

## Parakletos News Letter June 2010

Parakletos Ministry

We exist to facilitate the church to be a safe, honest, and intimate place to meet, know and grow in Christ and His Body.  
Parakletos creates a safe place through means of individual counseling, seminars, and mentoring,  
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Dear friends,

Greetings from warm summer Prague! We would like to share with you what happened in the last months.

### Wheaton study time

We spent almost five weeks in Wheaton, USA during the end of April and in May. It was arranged by our friends in Wheaton. The purpose was to use the library and work intensely on our projects. Julia was writing her final project/thesis for her M.A. study. Pavel was writing a book about marital conflict and in Wheaton he was doing additional research for the book. We basically spent 10 to 12 hours a day in the library. And it was a blessing because we got a lot done.

We also met a lot of friends in Wheaton. It was wonderful to see them. And we were able to bring to closure our past in Wheaton. It was, actually, the first time when we both, Julia and Pavel, were in Wheaton together. It helped us to bring back our memories but also see that we are now somewhere else. The two years at Wheaton College were a blessing for us and for the whole of our family. But now we have moved ahead.



We also were able to make a trip to Denver to visit our friends in Cherry Hills Church and we spent one weekend in Milwaukee with the Greens. It was so nice to see all the friends and relax during those weekends. Even though during that time we worked quite hard, we felt that our stress, which we brought with us, gradually started to go away. The side effect of that time was that we felt stronger and rested when we were leaving.

Down side of that time was that since we have been back, we have been overwhelmed with the work waiting for us here. But hopefully now things will slow down a bit.

### Courses and seminars

Right before we left for the US trip Pavel was lecturing at KAM conference about the apostle John. And right after we returned Pavel taught "The Role of the Father" course at the Evangelical Theological Seminary and it was one of two courses with most participants and that shows the level of interest in the issue in our culture. The end of the school year always represents a lot of final activities. At ETS were final exams, meetings of committees which Pavel was either leading or was part of, and meeting of the department which Pavel heads. Overall it was a good year with a lot being accomplished. Also Don Smith and Dan Green visited here and had seminars. The rest of our routine work like counseling, mentoring and work with pastors also continued as usually.

### The apartment

During the last 20 years we had one area which we fully entrusted to the Lord. The apartment where we live belongs to Pavel's former employer. When he left his job for ministry, we knew that one day there would be a problem because we would have to leave it with very limited options for finding another place to live. That problem is related to rather complicated laws inherited from Communist time. Simply, our only hope in the last 20 years was that the Lord would take care of us. Because real estates during the financial crisis dropped in value also here, we are now in the process of buying an apartment in the town where Pavel was born. Even though we cannot get a loan, the sellers agreed that we can make payments in parts and that makes the whole purchase for us possible. It is, obviously, an expression of God's supernatural care for us and one of the greatest miracles in our lives! We are grateful to God because we have now hope for our future. There is really nothing God cannot do! A few months ago we had no idea about our future and now the Lord has shown His mercy and care for us!



### Family

Our older daughter Kristýna graduated in June from St Andrews University. We celebrated her graduation with her. It was so good to see her church and meet her friends and their families. Kristýna now is looking for a job either in Prague or in the UK.

In the rest of summer we will visit our moms and help them around their houses. Pavel is going to speak at the Fellowship of European Evangelical Theologians conference in Berlin about family ethics in August. And we hope to find more time to focus, Julia on her thesis and Pavel on his book. In October Pavel plans to go to Lausanne Conference in Cape Town, where he was invited as part of the Prayer and Counsel team, if the Lord provides finances.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Pavel and Julia Raus