



**Volume Two, Number Four
April 2007**

**Notes on the practicalities
of following Christ**

continuous conversion

My Christian Ministry

by Sara Tusek

I don't remember a time when I didn't know Jesus. My Baptist Sunday School teachers communicated to me that Jesus was my friend and would never forsake me, no matter what. That assurance has stayed with me all my life, becoming a sturdy lifeline in challenging times and a source of delight in happy times.

As a child my career ambitions were acting and teaching. Later I thought about writing, but didn't know how to make a living at it. Never did I think of becoming a preacher or a missionary, as I was quite shy. Acting provides you with a script; teaching provides you with a well-defined role; writing allows you to think before you commit to communi-

cating. All of these jobs are good for shy people, stiffening their naturally weak and wavering social skills with clearly-understood methods of interaction.

Yet as I entered my middle years, I began to see that serving Christ can draw a person into entirely new arenas of life. My marriage to Jarda, our business activities in the Czech Republic and in the US, and our deepening involvement with other Christians, through small prayer groups and the Alpha course, propelled me into seeing a much bigger world than I had known. At the same time,

Jarda and I felt God tugging us into new kinds of service to Him.

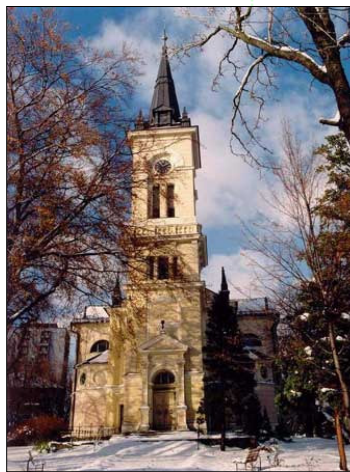
PRAYER AND DISCIPLESHIP

In 2005, with Jarda's encouragement, I entered into a process of examination and discussion with Christians at my church, Christ the Redeemer in Ponte Vedra, Florida. We were all part of the

Bishop's School, an educational outreach of Christ the Redeemer that provided practical and spiritual instruction to those who felt they might be called to the ordained ministry.

The normal progression of the Bishop's School was a two-year period of study, of being systematically mentored by someone already ordained in the CCC-USA, and of periodic examination, leading up to consideration for ordination as a deacon. Monthly meetings, with discussions and papers on books of merit, fostered an intense inquiry into my ministry as a Christian.

Throughout this process, the Church leadership stressed that ordination is a serious commitment of service to God, to be carried out by the ordained person primarily through the programs and services of the CCC-USA. By no means was one to assume that being a candidate in the Bishop's School meant automatic ordination at the end of the two-year discipleship period. Thus I kept the question of my calling to be an ordained servant of God an open question. *to p. 2*



Moravian country church in winter

continuous conversion

My Christian Ministry

TWO CONSTANTS

Over the two years that I was a part of the Bishop's School, I examined my dedication to God and to furthering His kingdom. My mentor Lissa Slade was very helpful in this process, as she challenged me in our monthly sessions to engage in "continuous improvement," a business term that recognizes the necessity for constant reappraisal and openness to new currents and ideas.

Throughout this time, the first of my two constant points of reference has been my commitment to my husband Jarda and our calling to ministry in the Czech Republic. We know that God is leading us there; though we aren't completely sure about all the details, we do know that we will be offering the Alpha program and conversational English lessons. In addition, we'll assist young Czech writers in publishing their work in English.

The second constant has been my job at Providence School in Jacksonville. The ten years I have been a teacher and administrator at Providence have given me not only a wonderful opportunity to serve my students as a teacher, and my fellow English teachers as a department head; they've also provided the priceless opportunity of being intimately involved with a dynamic, fast-growing educational institution. I have the deepest respect for the Providence administrative team, and for New Life Christian Fellowship, the sponsoring church. When I leave the school in a few years, I'll be taking with me the warm knowledge that my friends there will be supporting our ministry in the

from p. 1

Czech Republic through prayer and visits to help us teach English.

ANSWERED PRAYER

As my two-year commitment to the Bishop's School came to a close in March 2007, I asked God if He willed for me to be ordained as a deacon. The answer I consistently received, which was confirmed by many friends and by Jarda, is that I am to continue to serve as a teacher and a writer. Teaching English has been a tremendously positive experience, and has equipped me to teach English in the Czech



Sara, Jarda and Klaus at home

Republic. Jarda and I are writing our second book, and have two more in progress; these books stress my future teaching activities in the Czech Republic as they help me develop the discipline of being a writer.

We've decided that our Czech ministry will be administered through the International Leadership Institute (ILI), so I will continue to be the ILI managing director.

Teaching, writing and running the business is what I believe God wants me to do for Him. For the moment, ordination as a deacon is not my calling. I am very grateful to the Bishop's School for helping me define my ministry, and want to especially thank Archbishop Daniel Williams and Pastor Sharon Williams for allowing me to be part of this work of God.

We know that God is leading us and we can count on Him to show us "when, where and what" as His plan unfolds. We depend on prayer, Scripture and the counsel of our Christian friends to help us discern His will for us. My lifelong friend Jesus will be with me every step of the way as

continuous conversion

Sara Tusek, Editor,

International Leadership Institute

830-13 A1A North, #317, Ponte Vedra Beach FL 32082

Tel/Fax: 904.992.8729; tusek@fdn.com

