



ICP NEWS

International Church of Prague

December 2010

STUDY CENTRE

Our vision is to extend this ministry to include a year-long residential course.

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We have had the pleasure of welcoming 18 new members to the ICP family.

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Czech and international young people meet to praise Almighty God and share their passion for Christ.

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SABBATH-ICAL

I can truly say that I feel restored and revitalised, and trust God will use this opportunity for His glory!

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SABBATH-ICAL

John Waldrop

I am very grateful for the opportunity the ICP elders gave me to take a Sabbatical last August and September. Thank you to the whole community for letting me go, and to Simon Marshall and the other staff for taking on additional responsibilities in my absence.

What is a Sabbatical anyway? A clue to its meaning is found in its root word, "Sabbath." Just as the Sabbath is a day of rest and worship, a Sabbatical is a leave of absence for rest and study. Both are intended to restore and revitalise the person – so they'll be more effective when they return to their normal routine.

How did I spend my time? I was based in the U.S. city of Colorado Springs, studying in two good libraries in the area. My research focused on the subject of revival – specifically the 18th century revivals in England and the United States, and the impact of those movements of God on the mission of the church over the next 150 years.

What did I hope to accomplish? My desire was to identify dynamics of spiritual life and renewal that might apply to the church today. My two

concrete goals were to complete a journal article on the relationship between revival and mission, and to begin a longer manuscript on the nature and mission of the church. I made good progress but did not complete the article and managed to come up with a rough outline for the book.

What about the long-term benefits? My deepest desire is to grow in my knowledge and love of God, and secondly, to better understand how He works in people's lives to bring about real, lasting change. My intention is to apply all of this to ICP and other local churches and ministries with whom we have contact. I can truly say that I feel restored and revitalised, and trust God will use this opportunity for His glory!

STUDY CENTRE

Simon Marshall

The ICP Study Centre is the educational arm of ICP, serving the church's mission and vision through a number of different activities. At present, these comprise courses that are designed to strengthen, encourage and equip Christians in their faith, and seminars which aim to reach out to non-Christians in a relevant way, and to help Christians show their faith more effectively in everyday life, at work, school and in the home.

Our desire is now to extend the ministry of the Study Centre to include Berea which will be a year-long residential course for people wishing to explore God's Word and their faith more deeply; to learn more about the need for mission and seek God's guidance for their future.

For this vision to become a reality, we need to purchase a property which can be used as accommodation for the students and for staff as well as for teaching. And we are actively searching for such a property.

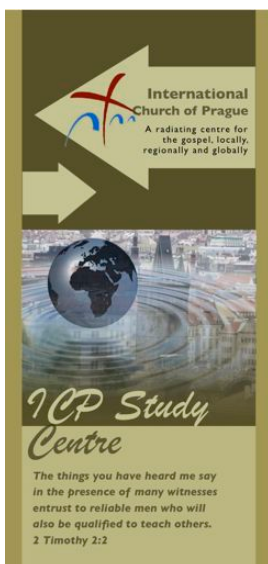
Ideally, this should be within easy reach of Prague to allow for the students to be actively involved in mission work

while they are here.

Prague is strategically located at the very heart of Europe and so is an excellent place for a European-based but internationally-minded study centre.

We hope and pray that we will be able to accept our first students in September 2011, so do please pray with us as we seek God's guidance in this and as we look to him for the supply of the necessary finances.

More details, including how you can give to this project, can be found on the ICP Study Centre website (www.icpstudycentre.cz) or from the leaflets in the foyer.



Harvest Thanksgiving Pictures



PIEROGI GIRLS

Sheila Brandt

What do you get when you spend two hours preparing lots of raw dough and yummy fillings with women from ICP?

You get an evening full of delicious Polish pierogi! After the rolling of dough, flour-covered hands and lots of laughter we were able to sample the tasty pierogies. While sitting around with old and new friends we enjoyed talking and polishing off the leftovers! The evening was a time of encouragement and blessing as I enjoyed time with fellow Christian ladies. It was an evening of sharing life stories, hearing how each other came to Prague and how God is using each of us here in the Czech Republic.

Thank you to Christine Fetzko and all of the women involved in helping with this

event. We are anxious for the next gathering of ICP women for food, fellowship and a good time!

The next one is a Christmas biscuit/cookie-making party for all women in ICP (bring your friends too!) to be held on December 10th. I hope I get to meet lots of new and old friends again then!

Pierogi originate from Central and Eastern Europe and are boiled, baked or fried dumplings of unleavened dough stuffed with varying ingredients. They are usually semicircular, but are square in some cuisines.

Harvest Thanksgiving and New Members

On November 21st it was a double celebration! We enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast and had the pleasure of welcoming eighteen new members into the ICP family and to offer thanks for their enthusiasm and commitment to the body of Christ here in Prague.

ICP offers two annual services (one in spring, one in autumn) where new members are invited to make a public declaration of commitment to our church. One of the newcomers, Chloe Hammett, teaches at the Economics University. She said: "I arrived in Prague in August 2009. I've been going to an ICP women's group.

Although I'm only here until early next year I know that it is important for me to become a member – to feel and know that I belong to a specific church. ICP has been so welcoming and I feel really at home."

New Members

George & Melane Adams
Ben Bowman
Sheila Brandt
Vincent & Kristine Corpus
Hugh & Deanne Davies
George & Claudia Denisenko
Carl & Kallie Ewald
Chloe Hammett
Dan Hyzl
Slavik & Oksana Lytvynenko
Keri Stanková
Markéta Stanková



Hrubá Hrad Hike!

Liz Given

Český Ráj beckoned in October when more than 15 young adults enjoyed a fantastic hike and spent a day of fellowship in God's beautiful creation. The ICP Young Adults went to Český Ráj on October 9th to spend a day of fellowship in God's beautiful creation.

We were blessed with gorgeous weather, good conversations, and stunning views. After our early morning rendezvous, we headed for Bohemian Paradise for a day of hiking. Starting from Sedmihorky, we hiked to the rocky chateau at Hrubá Skála, then on to the castle ruins at Hrad Trosky. By the time we arrived at the railway station in the late afternoon, we had hiked a nice 15km

through various paths in Český Ráj and encountered all kinds of "nature" (including toads, caterpillars, 'uber'-poisonous mushrooms and some pretty spectacular views). It was a great time of building friendships and enjoying God's gorgeous season of autumn together.



BAPTISMS

It was a pleasure to witness the baptism of two members of the ICP family and to offer thanks for their enthusiasm and commitment to the body of Christ here in Prague on November 14th. Song Li (Gianni) from China and Elizabeth Yurkovich were the two baptized. Gianni said: "I appreciate the people at ICP. I have grown in my faith in the last few months and wanted to make a commitment to Christ. Thank you for making me welcome."



THE CASE FOR FAITH

James Hyzl

***The Case for Faith* is the second of a trilogy, which also includes *The Case for Christ* and *The Case for a Creator*. It is written by a former investigative news reporter from Chicago who applied the same diligence to investigating the claims of Christianity as he did to his work in the Chicago criminal courts. The conclusion he came to was to accept Christ as his Saviour.**

The best thing about the book is that it has provided me with strong arguments to counter those that non-Christians have against Christianity. Unfortunately the non-Christian will probably not read the book because of the obvious tilt the author has towards Christianity.

Strobel tackles eight common objections:

1. Since evil and suffering exist, a loving God cannot;
2. Since miracles contradict science, they cannot be true;
3. Evolution explains life, so God is not needed;
4. God is not worthy of worship if he kills innocent children;
5. It is offensive to claim Jesus is the only way to God;
6. A loving God would never torture people in hell;
7. Church history is littered with

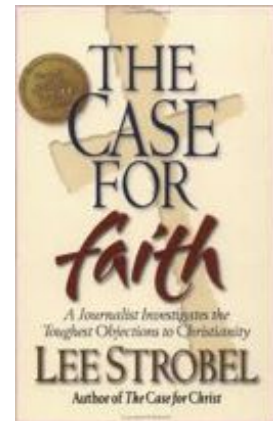
oppression and violence;

8. I still have doubts, so I cannot be a Christian.

He visits eight academics and scientists (all Christians) and interviews each of them about one of the eight issues. The result is that there is a positive conclusion in favour of Christianity.

I found this the weakness of the book; while personally I found almost all the arguments compelling, I can't help but think that the interviews would have been more challenging if the journalist was not a Christian. The fact that the journalist and the academic being interviewed are Christians tilted the outcome of the debate in favour of Christianity.

A case in point is the negative aspects of Church history. The basic pro-Christian argument is that the



If you are looking for this or other books by Lee Strobel, check out the Prague Christian Library book table after the services on a Sunday.

negatives are just anomalies and the overall history is positive. This might sound logical to us Christians. But this might only be because we Christians take a more tolerant view of the Church than non-Christians. Non-Christians may argue that the negative aspects in Church history are not anomalies but show the true state of the Church. This leads me to consider that this book is perhaps better for Christians to read (to root them in their faith) instead of being used to interest non-Christians.



Mike Yurkovich

The Logos Language Center ministry continues to thrive, with around 120 students enrolled this semester.



Danae Friesen

Expansion has been enabled by the arrival of Danae Friesen, an enthusiastic and talented young Canadian who is in Prague for one year to take on many of the group classes and language partners in Logos, as well

Language
LOGOS Center
LLC

www.logos-suchdol.cz/



Ximena Mrázek

as to teach at CISP.

Ximena Mrázek is also teaching a Spanish lesson in Logos, and Frank Plate is teaching two German lessons.

Seven others from ICP are meeting individually each week with Czech students as English conversation



Frank Plate



Cindy Yurkovich

partners. We are especially excited about the four students who are investigating the claims of Christianity each week in the new "English Using the Bible" lesson.

Mike and Cindy were excited (and a bit overwhelmed) that 17 of their students came for an American Thanksgiving Dinner on November 26th.

If you would like to get involved in reaching Czechs through this rewarding ministry, more students are waiting to meet with you during the new semester, which starts in February.

Jessica Pearce



P3, *Prague, Praise, and Prayer* (also known as P3), was a GREAT experience that took place near Budejovicka metro at a local Czech church. Loads of people showed up with ages ranging from sixth to twelfth grade. P3 was an event in which Czech and international youth groups met to praise the Almighty God in unison with others who share our passion for Christ.

Maria Eriksson organized P3 with the help of others both from ICP and the Czech and international community in Prague. It was a wonderful time to connect with people who none of us knew and feel the Spirit move around us. At the start of the day, we got together to play some ice-breaker games – starting with the game Samurai (really fun!). These were good to get teenagers who didn't know each other working together. Then we moved on to workshops which were so good! You could do Church History, sports, art, worship, and all sorts of other things.



Next we sang, gave testimonies, and explained what we and our leaders hope to see as a result of P3 – the growth of God's Kingdom. During this time we had four stations—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication (ACTS). We went to each station and wrote down what we love about God. We confessed in our hearts and minds what we have done; we wrote down our thanks for what God has done for us, and we wrote down specific needs for the Czech Republic. P3 blessed many people, including me, especially because of the fellowship between people from different youth groups. Everyone was so friendly and the



talks, music, workshops and fellowship time were refreshing. "Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, as in fact you have been doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11. This was a great way to build each other up through fellowship with one another. I can't wait for the next P3 event!

ADVENT

The Advent Season is a special time in the life of our church—a time of preparation to celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus. Each of the four Sundays before Christmas we feature special music and lighting of the Advent wreath. The season culminates in our annual Christmas Eve candle light service.

This year's Advent series is looking at the way in which the coming of Jesus changes everything. We are concentrating on how, through his life, death and resurrection, Jesus fulfills the Old Testament law and its requirements, making a true relationship with God possible.

As well as the Advent and Christmas services, there will be a performance



by the ICP Advent Choir and by the youth band "The Witness" on Staroměstské Náměstí on December 16th.

More details are on the leaflet in the foyer, or please contact the church office (email and phone number below) or see the website.

Upcoming Events

5th December

Redeeming and Adopting Us - Galatians 4:4-7

"The Witness" - Youth band

12th December

Creating Unity - Ephesians 2:14-16

"Angel Alert" - Children's Musical

16th December

Staroměstské Náměstí performances

19th December

Meeting the Law's Demands - Romans 8:4

Advent Choir

24th December

Candlelight Service

21st-22nd January

Women's Retreat

23rd January

Mid-Year Meeting

29th January

Small Group Leaders' Training

International Church of Prague

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