

Servant Leaders

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There is a way

Our vision is to help raise a generation of fervent, evangelical, missionary-minded Czechs to restore the Czech Church to its mission and calling in the world.

"Cesta Tam"



Providing Leadership Development Services and Programs in the US and Europe since 1985

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Three Things that Last Forever

by Sara Tusek

Photo courtesy Dr. Z. A. Tusek



Recently I heard an address by the President of South Carolina's Columbia International University, Dr. George W. Murray, on the topic of living as a Christian. One of the ideas Dr. Murray suggested that has stuck with me is that there are only three things that never die:

1. God
2. His Word, the Bible
3. The souls of mortal men

Given this perspective, life becomes refreshingly simple. If only these three things are eternal, and therefore have eternal significance, we need only love and obey God, revere and study His Word, and strive to bring souls into His kingdom.

Knut and Gudrun Peterson* know very well that these three things are what really matter. If life could only stay centered on these three things, they could live perfect, productive lives. Unfortunately, keeping centered is not so easy as it sounds.

THREE THINGS YOU CAN'T DO IN PRAGUE

In the first book of the Peterson's Europe-based missionary trilogy, *Three Things You Can't Do in Prague*, readers were introduced to Knut and Gudrun, a middle-aged couple who evangelize in the Czech Republic. Building on their long-standing friendships and contacts with many Czechs from all age groups and walks of life, developed through their business, the International Leadership Institute (a provider of executive education and English language immersion programs to East and Central Europeans since 1990), the Petersons move from Florida to Prague to become full-time missionaries.

In Europe, they work for the Communion of Convergence Churches—USA (CCC-USA), a newly-formed relationally-based association of churches in the convergence model (Go to p. 2)

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offering worship that includes the liturgical, evangelical and charismatic streams of Christian practice. With significant support from the CCC-USA, the Petersons plant churches all over the Czech Republic. CCC-USA ministers and lay persons from all over the world contribute their talents, their resources and their enthusiasm to the enormous task of developing a new international apostolate from the ground up.

With so much assistance, both spiritual and practical, the Petersons are amazingly successful in planting churches, developing disciples for Christ and passing the established churches over to Czech leadership. As each new church takes root, the Petersons move on to plant the next church; in this way they lay the groundwork for the visible presence of the CCC-USA in Europe.

VISION VS. REALITY

Three Things You Can't Do in Prague, published in June 2006, is set in the years 2007–2012, as my husband Jarda and I (through our fictional counterparts, Knut and Gudrun) gave form to our future ministry.

However, as the saying goes, “Man proposes but God disposes.” My brother John read our book and gave us warm congratulations, while mildly warning us that, while “God will surely use you, He will not necessarily use you in the ways you imagine.”

John's prophecy has been proven accurate. Over the past eight months Jarda and I have begun to live out the practical and necessary steps to achieving our vision. And, as often happens, reality does not line up with our imperfect (although, we still believe, inspired) vision.

We have been giving serious thought to the significant resources (financial and bureaucratic) needed to satisfy Czech government requirements for non-profit organizations (\$250,000 of capital, plus licenses, forms, and so on) and provide the multitude of structures necessary for forming a new apostolate of the CCC. These resources would need to be in place before we could launch our envisioned ministry. Given the amount of up-front work needed, and the on-going costs of financing and staffing such a large project as a national apostolate, as well as consideration of the fact

that the CCC-USA is still formulating and finalizing its requirements and support strategies for international apostolates, it seems wise to rethink the plan we proposed in *Three Things You Can't Do in Prague*.

A STEP BACK TO GO FORWARD

We are, then, again in the praying and discernment stage of our ministry in the Czech Republic. We are once again seeking God's guidance as to exactly what it is that we are to do in order to bring God's love, forgiveness and salvation to the Czechs.

The second book in the Peterson's trilogy, *Three Things that Last Forever*, will take up the story of Gudrun and Knut in the present (early 2007), dipping into their past and making a few slightly more cautious forays into their future.

We hope to publish this book in June 2007, and hope the Peterson's friends will be eager to know what happens when the Petersons grapple with the three things that last forever.

* *Knut and Gudrun Peterson, fictional American missionaries, protagonists of Three Things You Can't Do in Prague by Jarda and Sara Tusek, Servant Leaders Press, 2006.*