



The Prague Christian Fellowship POST

Monthly Newsletter of the Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF

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John Mullen, PCF Pastor

Heart-n-Soul

It seemed to me that the Old Testament (OT) spends a lot of words talking about *behavior* and the New Testament (NT) spends a lot of words talking about *heart*. Maybe a better distinction would be the Old vs. New Covenants. Originally, I set out to write an article on the weakness of discipleship that focuses on behavior. However, when I did the math it turned out the OT proportionally gave significantly more attention to the word *heart* than the NT. Maybe we can conclude that God has always “looked at the heart” (I Sam 16:7). The NASU translation quotes Jesus 33 times using the word “heart.” One of my favorite OT/NT quotes is:

"AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH" (Mark 12:30, Deut 10:12).

This passage reminds me that there is more to discipleship than memorizing scripture. God does want you to “*set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth*” (Col 3:2), *and to think about “whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable”* (Phil 4:8). However, he also wants you to “*let the*

peace of Christ rule in your hearts, ... and... let the word of Christ richly dwell within you” (Col 3:15-16). Jesus says, “*peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful*” (Jn 14:27-28).

Some people would argue that the heart and the soul are the same thing. I was taught that the soul is the home of the mind, will and emotions, and man is comprised of spirit, soul and body (I Thes 3:23). In last month’s article I proposed that **the heart is the place that God and mankind meet**. However, this is precisely the
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Kelsie Mullen, PCF Pastorka :-)

Where Do We Go From Here?

Maybe you heard the story about the man who died and went to heaven, and was shown a large warehouse. When asked what was inside, an angel answered, “This contains all the blessings the Father wanted to give you when you were living on earth, but you never asked.” James 4:2 tells us “*You do not have because you do not ask.*” So maybe the above story is not so farfetched.

If you had one opportunity to stand in the presence of an all-powerful King and ask for one thing, what would it be? We would search our hearts and lives before making that request! It would bring us into some deep soul-searching. And it would be exciting as well, after all, what if the King granted our request! Wouldn’t the King be more likely to

grant our request if it was harmonious with His wishes? If we KNEW the King personally, it would be even better, because we’d learn to know His heart. And how much more likely if you were a beloved son or daughter of the King?

You know where I am going with this analogy, and I am speaking about prayer. For the last 2 months as a church we have been focusing on prayer. I pray that it has brought us all into some of that deep soul searching as mentioned above. The Jim Cymbala study on prayer, When God’s People Pray, was an excellent tool to get us back to the basics and help to lay the foundation of prayer again in our midst. There were also those in personal crisis who needed our prayers (and still do)

desperately which helped us plunge into prayer more deeply.

Now this question begs an answer, “Where do we go from here?” Talking about prayer, studying it, hearing testimonies about it, and having leaders model it are all great. But the point is for us all to learn to pray, and to pray fervently and more often. We believe there are new things for us from the Father, if we will only take the time to ask.

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What's Inside?

- ◆ Family Profile – Linda De Vos
- ◆ PCF Birthdays & Financial Info
- ◆ Prayer Requests
- ◆ Upcoming Summer Fun

Family Profile

Linda & Jonathan De Vos



Jonathan and I come from Namibia. Namibia is situated in the southwest of Africa, right against the Atlantic Ocean. It was a former German colony called “Sudwest Afrika,” with a very strong German influence even today.



Both of us are born Namibians. My parents came from South Africa and Jonathan, being my son is part Afrikaans, from my side and part German, from his dad’s side.

In November 2009, I received a Word from God to come to the Czech Republic, although at the time I did not know it was the Czech Republic. I had applied at three language schools to do my TEFL certificate, one in France, one in Italy and the last one in Prague. Of course, I received first acceptance into the TEFL course offered in Prague and in January 2010 I arrived here in Prague.

Within my first two weeks in Prague, I realized that God has called me to come to Prague. I do not know what my calling is here in Prague, but I know that I have to do everything possible to be a blessing to all people here in Prague. God blessed me with a gift to teach and I have the fantastic opportunity to teach Korean children and Czech adults at the moment.

God worked miracles in both my life and in Jonathan’s life. Within the first month, Jonathan

became a dedicated Christian. He started to study the Bible and sought forgiveness from God for everything he deemed as sinful in his life. He has a hunger for God’s Word and to learn more about the Bible and teachings in the Bible. God guided me and I found the Christian International School of Prague, where I enrolled him for schooling. Within months, my son has changed from an average church-going child, to a dedicated, responsible Christian teenager.

God also had plans for me. After pointing me to Dawn Custalow on our very first visit here at PCF, I found for the first time a woman I could talk to and turn to for advice without fear of rejection or criticism. I found that a miraculous amount of healing took place in my heart and soul after I have opened my heart to God and asked Him for help in various areas in my life.

God also taught me all about faith. God showed me that hope and faith are both very important ingredients in a Christian’s life. God taught me how to talk with Him. For the first time in quite a while, I feel the presence of the

Holy Spirit again within me. Daily I feel the Holy Spirit guiding me to live the way that pleases God. Daily I am reminded that I have to live and walk in faith because only God will provide for me.

Bad things happened to me here in Prague. Actually, bad things happened to both Jonathan and me while we were still travelling to Prague. But, I am not discouraged by bad things happening to us because I realized that we must be a threat in the spiritual realm to be here in Prague. John Mullen said to me once: “Every Christian counts.” Every hardship is proof that I am doing the right thing for God and the Kingdom of God. Daily I am being rewarded with smiles, bright eyes and happy faces for doing God’s work.

For the first time in my life, I feel like I belong. We found a family here in Prague. Both Jonathan and I are happy to be here. We are blessed with wonderful friends and caring people in our lives. We have put our lives in the Hands of our Father, God Almighty. God is good.

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, plans to give you hope and a future.” – Jeremiah 29:11.

Linda

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definition I would use to describe our spirit. I Corinthians 6:17 says, "but the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him."

We were dead (Eph. 2:1) and thanks to the work of Christ we were made alive to God (Rom 6:1). Those passages describe our spirit. What God has joined together, let no man separate. God's work is finished. Yet, experientially, I see the effects of hardened hearts. The book of Hebrews has a lot to say concerning this. After admonishing the church to not harden their hearts (3:8) the author admonishes them to not be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (3:13).

I suspect that just as our body can reap the effects of our soul... so can our spirits. We are positionally "saved" – meaning "we have been sanctified through

Ezek 36:26-27

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Heb 10:10). But we are also "being saved" (I Cor 1:18) and "being transformed" into the image of Christ (II Cor 3:18). It might be the test of our soul is the existence of peace in our heart (spirit).

When I say test, it refers to the positive or negative impact that
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(Continued from page 1... Where Do We Go...)

This week will be a Combined Home Group, and we will explore this topic, and we'll pray! What are you sensing God wants to say to us corporately? Are there some new ministries that God wants to birth which will affect this nation through PCF? We will never know unless we ask, listen and wait on Him in expectancy.

So please come to the new monthly combined home groups, where we will enter this adventure together . **Let's empty those spiritual storehouses in heaven on this place NOW! Amen!** ■



Upcoming Birthdays

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

Jeremy Schulte	July 1
Arnout Francke	July 4
David Bodé	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 Kopčičková	July 11
Jeremy Kruizenga	July 12
Beverly van Straaten	July 14
Štěpán 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

PCF Bank Info:

Sbor Křesťanské společnosti
PCF, eBanka Account No.
181730394/5500
Variable symbol: 1029
Contact Evžen Pekárek for
assistance at
PekarekEvzen@seznam.cz

PCF Finances

May 2010

<p>+ 346,190 5,105 7,860 8,500 11,330 350 46,948 1,400 6,000 1,658 0 89,151 +257,038</p>	<p>Total Income Internet & Comm. Office Rent & Elec. Church Rent Supplies & Equip. Copying & Publishing Salaries/Employ Tax Evangelism & Teach Church Giving Fees & Advertising Miscellaneous Total Expenses Net Income</p>
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All amounts shown are in Czech Crowns.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Church Finances** – provision to cover our expenses and wisdom in spending and giving.
- Provision for current and former PCF members so they can stay 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, Roger & Robin Harsh, Arnout Francke and Nathan Parry 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 worship leaders to come help with PCF, CISP and IHOPP.
- Outreaches**– Please pray for God's leading and for homeless outreaches and home groups in the park.
- Summer Missions** - Please pray for the team going to Ukraine (July 20-27), and the Uvaly English Camp (Aug 2-5).



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our soul has on our heart. Just as sin can “choke/hamper our faith” (Mat 13:22, Heb 12:1), Hebrews says it hardens our hearts. As new born believers we are given a new heart (Ezek 36:26). Our mission is to glorify Christ by caring for our hearts.

Now, the Pharisees had good behavior but their hearts were far from God (Mk 7:6). A common response to this historical contradiction is to ignore Biblical wisdom (i.e: do not forsake assembling together, to not be yoked with an unbeliever, do not fornicate, do not rob the Lord of tithes, etc..) and claim your love for God is all that is needed.

The truth is the Pharisees never received a new heart and their old heart was deceived into thinking they were good based on their behavior. We would be wise not to make the same mistake. Good behavior does not make us right with God. Only Christ can make us

right with God (Gal 6:12, Rom 3:20-26). However, behavior can have a profound effect on our heart.

I once saw a video clip about a non-believer who decided to live biblically. He researched for months and drew from the Bible hundreds of laws. He committed to live a full year trying to obey all these laws. In the end he had become a different person. He thought his experiment would make fun of the ultra Orthodox Jews and help them “see their folly.” What he discovered was that biblical obedience changed his heart, and that in turn changed his

thinking.

Yes, it is true all we need is Jesus. And, He said “*You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life*” (Jn 5:39-40). But, he also said “*the words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life*” (Jn 6:63). They are life to our hearts... they feed our spirits. We would do well to obey the one the Apostle John calls “*the Word*” and stop playing the modern Pharisee who wants to live life on his/her terms.

I like the Jewish Bible’s translation (CJB) of Colossian 3:15 – “*and let the shalom which comes from the Messiah be your heart’s decision-maker.*” We tend to make too many decisions from our soul. **The invitation for the victorious Christian life is to live from our new heart rather than our wounded soul.** Let His peace be your guide. Shalom! ■

Our mission is to glorify Christ by caring for our hearts.

PCF Summer Fun



BBQ, Saturday, July 17 from 11:00 AM in Úvaly at the Wright's home



Tuesday Nights in Kampa Park From 6:30 pm

ENGLISH CAMP  jž desátým rokem organizují Mullenovi se svými přáteli

ENGLISH CLUB www.ec-uvaleh.info

týdenní anglický prázdninový tábor v Úvalech

 Křesťanské společenství Praha



Děti se hrou formou učí anglický jazyk s rodilými mluvčími. Současně jsou jim přibližovány základy křesťanství. Na programu jsou zábavné hry, soutěže, písničky, divadlo apod.

Všechny prosíme, aby si vzali přezůvky a oběd s sebou.

Tábor pro děti ve věku od 6 do 16ti let se bude konat 2 - 6. 8. 2010 v Úvalech u Prahy. Přihlášky na email: hankahoblikova@seznam.cz informace na tel. č. 724435401

Sponzory prázdninového tábora jsou: Prague Christian Fellowship / Křesťanské společenství Praha

Should you have a testimony to share please email us. The deadline is August 20, 2010.