



# The Prague Christian Fellowship POST

Monthly Newsletter of the Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF

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## Walking in the Spirit Part II

John Mullen, PCF Pastor

*“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, .... Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but **alive to God in Christ Jesus**. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” (Rom 6:4-13).*

Last month I wrote about three practical means to walk in newness of life: godly thinking; godly service; and godly relationships. This month I wanted to add three more: godly attitudes; godly faith; and godly knowledge.

*Since you have heard all about him and have learned the truth that is in Jesus, throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness--righteous, holy, and true. (Ephesians 4:21-24)*

Walking in the Spirit is more than an expression. It is more than obeying some rules. It is a transformation of someone's soul. The transformation affects our mind, will and emotions. We could rephrase that and say walking in

the Spirit requires us to align with the thinking, desires and attitudes of Christ. Last month, I covered “thinking in the Spirit” and the importance of having the mind of Christ. What about the attitude of Christ?

**“walking in the Spirit requires us to align with the thinking, desires and attitudes of Christ.”**

*Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing. Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross. (Philippians 2:3-8).*

The attitude of Christ is available to all who possess His Spirit. From this passage I can see six practical attitudes that we can emulate as we allow Christ to live through us: 1) do not demand your rights; 2) choose to be a servant; 3) live obediently; 4) be willing to suffer; 5) think of others more highly than yourself; and 6) be other-focused not self-focused.

These are more than mere actions on a good day. These are attitudes we are to cultivate in our heart and pursue. If we are to be *an aroma of Christ*, we need more than obedience to rules or guide-

lines. We need to possess the attitude that embodies that rule or guideline. Morality based on rules is too shallow. **Christ is calling us to a morality based upon love.** If I give my wife flowers because it's my duty on our anniversary, she will most likely be an unhappy wife with flowers. If I give her flowers because I love her and want to express it somehow, I have succeeded in walking in the Spirit.

*When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure--the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to a new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. (Colossians 2:11-12).*

My second suggestion to help us walk in the Spirit is simply to **trust in the mighty power of God**. How does your life demonstrate that you trust God? For those of you who were present when I preached this message you will remember the great contributions offered by the community. I began with a few tangible expressions of our faith,... walking in: 1) dependant relationships with believers; 2) tithing and giving (money and time); 3) lifestyle of prayer and worship; 4) seeking the supernatural; 5) submission; and 6) kingdom mentality. Added to the list were walking in obedience, without fear, perseverance, transparency, con-

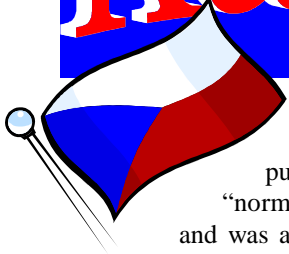
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## What's Inside?

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- ◆ PCF Summer Birthdays
- ◆ Prayer Info & Financial Update
- ◆ Graduation Congratulations
- ◆ Baptism Info & BBQ Invitation
- ◆ 2006 Annual Report Summary

# Family Profile

## Kateřina Dreier



I was born in the Czech Republic during the "normalization" period and was almost 15 when the Communist time was over. God officially didn't exist at that time and the (Catholic) church was responsible for many bad things that happened in the past and for abusing people for centuries. The Czech Republic today is a secular country and it's not really an inspiring background in terms of building a relationship with God. It took a long time, and God and I are still not finished, but we found our way to each other.

In 1995 I was working as an au pair in Oxford in the UK. I had one of those self-help books that became so popular at that time in Czech Republic, and in it was a simple test: "Take a piece of paper and write down all your fears." My first thought was - "What fears? I don't have any. I'm fine." However, I ended up holding a list of about twenty different fears in front of me in a trembling hand and realizing - I was anything but fine. Since that time I have learned a lot about my life and myself but I couldn't find reasons for my problems, most notably, the depression I suffered. There

was no alcoholism, no violence or abuse, no extreme situations in my past and no reasons for not having a nice, successful life. I used to be a curious child and drove my mother crazy asking questions. She didn't give me the answers I was looking for so I usually ended up crying... "You don't understand me..." Unfortunately, the talented child didn't grow up into a healthy adult and there is no one to blame for it.

I lived in Germany for almost 9 years. I got married but the marriage and the expected happy family life turned out to



be a bad joke. Looking back now, I know it was the fulfillment of my expectation of what I *thought* I deserved, but I am thankful for the experience. Reaching the bottom helped me to start the changes in my life. I have two wonderful children, Vincent (born in 1998) and Antonia (born in 2002). Vincent was the actual reason I went to see a specialist after I realized that the only emotions I could really feel *sometimes* were anger and the desire to die. Those of you who know my kids can see the difference: Antonia was born after I finished therapy and her father was out of the picture. I remember how glad I was to hear the diagnosis that it was depression affecting my life, and that I was sick, not lazy or stupid.

In the summer of 2003 I was telling my story to a friend of mine and he asked me, "Why are you staying in Germany?" Nine months later, in June of 2004, Vincent, Antonia and I had no problem crossing the border into Czech Republic, a new EU member. Sometimes I do let God do His work in my life! I found a flat quickly (the landlords are wonderful) and miraculously got a place in kindergarten for Vincent. With time I got stuck again, falling back into my old patterns of anger, fear and depression without knowing the reason. I read somewhere that depression occurs when the difference between the real and the ideal life grow too big. But other people make it through life, so why not me? I don't do drugs or alcohol, why do I have the feeling that my life is falling apart?

About a year ago, in the Spring of 2006, I started to work for Garth, who introduced me to PCF. The first months there showed me my lack of connection to God. I started to realize what I was missing all my life, how much healing I needed, and how long the way back to my real nature would be. I am still in that process and I hope that I can update this profile soon. Actually, I will, because my baptism is planned for this summer.

This all wouldn't be happening without the PCF community, especially all the ladies from the Monday Women's Home Group that I am a part of, and also without John Mullen's sensitive support. It is not possible to say 'yes' to God unless we say 'yes' to other people. We must bond and admit how needy we are. I can't 'make it' on my own. I don't have to and it is all right. ■

### PCF Finances

May 2007

<b>58,342</b>	<b>Total Income</b>
677	Internet & Communications
5,000	Office Rent & Electricity
8,500	Church Rent
1,509	Supplies & Equipment
200	Copying & Publishing
28,350	Salaries/Employ Tax
0	Evangelism & Teaching
10,000	Church Giving
3,954	Fees & Advertising
0	Miscellaneous
<b>58,190</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>
<b>152</b>	<b>Net Income</b>

All amounts shown are in Czech Crowns

Thanks for sharing

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fession, forgiveness, and fasting. If we are not walking in trust, how can we be walking in the Spirit? *Without faith it is impossible to please God.*

My third suggestion to help us walk in the Spirit is simply to **learn more and more about Christ**. Colossians 3:9-11 says: *...you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds. In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.*

In Hosea the Lord tells us knowing Him is *more important than burnt offerings* (6:6). However, I have noticed that the learning curve tends to drop significantly after the first few years of coming to Christ. As if we somehow learned all about God and can move on to other things needing attention (usually worldly ones). Writers, painters and musicians seem to keep going... expecting more and more new revelations. Christians, on the other hand, seem to put God in their box and view God according to their secular worldview. Would the painter say there is nothing left to paint and put away his easel? Would the poet assume all the truly

great poetry was already written, and put down his pen? Then why do Christians allow dust to collect on their bibles and fill up their weekends with everything except gathering with other believers to hear the Spirit speak afresh?

Maybe the stronghold in our flesh is related to the lack of unity we share in *our faith and knowledge of God's Son*. We are immature and therefore fail in *measuring up to the full stature of Christ* (Eph 4:13). Walking in the Spirit will require from us a lifetime of learning and discovering the heart of God. Learning "about Him" will not suffice. We have to come to the place where **knowing** Him (relationally) is the most important aspect of our lives.

If we are to walk in newness of life, we might do well to consider walking in godly thinking, godly service, godly relationships, godly attitudes, godly faith and godly knowledge. I am sure you could find more practical ways to help you walk in the Spirit by studying your bible. If you stumble across some more good points, I would love to hear them. Together we can encourage one another to *be mature and full grown in the Lord* (Eph 4:13).

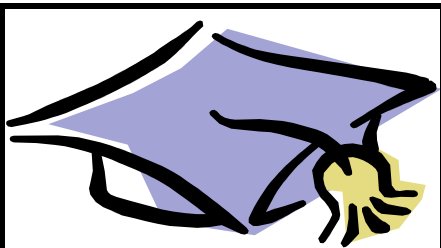
*... I have written to you who are God's children because you know the Father. I have written to you who are mature in the faith because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning...*

- 1 John 2:14

## Upcoming Birthdays

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

Arnout Francke	July 4
Dave Currin	July 5
Kassidee Kennedy	July 6
Mark Reinhardt	July 6
Gabriela Peková	July 6
Anthony Walker	July 6
Megumi Ito	July 7
Nathan Ndubuka	July 8
Bevan Smith	July 8
Brett Johnson	July 9
Debbie Vallejos	July 10
Paul Stoeter	July 11
Jana Ndubuka	July 11
Veronika Cvečková	July 11
Jeremy Kruiuzenga	July 12
Beverly van Straaten	July 14
Štepan Denk	July 17
Kevin Nickle	July 18
Jay O'Neal	July 18
Antonia Dreier	July 19
Susan Hein	July 22
Hana Kroutilová	July 23
Rachel Koukliková	August 1
Dita Crowther	August 1
Mark Robbins	August 4
Jenny MacRae	August 6
Rachel Sheffield	August 8
Joshua Kropf	August 8
Garth Wright	August 10
Daniel Gawlik	August 12
Kelsie Mullen	August 15
Sherry Robbins	August 18
Lydia Strong	August 20
Tonda Culek	August 24
Magda Cejková	August 30
Jeroen Overwater	August 30



**Congratulations** to  
(soon to be) DR. DAVID LUBWAMA who graduates from the Charles University Medical School this July/August, and also to REV. JOHN R. MULLEN who was awarded a certificate of post graduate studies from the International Baptist Seminary in Prague on May 29th.

**Next Úvaly BBQ**  
**Saturday, July 7, 2007 at 14:00**

The Mullens will be hosting a potluck BBQ in June. Come play ping pong, ride bikes, relax in the country and enjoy the fellowship. Bring whatever you want to cook on the grill. Soft drinks will be provided.

### SUMMER BAPTISM

In Úvaly

July 14th, 2007

Please contact John Mullen if you are interested in obeying the biblical command to follow Jesus in baptism.



### PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Úvaly outreach** - Please pray for the English Camp which will be August 13-17. We are seeking volunteers. If interested please contact Kelsie Mullen.
- **Parole** - Please pray for Richard Emereoha's successful parole request.
- **Healthy Pregnancies** - Please pray for the health of 2 sisters in our community.
- **Paul** - Please pray for John's cousin who was in a car wreck and is in a comma. His family is trying a new therapy this summer.

# PCF Annual Report 2006

"We're building the family of God to extend the kingdom of God."

**Prague Christian Fellowship (PCF)** has certainly changed over time as people have come and gone, however the vision, location and the pastors, John & Kelsie Mullen, have remained the same **for over 10 years!** We are an international community (representing 14 different countries in the membership) but PCF mostly represents the indigenous community (at the end of the year Czechs represented 57% of the membership). In the last ten years we have been blessed with 250 new members to the community and in the same period 220 have moved on.

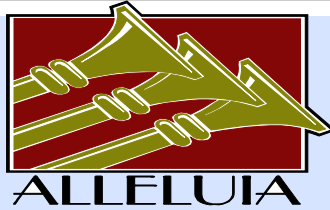
## Evaluation of Last Year

2006 was a year of growth and fruitfulness. Each year we attempt to reach out to our community and since John & Kelsie Mullen live in Úvaly, a village just outside of Prague, much of our outreach has been focused there. Last year several children made professions of faith in English Camp and we started a monthly meeting, called English Club, for Czech kids.

The year was characterized by an emphasis on community and the formation of five small groups with various emphases (plus PCF members leading three additional weekly International House of Prayer Prague (IHOPP) meetings).

We added 23 new family members (compared to 19 the year before) representing six different countries. Two people were baptized in obedience to Christ. A total of 19 people left the community (as compared to 20 the year before). Total membership changed from 61 to 65 over the year (net growth was a positive 7% increase).

Turnover in an international church is typically 30-35% (1/3). PCF turnover from the average membership level has been declining over time (2006 was 29%, 2005 was 32%, 2004 was



35%, 2003 was 59%, 2002 was 24%, 2001 was 49%, 2000 was 32%). Last year saw a relatively low turnover.

Finances improved last year (42% increase) as a result of two large gifts from the USA. Tithes remained virtually unchanged and expenses increased about 16%. The overall result was a net income of 137,722 Kč and there were 178,169 Kč to help buffer the 2007 expenses.

## Outlook for the Year 2007

In 2007 we are building on the strength of 2006 - our relationships. We continue to emphasize small group ministries and opportunities to share our lives together. We desire to share the love of God with the people around us. This year we hope to build a playground in Úvaly and host the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Úvaly English Camp. As the Úvaly ministry builds momentum and requires more of the Mullens' focus, we will look to God to provide more support for the ministry of PCF in Prague.

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### 1. For the congregation

- a) conferences / events
  - Passover Seder Service and Meal
  - Autumn Church Retreat
- b) special Sunday programs
  - fellowship after church coffee/tea/food every Sunday
  - Sunrise Easter Service
  - Candle-light Christmas service (17<sup>th</sup>)
  - Gift Service
  - New Year's Eve Service
  - Christmas Eve Service (24<sup>th</sup>)

### c) ministry training events

- Cross-cultural adjustment seminar
- Leadership training at autumn retreat

### 2. Outside of the congregation

- a) evangelism / social ministry

- Úvaly English Club monthly meetings
- Business Group Meetings
- "Resurrection Egg" Easter Hunt
- Cypress Team Outreach to Jewish Community
- Bi-weekly English conversation group
- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual English camp in Úvaly
- Visiting Kolin orphanage
- Visiting Modrá Skola (refugee minors)
- Visits to Betel
- Presentation of African Medical Relief ministry
- b) social events
  - Coffee/tea after Sunday services
  - Church Picnics/BBQs
  - Prague English-speaking pastors BBQ
  - Shabbat dinners
  - Water Park Trip
  - Girls' Night Outs
  - Men's & Kid's Nights
  - Movie Nights
  - Christmas dinners/party
  - Birthday parties
- c) Mercy ministry events
  - Gifts to refugee school, Mercy Ship ministry and orphanage
- d) prayer events
  - Úvaly prayer walks
  - Pre-service prayer
  - House of Prayer meetings 3 times per week
  - Weekly Prayer Focus at Sunday gatherings
  - Participation in the International Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem
  - Firewall Prayer Group formed for PCF leaders and members

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### 1. Income

tithes: 516,426 Kč  
special /other income: 223,530 Kč  
total: 739,956 Kč

### 2. Outlay

salaries (pastor, administrative support): 156,260 Kč  
health and social insurance: 86,875 Kč  
office and church rent: 177,820 Kč  
overhead: 96,708 Kč  
investments and repairs: 44,237 Kč  
evangelism and advertising: 19,305 Kč  
gifts: 21,030 Kč

total: 602,234 Kč  
bank bal. as of 12/31/06: 85,282 Kč

*Should you have a testimony to share please email us. The deadline is August 20, 2007*