attending home groups since 6 years of age, and active in church life (almost every meeting). It could be said that I grew up **in** the church. However, my life was plagued with the same fears as everyone else. Then at a community campfire event I prayed to accept Jesus as my savior. But again, my life remained the same and continued that way for another four years.

Then I heard a preacher teaching that being born into a Christian family or growing up in the church does not save you. He said that we are all sinners deserving of hell (Rom 3.23). It was a day in which I felt Jesus spoke face-to-face with me. The only thing I could do was to humble myself in front of his feet and accept that I am sinner who needed his grace and his salvation. After that my life changed - there was no more fear and condemnation. My life was so different. It reminds me of the story about Mephibosheth (2 Sam 9:3). He was a crippled descendant of the prior kingdom, and then King David mercifully called him to sit at the king's table and restored his inheritance.



In my changed new life the most important thing was the Lord and his work - his purposes for me. I started a bible study at my church's school, and after some time, became a youth leader and a ministry leader. Also, thanks to the Lord I was able to start playing drums in the church. But, more important than any of this was my growing relationship with the Lord Jesus.

After a few years I finished secondary school and I was thinking about moving to another country. My prayers focused on Brazil and the Czech Republic. However, I felt the Lord said, "no," so I enrolled in the local Bible Institute. There I was studying and thinking about my future in the Body of Christ.

Something inside of me - some of my prayer experiences, they were leading me abroad. I was waiting and waiting until finally my family suggested that I move to the Czech Republic (my sister lives and studies here as well).

I was asking the Lord for a church family and an opportunity to serve in the Body of Christ and our faithful God led me to PCF. My plans in the Czech Republic are broad. I hope to be involved in the Lord's work - preaching the gospel to those who do not know him, worship, etc. But, also I plan to work and study here. I hope to be able to spend a lot of time with you all. PCF is like my family now, and I hope to be a blessing here.

**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  
**# 181730394/5500**  
 v.s. 1029

<b>PCF Finances</b>	
<b>August 2008</b>	
<b>+61,065</b>	<b>Total Income</b>
9,184	Internet & Comm.
7,030	Office Rent & Elec.
8,500	Church Rent
4,279	Supplies & Equip.
300	Copying & Publishing
28,350	Salaries/Employ Tax
42,104	Evangelism & Teach
43,681	Church Giving
1,261	Fees & Advertising
2,583	Miscellaneous
<b>147,271</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>
<b>-86,206</b>	<b>Net Income</b>

*All amounts shown are in Czech Crowns.*

cast into judgment by doing those things that look right in our own eyes.

Before the law was given tithes were being paid (Genesis 14:18-20, Hebrews 7:1-8). Genesis 14:20 says, "...then Abram gave him [Melchizedek] a tenth of everything." Both in the Old and New Testament tithes are mentioned. Melchizedek was the receiver and Abraham was the giver. In that perspective, Abraham is the Father of Faith and Melchizedek is called by the Bible as a king of righteousness, a king that reigns forever. Hebrews 5:8-11 states that Christ is our high priest after the order of Melchizedek. Romans 4:12 reminds us to walk in the faith footsteps of Abraham and Christ our Lord, who is from the seed of Abraham. It becomes clear here that the Bible does not contradict itself. The doctrine of tithing was not introduced by Mosaic Law, and neither did Jesus abolish it. Jacob vowed to give his tithe to the Lord as a continuation of the Abraham's practice (Genesis 28:16-22, Romans 15:4). As you see with me, everything written in the Scripture was written for our learning through the enduring encouragement of the Word of God. Paul summarized this by saying "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus." We follow Christ when we obey the Word of God, including tithing.

Again, during the Law of Moses, tithes were repeatedly paid and practiced (Lev. 27:30-33, Numbers 18:21-24, Deuteronomy

12:5-6). All Israelites were commanded by God to bring their tithes into "...the place which the Lord your God shall choose... even unto his habitation (Deut. 12:5)." We are also Israelites by faith; we claimed their faith and we claim Abraham's blessings as Abraham's offspring. We have to also claim the responsibilities.

**"God has many blessings for obedient believers"**

Through these blessings, God's 'Levites' and ministers and church workers are provided for. This results in the Gospel being preached, winning souls, and blessings being poured on us. As a result, God's name is glorified.

Jesus taught and condemned the Scribes and Pharisees, but he did not condemn tithes (Matthew 6:2-5, 16; Luke 18:9-14). The Pharisees did a lot of good things, but they did them hypocritically. They gave alms, prayed, fasted, witnessed, loved outward righteousness, and most of all paid tithes of all they possessed. They did all these acts to be seen by men – to esteem themselves. Their self-righteousness was condemned, but their giving of tithes, praying, alms giving, witnessing, righteous living, and fasting as believers practices were not condemned. Hypocrisy in anything we do is condemned. Moreover, their failure to believe or accept Jesus as their Messiah brought a divine condemnation on their souls. In Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42 Jesus discusses tithing and Christian living: "Woe to you teachers, you hypocrites, you

give a tenth of spices, mint, dill and cumin, but you have neglected the more important matters of the law- justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the later without neglecting the former (the first tithe)." Jesus rebuked the Pharisees on practicing one side of the Law when they were neglecting the other side. This means that justice, mercy, faithfulness and love should be practiced **along with** giving tithes.

Malachi 3:10-13 states that God blesses those who tithe. Tithes are to be brought into the "storehouse" where we receive spiritual food and nourishment, where we get the seed to feed others and our young ones. "Test me in this," says the Lord Al-



#### PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) **Church Finances** – provision to cover our expenses and wisdom in spending and giving.
- 2) **Former PCF members involved with full-time ministry** such as David & Linda Snell, Kelly Kuest, Sam & Rosalee Ewell, Steve & Emma Gower, Michael Stadler 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)
- 3) **Church staff** – Please pray that God would call some missionaries to come and serve at PCF. We particularly need a worship leaders to come help with PCF and IHOPP.
- 4) **PCF Autumn Retreat** this month in Český Krumlov.
- 5) **Mullen's reconstruction of their attic**- Pray for the rest of the finances to come in to complete the project.
- 6) **PCF Ministries**– for home groups, refugee camp outreach, missions to Belarus / Ukraine and for new student outreaches.

(Continued from page 3... Tithing)

mighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessings that you will not have enough room for it" (Malachi 3:10). Malachi 3:11 -12 continues; "Your crops will be abundant, I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe," says the Lord. "Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight, says the Lord Almighty."

Going through the discussion on tithing we can see that God plans good things for believers. His thoughts towards us are good, not of evil, to give us our expected ends. Call up for testimonies today from sincere believers who offers and tithes faithfully, it will surprise you what the Lord has done and is still doing today. God never owes us anything; it is we that withhold God's hand from blessing us. This all means that any minister who fails to teach believers' responsibilities to tithing is not doing his church good. Instead, he is denying blessings and growth for that church. God pronounces a curse for disobedience in tithing

(Malachi 3:8-9, James 4:17). Malachi 3:8-9 states, "Will a man rob God? Yes you rob me – but Let you ask, how do we rob you? In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse- the whole nation because you are robbing me." In Duet 28:15-20, God pronounced lots of curses for disobedience. The list includes dis-

**"Just remember that in tithing there is a miracle on your way"**

eases he pronounced, lack of money, collapse of riches, blocking of the fruits of the womb, and others. This is a serious matter indeed.

God is a Consuming Fire. As the Bible says, "it's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31). The part of the world where we live takes everything for granted in the name of modernism and civilization. I believe that we still have the God of yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end (Revelation 21:6). If God blessed Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Paul, Mary and Matthew, to mention a few, that God must be the same wonderful

miracle working God. Who is on the Lord's side today?

Who wants to follow this God and His Word? Just remember that in tithing there is a miracle on your way and a testimony that is attached to it. Remember that the Lord said, "**Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it**" (Malachi 3:11).



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

Isaac Bediako	October 1
Marianne Bolton	October 3
Honza Knapek	October 4
Hana Dětková	October 5
Anastázie Dětková	October 5
HongXia Hu	October 6
Phillip Old	October 7
Courtney Mangina	October 8
Anna Budin	October 8
Sam Ewell	October 12
Brian Young	October 13
Kamila Soukupová	October 15
Jennifer Mog	October 16
James Mehaffy	October 17
Marie Koukliková	October 17
Josef Cepl	October 18
Teresa Arellano	October 19
Ian Crowther	October 20
Blessing Egho	October 20
Amir Taher Zadeh	October 20
Michelle Clark	October 22
Tobias Gawlik	October 22
Eric Zanger	October 23
Mitchell Mullen	October 23
Gaye Emmerton	October 23
T.J. Caldwell	October 24
Markéta Sedlačková	October 27
Lydia Burda	October 29
Robert Harris	October 29
Brook Getahun	October 30
Jerrold Ivery	October 30

## Autumn Retreat

The next PCF Retreat will be **October 11-13** in the famous city of Český Krumlov.  
The theme for the weekend will be **WORSHIP & PRAYER.**

**Please sign up as early as possible.**

We will be scattered in various hostels and pensions but meeting at **Hostel 99.**  
Transportation is limited so buy bus or train tickets asap. See Kelsie for more info.

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