



The Prague Christian Fellowship POST

Monthly Newsletter of the Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF

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John Mullen, PCF Pastor

Blessing

What was God's first act after creation? – to bless Adam and Eve. How about the last act of Moses before leaving this earth? – to bless Joshua. Guess God's first act to kick off Jesus' ministry – to speak a blessing over Jesus – "this is my son in whom I am well pleased." And, what was the conclusion of Jesus' first sermon? – to speak a blessing over the disciples – "you are salt of the earth" and "you are the light of the world." The last act of Jesus before he left this earth? – to stand, raise his hands and bless the church (he rose in clouds during this blessing).

My dictionary defines blessing as "the act of declaring, or wishing, God's favor and goodness upon others. The blessing is not only the good effect of words; it also has the power to bring them to pass. In the Bible, important persons blessed those with less power or influence. The patriarchs pronounced benefits upon their children, often near their own deaths (Gen 49:1-28). Even if spoken by mistake, once a blessing was given it could not be taken back (Gen 27). Leaders often blessed people, especially when getting ready to leave them. These included Moses (Deut 33), Joshua (22:6-7), and Jesus (Luke 24:50). Equals could bless each other by being friendly (Gen 12:3). One can also bless God, showing gratitude to Him (Deut 8:10) in songs of praise (Ps 103:1-2). God also blesses people by giving life, riches, fruitfulness, or plenty (Gen 1:22,28). His greatest blessing is turning us from evil (Acts 3:25-26) and forgiving our sins (Rom 4:7-8). Cases of the opposite of blessing, or cursing, are

often cited in the Bible (Deut 27:11-26). Although the natural reaction to a curse is to curse back, Christians are called to bless-to ask for the person's benefit (Matt 5:44)."¹

I would like to make four points about blessing:

- ◆ God's power is invoked through our blessing of others.

*Then the Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons to bless the people of Israel with this special blessing: 'May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.' Whenever Aaron and his sons bless the people of Israel in my name, **I myself will bless them**" (Num 6:22-27).*

Can you imagine a father blessing his son, and it turns out that it is actually *God* blessing *them*? It is the same biblical principle as Aaron's sons blessing the people in the above verse. When we bless, God blesses. I remember when my father blessed me to go into the ministry. He wrote it down and handed it to me. From there doors opened up for me that had very little to do with my natural father and everything to do with my *heavenly* father.

- ◆ Blessings are specific, help meet a life challenge, and are prophetic proclamations.

Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry

along the ground" (Gen 1:28).

When God blessed Adam & Eve he did not say "I bless you to live." But, rather he gave specific ways to live – to live fruitfully – to live procreatively – to govern – to reign! These surely were the challenges facing the young couple. They must have felt alone (if Kelsie and I were the last two people on earth I would long for corporate community). What a high calling to bear fruit, multiply, govern mankind and reign over all the created creatures! A blessing has the power to not only inspire us to a high calling, but also to empower us to meet the challenge. It is in the midst of life's challenges that our children and friends need a specific blessing to overcome the crisis in front of them. Recently, this idea impressed me to speak a blessing over a friend who was in a personal financial crisis (as a result of the current financial crisis) and release God's blessing on him. It might be a big testimony in the near future.

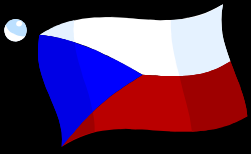
Later in Genesis 35 God speaks a similar "be fruitful and multiply" blessing over Jacob. He goes on to say "you will become a great nation," "kings will be among your descendants," "I will give you

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What's Inside?

- ◆ Family Profile – Dana Dubová
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- ◆ PCF Financial Update
- ◆ March Madness

Family Profile



Dana Dubová



A lot of people ask me about my story of how I came to know Jesus. I wasn't able to answer clearly because I wasn't sure... until recently. After doing some thinking and talking with my sister, the journey has become clear more than ever.

The story actually starts back in 1995 – 1998 when my family and I lived in London. During this time my older sister Jana became a Christian. Because we were a “non-religious” family we didn't care much for it, but we respected Jana's decision to live for God. Now when I think back on it, sometimes I gave Jana a really hard time!

As years went by, Jana met her husband Lee in 2001 while he was on a mission's trip in Prague. They became good friends, started dating and got married in September of 2003. The wedding was at Harvest Community Church in Rhode Island - the first Christian church I ever went to. Even though they included the salvation message and prayer in their ceremony, my time hadn't yet come to be saved. However, funny enough, it was the time when my oldest sister Eva met Joe, one of Lee's best friends.

Because God fills our lives with surprises, Eva & Joe got married too, in September of 2006. I know that my sisters, their husbands and friends were praying a lot for God to offer me his eternal life and for me to open up my heart to him. I don't really know how long they prayed - how many days, months, or years - but as you can see today our Savior answered them. I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior on Eva's wedding day, April 29th 2007.

This is how it happened. After the wedding reception, our friend Jeejo and I drove to Jana & Lee's apartment to drop off Eva & Joe's wedding presents. The rest of the family was coming later, so we had time to have a cup of coffee and talk.

During this time Jeejo started sharing about his faith and the Lord. I had many questions, it seemed like hundreds. I told him my grandparents were Catholic so we were, for a bit, raised up in the Catholic Church. My questions were based on Catholic beliefs (e.g. I thought I needed to behave well, do good things, pray, etc. to “find my way” to Christ). At that time I didn't feel like a Christian because I didn't go to church, I did not pray, I didn't do anything that had something to do with faith. My attitude towards God was like, “Maybe he really does exist.” But I wasn't sure.

Jeejo kept sharing, explaining and answering my questions and it was then that I understood and believed that salvation does not depend on what you do, but on your faith in Christ Jesus.

Jeejo offered to pray with me and so we did. My salvation prayer was the first prayer that I really meant from the bottom of my heart. I knew He saved and redeemed me. It felt strange but nice; I felt my heart become warm inside - filled with His peace, peace that had been missing all along. Emotionally I was a bit unsure because it was the first time I entrusted my life into someone else's hands. But spiritually I knew I had His peace at last.

Afterwards the rest of family came over and I was so happy running around the apartment saying “Jana, Jana, guess what?” They knew what had happened. They could see my joy and peace.

Since then I've been looking at the world differently. I see things which I hadn't noticed before, and I don't need or want the things I desired before. I care about others and I don't seem to care about myself as I used to. Simply put - I don't want to go back to my “old” life.

Even in my brief Christian journey, I'm happy and content for with the way things are going. When life gets hard I know I have someone to trust and rely on. I have given Him all my life – our Lord, our Savior!

Dana

[Editor's note: Dana, seen left in the above photo with her sisters Jana and Eva, plans to seal her faith with public confession and immersion at the next PCF baptism.]

(Continued from page 1... Blessing

land,” and “your name will now be Israel.” It is a prophetic proclamation. We all have this gift to speak over our children, our brothers, and our sisters.

- ◆ Our words have power. They have power to invoke life and death.

The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences (Prov 18:21). "Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" (Deut 30:19-20).

I was reading an analogy about American baseball. Years ago the oldest umpire in the league got up to speak at a convention. He said, “Some is balls, and some is strikes, but they ain’t nothin’ until we call them.” And I think he was right. Some are balls and some are strikes, but they aren’t anything until the umpire calls them. Some children will be winners, and some will be losers, but they aren’t anything until we “call” them. You could substitute the word “children” with “friends.” Some friends are successful, and some are failures, and this is largely the result of words that have been spoken over them.

- ◆ Christians are taught by Jesus himself to return curses with blessings.

"But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless

those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you. ... Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High... (Luke 6:27-31, 35)

Jesus says anyone can be nice to those they like. There is nothing special about that. But the power of the gospel to change the world is here – blessing those who hurt you. Can you imagine the Palestinians getting converted to Christianity and bringing flowers to the Israeli soldiers rather than bombs and rockets? There would be peace in Israel! **And**, they would be *acting like children of God*. Jesus says blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God. How do you bless those who hurt you? Make peace with them.

Many of you have heard the story of Elizabeth Elliot. Recently, I read the story of Bishop Hamilton in Uganda in the beginning of the nineteenth century. His sons were told that their father, while being led to his death, repeated unceasingly Jesus’ words “Love your enemies.” The sons moved to Uganda to take their father’s place, and later baptized and took communion with the men who murdered and cannibalized their father. In the Czech Republic communism was not broken by slandering the Russian communists (although plenty of that was going around) but rather by non-violent protests that included handing flowers to soldiers. How many flowers are we handing out at the office? How are you blessing those who curse you?

Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and

sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it. For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil (1 Peter 3:8-12).

Let’s change the world around us by speaking blessings! Let’s be mindful of our words. God is listening. Let’s open *his ears to our prayers* and let’s allow the God of creation to work through us as we release words of life over our friends, family, neighbors and enemies!

1. Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers



Upcoming Birthdays

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

Tracy Coles	March 1
Amanda Overwater	March 2
Joyce Lindstrom	March 5
Joseph Kupidlovský	March 5
Roger Harsh	March 6
Ben Neilson	March 6
Annabella Nickle	March 7
Joe Beamer	March 10
Charles Jolly	March 11
David Overwater	March 12
Darren Haig	March 12
Benjamin Eqbal	March 16
Lindsay Voigt	March 16
Iva Slámová	March 16
Richard Emercoha	March 18
Pavla Křížová	March 20
Chris Bauman	March 20
Dan Drápal	March 23
Cindy Ogundo	March 25
Camilla Langhus	March 26
Allison Crawley	March 27
Jalen Kropf	March 28
Erik Maršoun	March 28
Kateřina Benšová	March 28
Eugenie du Preez	March 31



PCF and the Christian International School of Prague (CISP) will host of fundraiser again, on March 7th. It will be a day of fun and there will be something there for everyone! Remember, the funds will go to orphans in Belarus and HIV positive children in Nigeria. Help is desperately needed in these places.

How can you help? 1. **Come with some money** to buy lunch, shop at the garage sale, buy an auction item or play games outside. 2. **Bring some food** to be sold at the event, such as chili, palačinky batter, a garden salad, homemade desserts, or spicy chicken wings/legs. Food must arrive by 10 am. 3. **Donate unwanted items to our sale!** Please bring items (clothes, home goods, books, CDs, DVDs, etc., good qual-



ity please) to the school between Wednesday and Friday so the items can be sorted and priced. 4. We are seeking some **unique items for our live auction**, such as movie tickets, jewelry, homemade crafts, services, etc. Please let us know if you have something that would be appropriate for the sale. 5. We seek corporate **sponsors to donate money** towards covering the costs of this event. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Renata at 602 344 220.

For more information please contact Kelsie at johnkelsie@gmail.com or 722 902 083.

PCF Bank Info:

Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF,
eBanka Account No.
181730394/5500
Variable symbol: 10261
Contact Evzen Pekarek for assistance at PekarekEvzen@seznam.cz

Last year we raised about 43,000 Kč and were able to personally deliver the funds to WLFK organization. They had been refused at their former summer camp location and had to find a new facility at the last minute. Without our gift, they would not have been able to offer their camp last summer to the orphans.

Feel free to write them and inquire about their needs:
With Love For Kids
mail@wl4k.org



- 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 Snell, Kelly Kuest, Sam Ewell, 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 worship leaders to come help with PCF and IHOPP.
- 4) **IHOPP** – pray for the upcoming prayer and worship event. Pray for spiritual protection for the leaders.
- 5) **Mullen's reconstruction of their attic** – pray for finances and affordable bids.
- 6) **PCF Ministries** – for home groups, refugee camp outreach, missions & outreaches.
- 7) **PCF Spring Seminars/Events** – Ministry training, MBTI Seminars, Seder Meal, & Living Waters Seminar.

PCF Finances																											
January 2009																											
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Should you have a testimony to share please email us. The deadline is March 20, 2009.