



# The Prague Christian Fellowship POST

Monthly Newsletter of the Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF

Suggested Cost 10 Czech Crowns - July/August 2009

## John Mullen, PCF Pastor

## Core Values II

Core values are the primary beliefs that shape our view of the world. You could also say our view of the world (worldview) defines our primary/core values. Either way we have the responsibility to evaluate our worldview and/or our primary values in light of scripture. Some people speak of a "Christian worldview." Obama, Bush and Clinton are all self-professed Christians. However, I would not give the formation of my core values to any of them. Foundational for me is the concept of *imago dei*... we are made in the image of God, and anything that destroys that God given life is an act of evil. Neither war nor abortion supports my value of *imago dei*.

At some point in your life you have to define your own set of values. Otherwise, you tend to inherit the worldview of the age and the accompanying values that come with it. Hopefully you are curious enough to consider some guiding principles to help you live *in* the world but not *of* the world. I once suggested a few core values to guide our relationships with each other at PCF. For Christians community is an essential part of life. Since our community is based upon our common relationship with God, the relationship with Him is also essential. And, our relationship with God motivates us to be in relationship with His world. The Creator's passion is to reconcile

the world to Himself. So, it seems to reason that our core values would encompass *each other, God, and the world*. Hopefully, the following values will get you thinking and help you discover your own guiding principles to shape your worldview.

*Your view of God will dictate your view of your world.*

**We embrace each other by appreciating our God given differences.** We come from lots of different countries, cultures and church traditions. I say, "we are who we are." Whom God sends us affects our community's expression. Our community changes color with each new member rather than the other way around. Maybe we both change color a bit; however, the point is that we are not the same after coming together. **We see each other as valuable vessels carrying the Holy Spirit.** Corporately, we have lots of different gifts. The goal is not to clone Pastor John. The goal is to corporately express Christ. That means that each person has something

unique to contribute and as such should be valued. This explains why so many people are involved in our services and home groups. **We relate to each other as fellow sojourners.** One of the things that make us one is our common need of a Savior. None of us is perfect or "has arrived." We all are on a journey toward Christ and we all have lots of growing to do. But the reality is that truth is not enough. We also need grace and time to move forward. This means we must extend grace and time to our fellow sojourners. Religion tends to treat sin as failure and embarrassment rather than a life lesson. Sin has built-in negative consequences, but the church often tries to "help out" the Holy Spirit by adding some shame and rejection. The Holy Spirit is good at His job. We should be working with Him and complementing His ministry with encouragement and acceptance.

In addition to these community core values, we also need to consider how we **relate to God**. Our upbringing, our parents, our culture can all skew how we see God. **We embrace God by**

(Continued on page 3)

### What's Inside?

- ◆ Family Profile  
—Sandra Bogarová
- ◆ PCF Birthdays & Prayer Info
- ◆ PCF Financial Update

# *Family Profile*

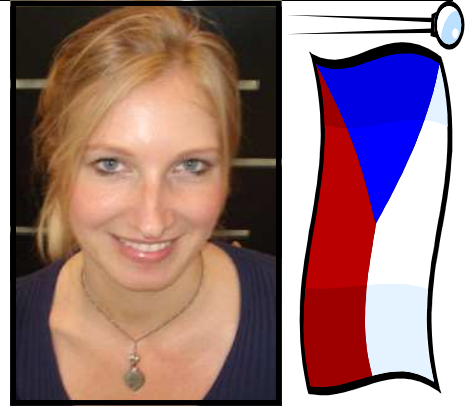
## Sandra Bogarová

My name is Sandra and I was born in the Czech Republic. My parents are atheist so I was never really told about Christianity and I was never involved in Christian activities in my childhood. However, my grandparents believed in God and we did have some very close friends of my family who were Christians, so I did have some exposure to Christianity through conversations. I have never really questioned my existence, life or why we are here. I simply took life as it is.

My first exposure to Christian community came when I was living at the International Student Club abroad during my studies at the university. The voluntary people who were working there were young Christians from all over the

world. They were there to ensure that the campus was running well. I noticed that the community was a bit different - somehow very nice, peaceful and joyful (although it was a bit strict for students with many rules to abide by). Soon I gained new friends who took me to a church in London. Then I started to read the Bible but it did not make much sense to me.

Years later back in the Czech Republic, I met several people who influenced my life and introduced me again to Christianity but this time in a much deeper way. They explained to me many things. Somehow the puzzle came together for me – my place in God’s world – a sense of my purpose – my relationship to God. I recognized it is not very common for a non-Christian Czech person to be surrounded by so many



Christian people for so many years. So I took a step of faith - I got baptized. It was a great experience for me, plus it was an defining moment in my life.

I can see that God has been orchestrating things in my life for me to come to know Him. I am so thankful, and am looking forward to all the good things He has for me! ■

### **Nineth Annual Úvaly English Day Camp**

August 3th-7th

Czech or English-speaking  
volunteers are needed!

*English Camps are THE BEST way to  
reach the youth!*

**accepting His gift.** There are many paths toward God but there is only one door to enter His house. Life with God begins with accepting the atonement of the Messiah (John 1:18, 14:6, 17:3). **We see God through Jesus not the Old Covenant.** Jesus says if you have seen me you have seen the Father, and I don't remember Jesus giving people "what they deserve!" – An eye for an eye or a tooth for a tooth. Instead, he seemed very busy reconciling and restoring people. **We relate to God on His terms as adopted children.** If your view of yourself is a sinner or slave saved by grace, your life will be limited by your false-identity. Most of the Old Testament characters did not want the responsibility that comes from an intimate relationship with God, and preferred the do-it-yourself relationship that offered a sense of earned satisfaction. In every religion one must earn god's acceptance – except one where acceptance was earned 2000 years ago.

How we see the world is largely affected by how we see God. If God is an Old Testament mass murderer, you are going to see your world as an unpredictable jungle that requires you to conquer or be conquered. Your view of God will dictate your view of your world.

In light of Christ and the New Covenant we embrace the world as people who deserve mercy not judgment. Under the law, people did deserve judgment, and they got it! That was a covenant of law that set the stage for God to reveal Himself through the Son, and bring a covenant of grace.

Mercy was in conflict with judgment until the Old Covenant was ended with the death of the Savior (remember it was till death do us part). He took the sins of *the world*<sup>1</sup> upon Himself and died to 1) end the Old Covenant and establish the New Covenant<sup>2</sup>; 2) atone for our sins (past, present and future); and 3) give us a new nature (from servants to sons & daughters).

*And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*

(2 COR. 5:18-21)

With mercy and grace as a foundation **we can see the world as people who are made in God's image, and rather than the enemy.** Firstly, God seems to love diversity, but people often prefer homogeneity (like-minded groups). History is full of bigotry, racism and prejudices, but it was not so obvious at the time it was occurring. I wonder where our prejudices are today. Some Czech Christians still expect our Gypsy daughter to be musical, like to dance, and expect her to run off and get in trouble when she gets older. We are new creations in Christ and we have been set free to be who God created us to be. Secondly, the battle is against principalities not people (Eph 6:12). Too often we are mad at the world, mad at people in the world and fail to be mad at the evil at work in the world. Too often our worldview is worldly. It is not *us Christians* against those *non-Christians*. People talk about the Dalai Lama like he is the devil himself. He is just a man! And no man is beyond the reach of the cross. It was the Czechs known as the Moravians who sold themselves into slavery or climbed on board prisoner ships with a one-way ticket. Their battle cry was "Win for the Lamb that was slain the reward for His suffering." To them the lost were of great value. Do we see our world that way?

With such a foundation of love **we can relate to the world by living in it for the purpose of changing it.** The kingdom of God has come in the spirit. The kingdom of God will come and reign on the earth. But in the meantime, we, those joined to the Lord, are the kingdom of God. God's reign *may not yet* be over all the powers, principalities and people on the earth but it is established in us. So

(Continued on page 4)

we are the kingdom. We are the kingdom ambassadors. We are also the kingdom soldiers, called to advance the kingdom of God and usher in the coming of the Lord! The Lord will return when the evil strongholds are replaced with kingdom strongholds – when the lost see the kingdom of God and embrace the kindness of God – when the people of the world repent from legalistic mentalities and independent lifestyles – when we fulfill our mission of reconciling the world to God.

Your core values might be much broader than these. Certainly, there are many other areas of our lives to consider, but our *community, God and the world* are a good start. How we *embrace* (accept), *see* and *relate* to them govern many aspects of our lives. Let us be intentional in defining our “Christian” worldview, and let it be rooted in God’s truth rather than the wisdom of the age, comfort, convenience or tradition.

<sup>1</sup> In John 3:17 & 12:47 scripture says Jesus did not come to judge the world but rather to save the world.  
<sup>2</sup> His coming was to establish His kingdom via His spirit residing in His people in a new New Covenant relationship. This is a special season of mercy. Scripture refers to them as the “last days.” But when New Testament scripture talks about judgment it talks about “the last day.”

### Upcoming Birthdays

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

Arnout Francke	July 4
Dave Currin	July 5
Mark Reinhardt	July 6
Gabriela Peková	July 6
Anthony Walker	July 6
Kassidee Kennedy Cuffey	July 6
Megumi Ito	July 7
Nathan Ndubuka	July 8
Bevan Smith	July 8
Brett Johnson	July 9
Debbie Vallejos	July 10
Vanesa Rios Escobar	July 10
Paul Stoeter	July 11
Jana Ndubuka	July 11
Veronika Cvečková Kopčíková	July 11
Jeremy Kruiženga	July 12
Beverly van Straaten	July 14
Štěpan Denk	July 17
Rebeka Kouklíková	July 17
Kevin Nickle	July 18
Jay O’Neal	July 18
Antonia Dreier	July 19
Susan Hein	July 22
Hana Navrátilová Kroutilová	July 23
Maureen Caldwell	July 24
Samuel Kouklík	July 28
Ráchel Kouklíková	August 1
Dita Crowther Říhová	August 1
Mark Robbins	August 4
Jenny MacRae Winsley	August 6
Rachel Sheffield	August 8
Joshua Kropf	August 8
Garth Wright	August 10
Sylvie Kořánková Currin	August 11
Daniel Gawlik	August 12
Kelsie Mullen	August 15
Sherry Robbins	August 18
Lydia Strong	August 20
Tonda Culek	August 24
Magda Čejková Tiehen	August 30
Jeroen Overwater	August 30

### Prayer Needs

- Church Finances** – provision to cover our expenses and wisdom in spending and giving.
- 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)**
- 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.
- Mullen’s reconstruction of their attic** – pray for finances and affordable bids.
- PCF Ministries** – for home groups, refugee camp and homeless ministry.
- PCF Summer Outreaches** – mission trips to Belarus and Ukraine, and the English Camp in Úvaly.

### PCF Finances

May 2009	
eBanka Account No. 181730394/5500	
+52,937	<b>Total Income</b>
9,039	Internet & Comm.
10,180	Office Rent & Electricity
8,500	Church Rent
49,32	Supplies & Equipment
500	Copying & Publishing
39,128	Salaries/Employ Taxes
2,641	Evangelism & Teaching
3,000	Church Giving
1,560	Fees & Advertising
0	Miscellaneous
<b>79,480</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>
<b>-26,543</b>	<b>Net Income</b>

All amounts shown are in Czech Crowns.

**PCF Bank Info:**  
*Sbor Křesťanské společenství PCF,*  
 eBanka Account No.  
 181730394/5500  
 Variable symbol: 10261



**BBQ, Saturday, July 25 at 1:00 PM in Úvaly**

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