



The Prague Christian Fellowship POST

Monthly Newsletter of the Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF

Suggested Cost 10 Czech Crowns - May 2009

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God's Timing

On Easter Sunday I introduced the topic of God's timing. It is ironic that I ran out of time ☺. My intention was to encourage those of you ON "the journey." In the thick of things it can be difficult to see "the forest through the trees." But whether we see the "forest" or not, the reality is that it exists. Sometimes perspective comes by climbing the highest tree and observing from above.

Time from above makes much more sense than time on the ground (meaning time with a bigger picture brings together many seemingly unrelated events). The bible talks about three kinds of time.

- *chronos* – general process of time, chronological, length, quantity.
Acts 1:7, Acts 13:18
- *kairos* – opportune / strategic / seasonable time, present, quality.
Galatians 6:9, Titus 1:3, 1 Tim. 2:6, Eph. 1:10, Rom. 5:6, Luke 12:56
- *hora* – fixed by nature – "last hour," "getting late," literal hour.
1 John 2:18, Mark 6:35

The different Greek words in the Bible for love expand our understanding of the concept of love, and the same could be said about time. Acts 13:18 says, "For a *period* of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness." The Greek word here is *chronos* and it expresses the duration of a period of time - whether long or short ("chron" in English denotes "a space of time"). But in Acts 1:7 it

says, "It is not for you to know *times* or *seasons* that the Father has fixed by his own authority." Here the "times" (*chronos*), are characterized by quantity of the time, while the "seasons" (the Greek word *kairos*), are characterized by evaluating certain events (quality). Another example of *kairos* can be found in Luke 12:56 when Jesus says, "You know how to interpret the weather signs of the earth and sky, but you don't know how to in-

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terpret the *present times*." Here Jesus refers to the current events happening and the context is what God is doing in their midst (the things happening "right now").

The point I would like to emphasize is that the chronological time (*chronos*) and "right" time (*kairos*) are not necessarily separate concepts or separate experiences, but rather, different phases of the same process. I am proposing that in God's time *kairos* is like an extension to *chronos*. As God's plan unfolds *chronos* time becomes *kairos* time!

For example, Paul waited in *chronos* (quantity of) time back home in Tarsus for 12-13 years. He had to endure going from being the most important / respected person to becoming the least important / least

respected person. When he embraced humility God released him into a *kairos* (quality of) time ministry (Acts 13:2). Some of you can relate to a feeling of "God has prepared me for THIS time." Your past experiences and lessons are summoned forth to help you in THIS anointed season. Things happen quickly. Events that had been on-hold or germinating (seemingly forever) begin blossoming right and left. [If it has not happened yet in your life, hang in there. It will!]

There are even fewer people who have experienced the feeling that all of their life experiences come together to complete a specific task. "It is done!" "I am done!" "It finally happened!" That's how I felt after I FINALLY married Kelsie. It was a long wait to enter our blissful *kairos* dating season. And then, the big day finally came. We entered into our marriage covenant! That feeling is expressed in another Greek word *pleroo/pleroma* (completes, fills). [PCF has a generous single population who are experts on *chronos* time and need to climb a tree and look further.]

Gal 5:14 expresses *pleroo* as, "For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Colossians 2:9 says, "For in Christ

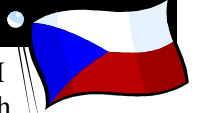
(Continued on page 3)

What's Inside?

- ◆ Family Profile
– Tereza Potužníková
- ◆ PCF Birthdays & Prayer Info
- ◆ PCF Financial Update

Family Profile

Tereza Potužníková



Hearing other people's personal testimonies was always very exciting for me.

So I'm

glad I can share mine too because I believe that our lives should tell His story.

I was brought up in a Christian family so I assumed I had been a Christian all my life. However, the turning point came much later. We always went to KS (PCF is a part of a larger Czech body called Křesťanské společenství) and going to church was a routine for me. I went to Sunday school and liked it, but I didn't have any friends there. All the children were nice but much younger, and I didn't build any friendships during this time. So for me, church was like a duty. I got baptized when I was 11 years old, accepted Jesus as my Savior and Lord, but still not many things changed.

The radical change came when I left for the UK to work as an au-pair. I was 19 years old and my dream was to learn English and spend some time in London. I started working in one family's home but in less than four days everything changed and I had to leave. Thank God in that time my good friend was living near London. When she offered me help initially, she certainly didn't expect I'd be accepting a week later. I

thought I would find another family easily and move on but I struggled a lot. In the end I stayed with Jana for nearly two months! Truth is that I was a bit picky and had trouble choosing a family. In retrospect I was relying on myself despite attempting to talk to God for two whole months while ignoring what He was trying to tell me. I needed to leave my friend's place as soon as possible and I was crying out to God about why all this was happening. One day I told Him, "Ok God, if this is your plan, go ahead with it. I can't see any point but there is no other option. I have to trust you." Finally!!! Finally, I gave all my worries to Him and incredibly everything changed, everything started going so smoothly. I found an amazing family in a week, moved to London in the same week and started my journey with a guide named Jesus.

Since the very beginning, everything worked out so well. I was experiencing His awesome miracles everyday and grew together with Him. There are so many stories to tell but one is especially worth mentioning to me - the greatest answer to my prayers. I prayed a lot for a church to go to. I asked God to give me a church at least as good as KS but God gave me something much better than KS. I found a church called New Life and I became a part of this amazing Christian fellowship within a few weeks. I started going to Alpha [classes] and getting to know people, then started going to a home group. I met amazing people and made great friends. I prayed for some young people, if possible, and I became involved with a group of people my age with a passion for Christ that

was so contagious. I prayed that the church wouldn't be far away. And I got a church with 15 minutes' walking distance. Just amazing! Now I'm more than grateful that the New Life community experience changed my life. After an amazing year full of God's grace and miracles I went back to Prague to take exams to attend university. But I desperately wanted to go back to the UK. Luckily, and God knows why, I didn't pass the exams and left for London for another year. I started living with my friend from church and I found a great job. This time I let God lead me through the job search and finding accommodation. I don't even remember any difficulties. What was waiting for me the next year was again an incredible blessing. A great job, amazing colleagues, a promotion and the best thing -one more year in New Life!

One year later I left London and went to university. I started studying tourism in Prague. God's presence stayed with me and I hope it will stay forever. Right now, looking back, I'm so grateful for all the struggles and hard times because without them I would never be where I am now. God has an amazing future and plans for all of us, even much better than we can imagine.

I also have a great testimony how I found PCF but I'm running out of space so I will tell you personally if you want :-)

May our lives tell His story!! Be blessed.

Tereza

(Continued from page 1... God's Time

lives all the **fullness** of God in a human body." Ephesians 3:19 says, "May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the **fullness** of life and power that comes from God." John 1:16 says, "From the **fullness** of his grace we have all received one blessing after another." Hard to get fuller than that!

Now *pleroo* in combination with *karios* indicates fully completing or finishing something... accomplishing something. I say "something" because this combination is not based on chronological time but rather event time.

- **pleroo karios** – **fullness (completed/finished) of time / accomplished time, past.**

In contrast I found *pleroo chronos* combination in Galatians 4:4; "When the right time came." The emphasis was not the event of Jesus coming but rather the timing of his coming. Not to say that *pleroo chronos* is not important, but rather, I want to emphasize how important it is to know the seasons of our lives. Even if we climb a tree we will not know the chronological limits of our lives (*no one knows the day or the hour*). But scripture admonishes us to know the season we live in (*learn a lesson from the fig tree*). Knowing our season will help give us perspective on our spiritual journey.

In Ephesians 1:10-11, we find the combination of *pleroo karios* - "He planned to bring all of history to its goal in Christ. Then Christ would be the head of everything in heaven and on earth." Other translations say, "when the time is ripe," "when the times will have reached their fulfillment," or "when history has been completed." [Also, see Mark 1:15, "The time promised by God has come at last!" or "the time is

fulfilled."]

Most people associate *chronos* time with waiting time. "When will God finally move? We have been in Egypt forever!" Moses was in the wilderness for 40 years. Then, along comes a *karios* moment - God speaks to Moses, and things begin to unfold quickly... voices, miracles and plagues. The next thing you know the whole Israeli nation has crossed the Red Sea into freedom. **That is a pleroo karios moment.** God did it! It is done! Finished!

But that was just one cycle. Not long later the Israelites are walking around the desert in *chronos* time. Moses goes to heaven and *karios* time kicks-in. In just a few paragraphs we find them standing at a flooded Jordan River. God dries up the river, they march across, and their enemies are paralyzed with fear at the power of their God. Shortly thereafter, they have their promised land. God did it. It is done! Finished!

Easter is the best example of a *pleroo karios* moment. Jesus said just before he died... "it is finished." He is resurrected, he appears, he rises into the clouds and a new season begins. Today, we wait for his return in *chronos* time. Scripture tells

(Continued on page 4)

PCF Finances	
March 2009	
eBanka Account No. 181730394/5500	
+60,062	Total Income
2,711	Internet & Comm.
11,509	Office Rent & Electricity
8,500	Church Rent
9,353	Supplies & Equipment
300	Copying & Publishing
37,128	Salaries/Employ Taxes
2,000	Evangelism & Teaching
2,000	Church Giving
1,259	Fees & Advertising
0	Miscellaneous
74,760	Total Expenses
-14,698	Net Income

All amounts shown are in Czech Crowns.

Prayer Needs



- 1) **Church Finances** – provision to cover our expenses and wisdom in spending and giving.
- 2) **Current & Former PCF members involved with full-time ministry** such as David Snell, Kelly Kuest, Sam Ewell, Michael Stadler, Roger & Robin Harsh, Doris Rabus, and Rosane da Silva 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 Nightwatches** – pray for the upcoming prayer and worship events. 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 and homeless ministry.
- 7) **PCF Summer Outreaches** – mission trips to Belarus and Ukraine, and the English Camp in Úvaly.



Upcoming Birthdays

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

Maryna Khimishinets	May 5
Maggie Kelley	May 5
Markéta Lišková	May 7
Ana Overwater	May 9
Carolyn Wright	May 11
Karel Sedláček	May 11
Victoria Kutkina	May 11
Lukaš Sedláček	May 14
Mugero Nicholas	May 16
Allen Nishie	May 16
John Duryea	May 17
Johan Bruce	May 18
Emiliya Guliyeva	May 18
Hope Edgar Mares	May 19
Joseph Boakye	May 19
Martins Onemegie	May 24
Doris Rabus	May 24
John Mullen	May 25
Tim Old	May 26
Samantha Trad	May 26
Marcus Frakes	May 27
Victoria Frye	May 30



*As God's plan unfolds
chronos time becomes
karios time!*

us that there at the end of the age (an amazing *karios* time according to the book of Revelation), Jesus victoriously proclaims "it is finished (Rev 21:6)."

Not only does Easter give us hope, that *karios* and *pleroo karois* are coming, Easter is a reminder that, just like Christ, we too are participants in God's plans. Jesus had 30 years of *chronos* time. It must have seemed like forever. Perhaps it would be like owning a Ferrari and never going faster than the speed limit. Jesus had the power of the Creator but never tapped into it for 30 years (in Israel you could begin your ministry, becoming a rabbi, at age 30)! Maybe that explains why he tells his mother "my time has not come" (he uses the third word for time, *hora*, referring to his timetable.) That was the first miracle in an amazing three year season of miracles, teaching and discipling. The *karios* season concluded with a very challenging finish. Jesus' *pleroo karois* came at a high price. It says, *he endured the cross and despised the shame* (Heb 12:2).

The Israelites coming out of Egypt were not prepared to fight for their promised land. Unfortunately, the result was that they did not get their *pleroo karois* event. Abraham refused to wait through his *chronos* time and ended up with an Ismael problem (rather passed it on to us). We all have our *chronos* seasons but sometimes never get to our *karois* season.

God's time has seasons. It has a time to wait, and a time to move. It has a time to sow, and a time to reap. You may be on the verge of breaking into *karios* time and I want to encourage you to hang in there. Most people think the *chronos* time is wasted. But I don't think so. In the desert a lot happens:

- you learn to get by on less,
- you learn to hear quiet things,
- you lose unnecessary weight,
- you find time to reflect / reorder,
- you learn to depend on those around you,
- you learn to see God in the ordinary,
- you learn to face today rather than worry about tomorrow,
- you learn patience and mature in the desert.

Maybe the thirstier you get the better the water eventually tastes. Not only did Abraham love Isaac more after waiting so long... but he also loved God more. He found healthy perspective in the desert. Moses lived in Pharaoh's house for 40 years and then moved to the wilderness for 40 years. Sometimes it takes a while to unlearn some of the world's lessons. After 40 years of quiet he could hear God's voice. Paul went to Tarsus for 12-13 years. Why would it take so long for such a smart guy to get ready to preach? Paul seems to have been quite a lightning rod in his youth. Over a decade of *chronos* time seems to have retooled him quite a bit.

I can imagine waiting and waiting, but not seeing *karios* time. Many of you have been plodding away, waiting for God to break through this hard land. The day is coming when one day, God starts to move in our midst and kingdom activity starts coming faster and faster. The Church in the Czech Republic cries out, Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!

Dutch Sheets in his book, God's Timing for Your Life, says; "If you are believing for a miracle in your life, you're a lot more likely to experience hope deferred than the person who doesn't expect anything to happen. Here's the paradox: A person who is more passionate for God is more at risk of spiritual disillusionment than a person who has little or no passion or commitment." Proverbs 13:12 says, *Hope deferred makes the heart sick.*

Many people are spiritually disillusioned and hopeless, rather than, anticipating the promise will soon be fulfilled. Easter is all about hope. Hope that, just like Jesus, we will see an end to our *chronos* time and see our *karios* time kick in. And, by the grace of God, we finish the race well. We will meet the challenges, persevere the hardships, and overcome the obstacles to enter into our *pleroo karios* victories.

Easter is a reminder that Jesus has gone ahead of us and regardless of whether we see heaven, whether we are experiencing the kingdom of God in our lives, whether we feel like we are in a desert waiting (for what seems like forever)... *our hope of being saved connects us with God* (Heb 6:19), and *the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled* (Rom. 14:4). *For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes"* (2 Cor 1:20)!



Should you have a testimony to share please email us. The deadline is May 20, 2009.