



The Prague Christian Fellowship POST

Monthly Newsletter of the Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF

Suggested Cost 10 Czech Crowns - October 2007

Out of the heart...

John Mullen, PCF Pastor

Not very long ago I stood outside the church (running late!!!) watching my wife try to parallel park. She attempted several times and finally reversed too far into a parked car. When we finally opened the back of the car to unload I discovered her quick (unplanned and *unscheduled*) trip to the store included buying things she wanted at home and had nothing to do with immediate church needs. At this point... I did something so shocking that my wife and kids had to laugh. I flexed my muscles in anger and let out a URRRR growl!!! My wife said that I looked like the Incredible Hulk. It lasted a few seconds and then I relaxed and blurted out a profound statement, "I have an anger problem."

Now I may not be responsible for life's circumstances and the feelings they generate. But, *I am* responsible for how I respond to my feelings. I think it was Charles Swindoll who said that 90% of living life is reacting to life's circumstances. Of course there are more than just two kinds of reactions (good and bad). Our reactions are a barometer of our heart. Jesus says, "the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean'" (Matt 15:18-19).

Imagine our emotions could be measured on an emotional barometer from 1 to 10. At times it is as if our "feeler" gets stuck. With prolonged heightened stress and tension, it seems like the time required for needle of the gauge to fall back to "normal" takes longer and longer. Another stressful situation comes along (rated 5 on our scale) before the gauge is back down to zero and BOOM! It appears as if you are overreacting, and you are. The event was only rated 5, but if your feeler was already stuck on 6 when the situation hit, the combined total is "off-the-charts." Now, if I can't control life's circumstances and I feel what I feel, what is a person to do when their "feeler" gets stuck? **I think**

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the answer lies in how we process our feelings.

It occurred to me that in our busy, rushed world maybe we don't pay enough attention to how we are feeling in the little things of life. Even big things like a death can get stuffed deep down without a healthy outlet. We ignore *this* and put up with *that*. Most people live relatively isolated, and when you finally *are* with others you don't want to be complaining all the time about how you are feeling. Americans respond with amazing similarity to the question, "How are you doing?" "Fine." is usually always the answer. So our frustrations stay trapped, accumulate and eventually explode. BOOM!

Plugging into the Body of Christ and taking your place as a listening priest and a confessing ex-sinner is the foundation of a daily choice to submit to Christ.

Hebrews says that if the people had experienced a personal acceptance of the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ *their feelings of guilt would have disappeared* (10:2). I was wondering what other negative feelings might disappear when submitted in prayer to Jesus. Protestants are generally inept in the discipline of confession, unless of course

they join a 12-step group. Imagine the effect on our soul if we were to share our fears, frustrations and failures with someone on a regular basis.

As we are starting a "new year" (we seem to be on the educational or Jewish calendar), doesn't it make sense to find a group of Christians whom you can be real with? A prayer partner, a home group, a prayer meeting, a trusted friend.... we *all* need a place to practice confession, and a time to submit our *feelings* to the Lordship of Christ.

In the storms of life no one is really *out* of control. Neither is anyone *in* control. Rather, every person is *under* the control / influence of either God or Satan (i.e.: the law of aerodynamics or gravity... one or the other is at work). A person must choose before the stresses of life hit which influence he or she will depend on.

Plugging into the Body of Christ and taking your place as a listening priest and a confessing ex-sinner is the foundation of a daily choice to submit to Christ. Without it we are left to our own resources. Someone recently told me: "I am fine with saying I have struggles and issues in my life as long as it stays on a theoretical level. I just don't want to discuss it with someone on a personal level." Most Christians would be able to identify with that!

Satan's ultimate goal in tempting Adam and Eve was to convince them they could be like God, thus declaring their independence from God. The essence of sin is to try to be "like God" by living independent from Him. That's what Satan did when he fell. When we try to live independently from Christ and his Body, Satan has us! We become just like him!

If you are unsure of your present
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Family Profile

Ray Wilck

November 16, 2003 was more than just my birthday. It was the first day "I got it"

I found Jesus. I returned to the Methodist Church. It was also the day my life began to change in some very big ways.

After a life in the ruthless rough and tumble world of television news, I realized for the first time there was so much more in this world...in this life...than just news, weather, and sports.

I grew up in a small town on the Virginia/West Virginia border. I went to Sunday School and church because I had to. Later I joined the church and became active in the Methodist Youth Fellowship because it was the appropriate thing to do. I believed in God, accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior for a time, called myself a Christian, but didn't think much about it. I finished secondary school at Bluefield (WV) High School. After some pretty crazy years attending the University of Richmond, Bluefield College, and the University of Tennessee, I graduated with a degree in Communications from U-T/Knoxville, one of America's great party schools. Along the way, I was a rock and roll disc jockey, radio news announcer, and news manager. I continued my media career working in television as a reporter, presenter, producer, and news executive.

PCF Finances

August 2007

30,036	Total Income
1,232	Internet & Communications
5,250	Office Rent & Electricity
8,500	Church Rent
1,356	Supplies & Equipment
200	Copying & Publishing
28,350	Salaries/Employ Tax
2,000	Evangelism & Teaching
0	Church Giving
8,439	Fees & Advertising
5,510	Miscellaneous
60,837	Total Expenses
- 30,801	Net Income

All amounts shown are in Czech Crowns

I had no time for Jesus, or God, or the Church. In fact the name Jesus made me uncomfortable as did the mention of the word - Christian. I was married and divorced, and bounced around the country as most TV news people do. I was living life in the fast lane, working in big city television markets and doing fine. Or at least, I thought I was doing fine.

Sometimes, in quiet moments, I asked myself what my life was all about. When I pondered the answer, I felt empty and directionless. However, I never really dwelled on the matter



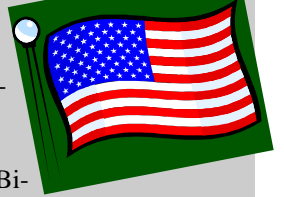
much. There was always another plane crash, crooked politician, or dancing bear to chase.

Nevertheless as the birthdays whizzed by, I was touched more and more by that empty directionless feeling deep down in my gut. That all ended on November 16, 2003.

After committing my life to Christ things started to happen. I got a pop-up add for a ridiculously cheap ticket to the Czech Republic. I went - just before Christmas - and was mesmerized with the people and the country.

I also kept running into the term - ESL. That's English as a Second Language. People I interviewed, people interviewing with me for a job, friends, and news stories repeated the initials E-S-L.

I learned about a Mission Trip to the Czech Republic to teach English at a summer camp, and teach Bible lessons at the same camp. There were many closed doors preventing me from making the trip, but soon they were wide open.



With a lot of enthusiasm and little practical teaching experience, I asked the Holy Spirit for help. During the summer of 2005, I taught a group of students in the Czech Republic. They thought I did a pretty good job.

Again circumstances began to change, and doors began to open. Then the e-mail came asking me about my interest in missionary work teaching ESL for the Methodist Churches in the Czech Republic.

I was certain God had more in store for me, but I can tell you that this old rock and roller never thought Ray Wilck and missionary would be used in the same sentence.

After several months of prayer, and research, and thinking, and more prayer, I decided on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2005, to start working for Jesus in the Czech Republic.

On January 31, 2006 I arrived in Prague with my collie dog. Beau.

That's the second time "I got it."

Now I'm leaving each day of my great Czech adventure in the hands of God and I pray that his will becomes my will, and his plans for me become my plans.

As I write this for my English speaking friends at the Prague Christian Fellowship, I thank the Lord that my mission here in Prague allows me to continue to say everyday...

"I got it." 😊



PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Úvaly outreach** - Please pray for the Monthly English Club. 11 kids prayed to receive Christ during the English Camp and we want to help them grow in their faith.
- **Parole** - Please pray for Richard Emereoha's next parole request.
- **Healthy Pregnancies** - Please pray for Hana D. and Marketa C.
- **Paul & Sistie** - Please pray for John's cousin who was in a car wreck and is in a comma, and for Kelsie's mom who has cancer.
- **Former PCF members involved with ministry** such as David & Linda Snell, Sam Ewell, Steve & Emma Gower, Michael Stadler, Arnout Francke (last year of seminary), Kelly Kuest, 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).

Faithfulness

1) God Is Faithful

He passed in front of Moses and said, "I am the LORD, I am the LORD, the merciful and gracious God. I am slow to anger and rich in unfailing love and faithfulness" (Ex 34:6). O LORD God Almighty! Where is there anyone as mighty as you, LORD? Faithfulness is your very character (Ps 89:8).

2) God Tests Our Faithfulness

It was there at Marah that the LORD laid before them the following conditions to test their faithfulness to him (Ex 15:25-26).

3) God Leads Those Who Are Faithful

The LORD leads with unfailing love and faithfulness all those who keep his covenant and obey his decrees (Ps 25:10).

4) Faithfulness Has A Cost

We proudly tell God's other churches about your endurance and faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering (2 Thess 1:4).

5) Faithfulness Brings Blessings

A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished (Prov 28:20).

6) Faithfulness Generates Responsibility

To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away (Matt 25:29-30).

7) Faithfulness Is An Act Of Humility

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe the mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others (Matt 23:23). And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Mic 6:8).

(Continued from page 1... Out of the heart)

status, there is always the "Jesus litmus test": *For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; (Matt 15:19-20).* A "yes" answer to any of the above is a good indication that we are under control of the wrong spirit and we need to take some intentional steps to submit ourselves to Christ and other believers.

God's invitation for us **to become holy** is for today. What image comes to your mind when you hear about "a holy person?" Someone whose life is "all together?" Jesus describes it like this: *"But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me, the sinner" (Luke 18:13).* This man was not all together. In fact he was despised by the religious. But, he was desperate for God and was very aware of his need for help and mercy. This was a normal, struggling person.

Will you accept the invitation to do the same? If not, it just a matter of time before you go BOOM! ■

New PCF Bank Info:

Sbor Křesťanské společnosti PCF,
eBanka
Account No. 181730394/2400
Variable symbol: 10261
Contact Evzen Pekarek for assistance at PekarekEvzen@seznam.cz

AUTUMN PCF RETREAT

In ŘEVNICE
October 12th - 14th
Please contact Kelsie Mullen if you are interested in coming along.
+420 722 902 083

Winter BAPTISM

Dec 8th, 2007
Please contact John Mullen if you are interested in obeying the biblical command to follow Jesus in baptism.



Upcoming Birthdays



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

Isaac Bediako	October 1
Marianne Bolton	October 3
Honza Knappek	October 4
Hana Dětková	October 5
HongXia Hu	October 6
Phillip Old	October 7
Courtney Mangina	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
Teresa Arellano	October 19
Ian Crowther	October 20
Blessing Egho	October 20
Amir Taher Zadeh	October 20
Michelle Clark	October 22
Eric Zanger	October 23
Mitchell Mullen	October 23
Gaye Emmerton	October 23
T.J. Caldwell	October 24
Markéta Sedlačková	October 27
Lydia Burda	October 29
Robert Harris	October 29
Brook Getahun	October 30
Jerrold Ivery	October 30



Anxiety by Eliška L.

1. **Remember** what God has done for you and how he delivered you from your troubles, how he saved you, how he has been faithful to you. (Psalm 27)
2. **Watch**
 - a. Not your troubles (it is important what you watch) but keep your eyes on the Lord - are you asking how? (Psalm 27)
 - b. Watch the animals - God feeds them, and takes care of them. Most of them even don't have names - but God knows where they have their nests, or homes. You have a name and God knows it. (Matt 6)
 - c. Watch the flowers - and behold - if he knows about them, how come he would not know about you? How many pieces of grass are there in a square meter in the garden behind your house? - who knows, but God? (Matt 6)
3. **Know**, that God cares for you and no-business is too little or too insignificant for him. (1 Peter 5)
4. **Humble** yourself under God's hand.

"With Love For Kids" in Minsk



At the end of August three members from PCF and one other person from Prague boarded a train heading for Minsk. It was a very international team, made up of Andreas (from Germany), Vanessa (from Columbia), Garth (from America) and Matthew (from Australia). The four team members were on their way to help a Belarus charity organization, WLFK (With Love For Kids), run a Social Adaptation Camp for teenage orphans.

Belarus, a country of 9.7 million has 33,000 institutionalized orphans. The future for these orphans is often very grim, as the statistics show. After leaving the orphanage:

15% commit suicide
20% will be homeless
62% follow the lifestyle of their parents
Only 3% live a normal life

With Love For Kids began 10 years ago with a vision to change these statistics. Whilst they work in many ways all year around, during summer they run a very special program: The Social Adaptation Camp. It takes some of the older orphans aged 15 -17 and ministers to them over a period of 10 days. It was to this camp that our team went to assist.

The camp consists of almost as many volunteers as participants: around 45 orphans and around 45 volunteers. The volunteers range from cooks, to cleaners, to security guards, nurses and counselors. The orphans are divided into 4 groups (or families, as we prefer to call them). Each of these families has 2 older leaders that become the 'mother' and the 'father' of the group. They also have 2 to 3 counselors, these are orphans in their late teens and early 20s who have themselves been through the program. They are all on fire for God and passionate about sharing their faith and ministering to the needs of those placed under their care.

The camp program consisted of many fun activities as well as developmental programs: from Sport competitions to team building games; from learning how to dance to making photo frames; from talent shows to listening to testimonies; from goal setting seminars to money planning activities. By the end of the program many of them walked away with new life skills, amazing memories, and most importantly – a new family. By the end of the program 37 of the orphans had made a commitment to Christ – Praise God!

The wonderful news is that the organi-

zation has a very effective follow-up program. They currently own two apartments (called warm houses) and are in the process of acquiring a huge home. Each of these 'Warm Houses' contains a full time 'mother' who looks after the home. The house is used for some of the orphan graduates to live in and is also available for those still in the orphanage to visit on weekends. Here they discover that they are a part of a family, that they are cared for, and most importantly – they are not orphans any more, for our Heavenly Father calls them his own.

Already some people are talking about visiting again around Christmas and of course again next summer. If you are interested in being a part of a team or helping in some other way, please contact me. For more information you can also read about the program on the internet: <http://www.ariso.eu/wl4k.en.php>

Finally, on behalf of WLFK, the team would like to thank those of you who contributed to the camp financially this year. We brought a generous gift from PCF (an equivalent of 13,000 Kč) to help with the expenses of the camp.

Matthew Elphick
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PCF Mission's Report 2007

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

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