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International Church of Prague

September 2011

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# God on the throne

John Waldrop

A song I used to sing in church as a boy, called "This is My Father's World," contains these words:

*This is my Father's world,  
O let me never forget  
that though the wrong  
seems often so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.*

This expresses a truth that is central to the book of Revelation: despite the many problems we see in our world, God is on the throne! The vision in chapter 4 of God's throne dominates the whole book. It speaks of God's majesty and sovereignty. He is the ruler of the world, the Creator of all things, and His purposes will be accomplished in it.

In chapter 5, the Lamb (Jesus Christ) is seen to be the one who alone is worthy to carry out God's plan of redemption and judgement. He has overcome—or been victorious over—Satan, sin and death through His sacrificial death on the cross, and is therefore uniquely qualified to execute God's purposes in the world. Now we know that the prayer Jesus taught us to pray will be fulfilled through Him: *Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven* (Matthew 6:10).

This is, again, expressed well in another verse from that childhood song:

*This is my Father's world:  
the battle is not done;  
Jesus who died  
will be satisfied  
and earth and heaven be one.*

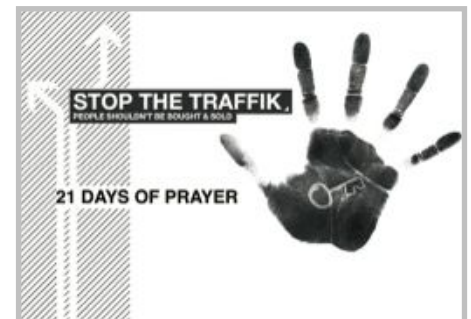
What does this mean for us personally and as a community? It means:

- despite hardships and uncertainties in our lives—God is still on the throne;
- despite evil and injustice in our world—God is still on the throne;
- despite 9-11—God is still on the throne;
- despite the death of loved ones—God is still on the throne;
- despite a global financial crisis—God is still on the throne;
- despite job insecurity—God is still on the throne.

May we be strengthened and encouraged, and live with humble confidence, because God is on the throne.



## Stop the Traffik



**Starting on October 2nd, ICP is embarking upon 21 days of prayer as part of our emphasis on combatting human trafficking.**

There will be a prayer diary available for use which can be picked up from the church on Oct 2nd or downloaded from the website. Please do join with us in praying for an end to the evils of human trafficking.

More information on human trafficking can be found on the Stop the Traffik website: [www.stophetraffik.org](http://www.stophetraffik.org)

### Study Centre Activities

Over the next few weeks, there are a number of activities organised by the ICP Study Centre. More details on all of these are available from Simon Marshall.

These include a *Spiritual Gifts Seminar* on 16th October at 9 AM. This is part of a series of studies on spiritual gifts which can be followed by individuals or small groups. One of our main aims as a church is to see people equipped and encouraged in their service for God, and the spiritual gifts studies are an important part of this. Please pick up a copy of the studies (or download them from the church website) and come along to the seminar.

On October 20th, we will also be holding our latest leadership seminar, which will be led by Bill Miller. Please see him or Simon for more details.

# Spring Retreat

**A doll-making competition on the theme of the British Royal Wedding kick-started the spring retreat at Moninec this year. People of all ages gathered to enjoy fellowship, worship time and learning more about our heavenly Father over the weekend of May 27th-29th.**



Preston Pearce taught from the book of Isaiah and focused on the need for hope and trust in the Lord. The words were

timely for many gathered there. One woman said: "I needed to hear the message about hope and be reminded of the hope we do have. It is not just a fruitless journey here on earth, but one where Jesus is our goal. To be surrounded by nature and loving people was a tonic for me. Thank you so much to the Damsons and Millers for arranging it."

Children (of all ages!) had a lot of fun too. Jared Chumbley said: "There were swings, trampolines,



a tube slide, ski lift and ice-cream. The teenagers did a great job of teaching us. They taught us about trusting God and not fearing man. They also arranged fun games and activities and entertained us even when it was raining outside!"

The talent show featured so many great acts. From acrobatics to singing, guitar playing to skits, it was such a funny event. Seeing a large group of adults at the front making animal noises was hilarious.

Jared Chumbley said: "It was great to be with family and friends. I'd recommend people tell others about their experience so that next year there will be even more people to enjoy such a time of fellowship and praise."



*Kathleen Weyers*

**Jeff and I have been part of ICP for around 9 years and have attended 9 retreats. After the first retreat we both agreed that we were going to attend all ICP retreats. Why? Neither of us has ever belonged to a church that dedicated one weekend of the year to getting together for fun, excellent teaching and fellowship.**

This year, unfortunately, Jeff had to go to England and I had a prior engagement on the Friday which meant that if I attended:

a) I would be going without husband and b) I would be going on Saturday rather than Friday. So I decided against going. That is until John talked at church about the importance of 'the family' being there. So I made a last-minute decision to attend.

One of my main reasons for not being keen to go without Jeff was that I have a terrible sense of direction and I wasn't keen on the drive. However, having downloaded directions I set off with Lynne Edwards at 7am. We arrived just after 11am. Yes – even careful directions didn't help. I was so stressed with the drive and was feeling very negative and really wanted to head straight home again. BUT of course within an hour (maybe two) I was soaking up the great teaching, the fellowship, the fun and

the sense of being with my family. Preston Pearce's insights into the book of Isaiah really spoke to me. I do love the book of Isaiah, and if I was sent to a desert island with only one book of the Bible, I think Isaiah would be my choice.

Preston's areas of focus were: Do not fear, but trust in the Lord; Do not despair, but hope in the Lord; Do not give up, but serve the Lord. All of those were so appropriate for me that weekend.

What I love about retreats is that the teaching extends beyond what is said from the front. The opportunity to discuss with others in a casual and relaxed way really helps me to internalise what I've learned. Getting to know those I see each Sunday, but perhaps don't speak to at length, is such a blessing. What better way to feel part of this great family we have here in Prague than spending time with them. And of course the



wonderful Czech scenery.

If you haven't attended a retreat I thoroughly recommend it. By the way, the journey back took less than one hour, and I returned refreshed and renewed!

# Easter Services

David Creighton

I have only attended two Good Friday Communion Services at ICP. Yet this year's service, like last year's, was undoubtedly one of the most encouraging and enriching acts of corporate worship that I have participated in. It was extremely challenging, moving and profound, and helped me understand Good Friday with a new perspective.

The brilliant simplicity of the service lay in the reflective atmosphere, liturgical elements and the different format of the Lord's Supper that concluded our time together. These aspects enabled me to focus very clearly on the sacrifice of our Lord and made me think in a different way of what our salvation cost Him. Although we can never really comprehend why He loves us so much and the extent of the agony He endured to redeem us, the service reassured me of His grace and unfathomable love. The Good Friday Communion Service also challenged me to never take my redemption for granted.

Naturally, the tone of the Easter Sunday Service was more triumphant and exuberant as we gathered as a church family to celebrate the resurrection, but we also reflected on



the mixed emotions of the first Easter. In a powerful monologue, Christine Corpus depicted Mary Magdalene's seesaw of emotions, from the apparent hopelessness of Good Friday to the triumph of Easter Sunday. We declared this triumph by joyfully shouting, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" at several points during the service. This greeting is common in Eastern Orthodox and Catholic services, but the tradition has been adopted by many other churches, including ICP. I am very glad that we declare this truth because, as someone mentioned during the service, it can never be proclaimed enough. The Paschal Greeting is a perfect summary of the Good News.



## The Man From Aldersgate

Beth Mercedes

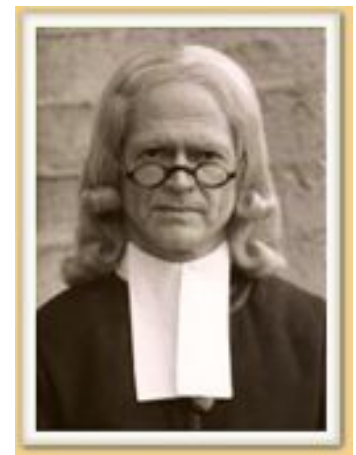
**What a blessing Roger Nelson's award-winning portrayal of John Wesley was to me. It was truly impressive, and I am so glad we had the chance to see it at ICP. The one-man play *The Man from Aldersgate*, staged on Sunday, April 10th, was a fantastic opportunity to be inspired by the example of the founder of the Methodist church – John Wesley.**

Admired for bringing a great spiritual renewal to England and America, we learned a great deal about his life and the true passion he had for spreading the good news of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We heard the story of how, as a boy, John Wesley was rescued from a house fire and that from that moment forward he and his mother knew that God had a great plan for his life.

We were also told about the time God delivered him from the raging seas on his way to America. It was on that trip that he came face-to-face with his fear of dying and his fear for his own

soul. But it was not until three years later, while at a Moravian meeting on Aldersgate Street in London, that he made peace with God. He finally realised that a personal relationship with God is through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Although he was banned from preaching in many churches, this did not stop him from spreading the glorious news of Jesus Christ and the importance of salvation through faith in Him.

He often preached open air sermons in fields, or wherever else a crowd would gather to listen to him. He always believed and taught that the



Bible is the sole authority for Christian faith and often referred to himself as "the man of one book." Roger Nelson's performance was enjoyable, informative, at times humorous and above all, touching. Thank you!

More information about the play, and about Roger Nelson, can be found at the website: <http://a1manplay.com/1manplay/>

# MK Camp

*Caleb and Joshua Miller*

**This year's MK camp was definitely one of the highlights of the summer. From meeting new friends to having a blast with old ones, there was much fun to be had by everyone. When we got to the campsite fifteen really fun people, who were here from America, greeted us by name. Then the 58 of us campers were split up into 4 teams (red, blue, green, and yellow!!) who would compete throughout the week.**

When we woke up, we had breakfast and worship followed by small groups, free time, and a team game or two. After lunch and a brief check of the team's scores, we headed off to the various activities, which included sports (mine and Caleb's choice was easy!), drama, music, and crafts. After this, we had an hour of swimming time in a big lake with gooey mud on the bottom. Then we had free time when we played a lot of four-square, ping-pong, football and Dutch-Blitz. Before dinner we had evening worship, and after dinner we had our night activities – like kick-the-can and other games, bonfire with s'mores and hot chocolate, and a talent show.

One thing at camp that may never happen again was the "Smurf of Shame." It was a little smurf from McDonalds that was awarded to the person who performed the clumsiest act of the day. The shamed ones were Andrew, Nick, Sam, Jessica, and Paulus.

Our special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Pearce, Becca, and the group from Illinois.



# ICP 20th Anniversary

**ICP celebrated its 20th birthday on June 12th 2011. This was a day of fun, remembering and looking to the future – and a time to eat a big birthday cake!**

The advent of technology enabled past members to deliver video messages from overseas to the present church congregation. A celebration was held after the service in the church building to which members brought food. While no one from the first service in 1991 was at the event, there was a sense that we were honouring the church's history and being grateful for God's blessings to us as a church body here in Prague.



## Upcoming Events

**25th September**  
*Welcome Sunday*

**16th October**  
*Spiritual Gifts Seminar*

**20th October**  
*Leadership Seminar*

**30th October**  
*Ministry Sunday*

**27th November**  
*Advent Series Starts*

**24th December**  
*Christmas Eve Service*

## Holiday Bible Club

The weather was beautiful for Holiday Bible Club this year. Sixteen kids between the ages of four and twelve came along to study the life of the apostle Paul. Looking at three scenes from his life, the kids (and leaders!) learned more about the incredible impact Jesus had on Paul's life.

Elizabeth Zielke and Elizabeth Yurkovich taught us a number of fun new games. Nicola Wilson did a fantastic job planning and supplying materials that we needed for arts and crafts.

Dan and Eliza Stine, Vince and Kristie Corpus, Elizabeth Barnes, Sarah Gregory, Marketa and Carl Kittrell were all part of the skits, as well as being discussion

group leaders and general facilitators for the week. We had a lot of fun together as we ministered and spent time with our children.

We had a great showing for parents' night at the end on Thursday as well.

*Jimmy Houck*



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