



The Prague Christian Fellowship POST

Monthly Newsletter of the Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF

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John Mullen, PCF Pastor

Message to the Saints

This article is a compilation of several sermons in preparation for the PCF Autumn Retreat. The theme of the retreat is Sit, Walk, Stand, Fight (partially adapted from a book by Watchman Nee.

At times I have considered writing a book. It would be well worth the effort if the message spoke to a sizeable group of people and helped them in their spiritual journeys. The Apostle Paul's writing has been helping people for two thousand years. Recently, we have been studying his letter to the Ephesians.

His prison epistle to the Ephesians was different from his pastoral epistles. In it he speaks about matters of doctrine for the whole church rather than matters of practice in a local community. Doctrine can simply be defined as *a body or system of teachings relating to a particular subject*. Paul teaches here about the Body of Christ, both corporately and individually.

Some Greek versions omit "at Ephesus" in the first verse and it simply reads "to the saints." This epistle is probably the letter referred to in Col. 4:16 that Paul wants the Colossians to read as well. So to speak, the message to the Ephesians can reasonably be interpreted today as the letter to Prague Christian Fellowship.

With that in mind I would like to present my outline of the letter (at least in relation to our theme for the upcoming retreat). I strongly encourage you to get out your Bible and read along as you progress through the outline.



I. Rest (Eph. 1:1-2:22)

■ Rest in Father's Blessings (1:1-6)

- He has chosen us
- He has adopted us
- He has accepted us

■ Rest in Son's Blessings (1:7-12)

- He has redeemed us
- He has forgiven us
- He has revealed God's will to us
- He has united us with Christ
- He has made us to be His inheritance

■ Rest in Spirit's Blessings (1:13-14)

- He has sealed us
- He has given us a guarantee/ deposit

■ Prayer for Understanding (1:15-23)

- Rest in the gift of spiritual understanding
 - Rest in the hope of His calling
 - Rest in knowing the riches of His inheritance
 - Rest in knowing His power
- #### ■ Rest in God's Work (2:4-9)
- He made us alive with Christ
 - He raised us up and seated us w/ Christ
 - He bestowed the riches of His grace
 - He did everything required to saved us

■ Rest in Result of His Work (2:10-22)

- We are now his workmanship/ masterpiece
- We are now brought near to God
- We are now at peace with all believers
- We are now free from the system of old covenant law
- We are now reconciled with all believers
- We are now connected to Father via Holy Spirit
- We are now citizens of heaven/ members of God's family
- We are becoming a holy temple of Lord

II. Walk (Eph. 4:1-5:33)

■ Walk in Unity (4:4-16)

- Oneness of Christianity
- Uniqueness of Christians



- Fullness of Christ

■ Walk according to your new nature (4:17-27)

- Let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes
- Understand your real identity in Christ
- Speak only truth to one another
- Understand your place in community ("members of one another")
- Take control of emotions rather than other way around
- Resolve conflicts and do not avoid working toward reconciliation
- Close doors the enemy can use to gain entrance to our lives

■ Walk in love (4:28-5:2)

- Love labors not only for oneself but also to have extra to share
- Love is sensitive to what is said
- Love builds others up
- Love gives grace
- Love does not grieve the HS
- Love does not hold onto bitterness, wrath, anger, outcry, or slander
- Love is kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving

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What's Inside?

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Family Profile

Tene Sánchez



For a very long time I have realized that I was a very lucky person. I can say that all through my life I have lived under a shower of blessings and miracles. From an incredibly supporting family to the most surprising coincidences, things have always been easy.

As most children in Spain I was baptized as a baby and then was indoctrinated by a priest for First Communion (leaving me feeling scared). Of course, as soon as I was old enough to stand up to my mother's insistence that I go to church on Sundays, I proceeded to throw the baby of spirituality away with the bathwater of Spanish Catholicism. I did attend the preparation for Confirmation as a teenager but never went through with it: there were too many unanswered questions.

I was given the opportunity to participate in some humanitarian field work in Mauritania in 2004. It was the faith, devotion and love of God I observed in Muslims there that reopened the debate of spirituality for me. Coming back from that experience, all the questions that I had successfully refused to ask came hurtling back with many new ones.

The first answers came through the books of Ken Wilber which were well researched, with scientific proof that the spiritual



realm was real and integrated with everything else, and through Buddhist meditation, an amazing tool that helped me. Meditation still helps me create the inner silence where I can start hearing God's voice. Answers also came through a wonderful relationship with a Christian woman. She was the first who shared with me a different Christianity than I had known.

That was a wonderful time of discovery and excitement that came to a stop when the rug was pulled out from under my feet and I entered a personal crisis that brought me quite unexpectedly to Prague in February 2008. The last year and a half has highlighted my weaknesses and has been an unending lesson in humility. But at the same time, I have witnessed

miracles that have grounded my faith in experience and started a learning curve about God.

In many ways it seems that God has been gently showing me the way through many, many small and incredible blessings. It is interesting to note that in my first week in Prague I "randomly" encountered three members of PCF in my language course which in turn brought me to church on my first weekend here. For someone like me that was extraordinary. But even more strangely, I have continued to attend and have gotten gradually more involved with the community and with God. I am slowly discovering how much I want God in my life.

It is a strange, wonderful, and terrifying time. Pray for me!

[Editor's note: Tene plans to be baptized at the next PCF baptism and attends the Men's Prayer Group on Wednesdays. He is a wonderful prayer partner and often has testimonies as to God's provision in answering our prayers.]

PCF Bank Info:

*Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF,
eBanka Account No. 181730394/5500
Variable symbol: 777*

*Contact Evzen Pekarek for assistance
at PekarekEvzen@seznam.cz*

(Continued from page 1.... Message)

- Love imitates Christ
- **Walk in moral purity (5:3-6)**
 - Godliness in sexual relations
 - Godliness in areas of conscience
 - Godliness in our finances
 - Godliness in our speech
 - Godliness in our relationships
 - Godliness in our attitudes
- **Walk in the light (5:7-14)**
 - Walking in goodness
 - Walking in righteous
 - Walking in truth
 - Walking in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord
 - Walking in fruitful deed of the Spirit
 - Walking in opposition to evil
 - Walking in radiance
- **Walk in wisdom (5:15-6:9)**
 - Walk and talk in the Spirit
 - Walk in gratitude
 - Walk in harmony (be subject to one another)
 - A) Community (reverently)
 - B) Spouses (love and respect)
 - C) Members of Body of Christ
 - D) Children (honor parents)
 - E) Parents (encourage/train children)
 - F) Employees (obedience)
 - G) Employers (serve with good will)

III. Stand (Eph. 6:10-17a)

- **Stand Strong (6:10)**
 - In the Lord
 - In His mighty power
- **Stand Firm (6:11-13)**
 - Against strategies of the devil
 - Against evil spiritual forces
 - Against evil human forces
 - Against evil spirits in heavenly places
- **Stand Faithfull (6:14-17a)**
 - Girded with truth
 - Covered by righteousness
 - Powered by peace
 - Shielded by faith
 - Protected by the finished works of Christ

IV. Fight (Eph. 6:17b-20)

- With the Word of God
- With prayer
- With spiritual alertness
- With persistence
- With proclamation

My conclusion is that Paul wants the Body of Christ to do more than run the race... he wants us to be victorious! So with time running out (he is already

imprisoned and soon to be martyred) Paul gives us maybe his greatest teaching.

He encourages us to start with a complete understanding of who God is, what He has done, and who he has made us to be. From there we are equipped to let our new identity "out of the bag." More than that, we are expected to live like citizens of heaven. But that would still not be enough to be victorious in a fallen world. Paul instructs us that we have to take a stand against the unseen spiritual forces that are at work.

It is interesting that a defensive stand is in harmony with our daily walk. Battling is similar to living the Christian life in that it begins with an understanding of who God is and what He has done. Then, and only then, do we go into action. So it occurs to me that battling is just another aspect of our daily walk. It is not a place we arrive at after a successful Christian life. Rather it is a place we walk in throughout the daily grind. Living in a secular culture requires us to stand our ground every day.

And Paul points out that our daily battles will not be won unless we also know the Word, persist in prayer and attack the enemy with the word of our testimonies (Rev. 12:11). Maybe his testimony is the strongest part of his letter. For if we want an illustration of a victorious Christian life living by these principals, we need only to study the transformed life of Saul of Tarsus. ■

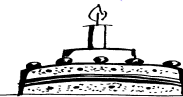
PCF Finances		
July & August 2009		
eBanka Account No. 181730394/5500		
+157,797	+46,672	Total Income
3,595	2,941	Internet & Comm.
7,590	7,590	Office Rent & Electricity
8,500	8,500	Church Rent
8,845	11,001	Supplies & Equipment
330	0	Copying & Publishing
39,128	38,275	Salaries/Employ Taxes
64,859	39,396	Evangelism & Teaching
3,000	7,400	Church Giving
2,228	1,390	Fees & Advertising
7,085	2,193	Miscellaneous
145,161	118,686	Total Expenses
+12,636	-72,014	Net Income

All amounts shown are in Czech Crowns.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) **Church Finances** – provision to cover our expenses and wisdom in spending and giving.
- 2) **Current and former PCF members involved with full-time ministry** such as John & Kelsie Mullen, Doris Rabus, Rosane da Silva, David Snell, Kelly Kuest, Sam Ewell, Michael Stadler, Will Porter, Andy Faust 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 worship leaders to come help with PCF, CISP and IHOPP.
- 4) **Outreaches**– please pray for God's leading and for homeless outreaches.
- 5) **Mullen's reconstruction of their attic**- Pray for finances, good bids and quality work to complete the project.



Upcoming Birthdays

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
Anastázia Dětková	October 5
HongXia Hu	October 6
Phillip Old	October 7
Courtney Mangina-Sarikasap	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-Munro	October 23
T.J. Caldwell	October 24
Raya Loiser	October 24
Markéta Sedláčková	October 27
Jerrold Ivery	October 29
Lydia Burda	October 29
Robert Harris	October 29
Brook Getahun	October 30



Autumn 2009 Retreat—Immanuel Conference Center



•Immanuel Conference Center is located in a beautiful environment of the Czech-Moravian Highlands on the border of protected landscape areas of Železných Hor (Iron Mountains) and Žďárských hills

SIT, WALK, STAND, & FIGHT— A Study on the Book of Ephesians

We were all designed for a greater purpose, a larger drama, a higher calling. The progression of growth in the believer is essential. We can't learn to run as children before we know how to sit up. As we learn how to grow up spiritually and function as a follower of Jesus, full of authority and confidence, *we enter into the greatest*

adventure of all!

We are looking forward to the incredible things God will do amongst us as we follow this progression of growth for each believer in the book of

Ephesians. We have a deep sense of anticipation for the “God things” he wants to do in our midst. There is no need for any believer to be a victim or walk in defeat. The book of Ephesians holds many keys for the lives of all believers!

We don't think it will be a problem to join last minute (depending on room availability), so come and invite a friend! Please contact Dana Dubova at dana.dubovaATseznam.cz to sign up and get more information. ■



Drew & Amy Funka are considering serving in Prague and are leading worship at the retreat.

PCF Sailors

PCF 2009 Men's Retreat



On September 4th six PCFers headed south driving through the night to the southern part of Croatia. That afternoon we were on the high seas in search of God and adventure. Fortunately, we found both.

Each morning we woke to great weather, refreshing salt water, and

interesting bible discussion and prayer. We covered the material “Grace Life” or “Exchanged Life” seminar about the amazing work of the cross, and shared openly about our struggles, doubts, fears and hopes.

Adventure abounded in sailing up to nine knots, jumping from cliffs, snorkeling the ocean floor, and exploring seaside towns.

The crew consisted of Tomáš Knapek, Mira Šebesta, Dave Currin, Jon La Plante, Jan Kupidlovský, John Mullen and a friend of our captain, CB Pastor



Daniel Hejzlar.

Strong sailing wind, lots of sun, perfect water temperature, breathtaking scenery and great fellowship left us all thankful to God for providing such an amazing retreat. Next year I doubt we will have any trouble filling the vacant spaces in the boat.

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