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Dear partners in ministry,

We want to thank you so much for praying us through the past academic year. Our year has been packed with many activities and wonderful events. I think that as we look back on this year, we will remember the blessing that it has been to be involved in our student's lives, helping them serve in various ways in the city of Prague. This year, Debby and I served in a new capacity at the seminary as "house parents" to the Certificate-level students. I taught and served as chaplain but Debby and I together disciplined twelve students who were in residence for nine months. Their ages ranged from 18 to 35 and their cultural backgrounds were diverse. Some were raised in families staunchly opposed to Christianity, others were children of pastors, some were raised by the state, some where the only child while others were from large families. (and, we had our own two teenagers) For most of them, it was their first experience in living in a foreign country – and God blessed us all into a wonderful community.



Most of the students in the above picture have already made plans for this summer and autumn. Five of them will be returning to pursue a Masters degree here in Prague. But, there are a few who are still not sure what they will do after they return to their home countries.

Benjamin (pictured here between Greg and Ben's brother Adrian), will be especially missed on campus. Coming from Belgium, he began last year as a Certificate level student. This year, he brought is adopted brother with him to study in the Certificate program as he worked on his Masters degree. Not only will we miss Benjamin's joyful personality and wonderful French accent, his leadership in the outreach to the homeless will be greatly missed in the city of Prague. We hope and pray that there will be a student at IBTS next year to carry this weekly ministry.

One of the accomplishments that I have seen this year is that conversion of my dissertation into a book. I sent it into the publisher (Wipf and Stock) at the end of May. Assuming that no major changes will be requested, I would expect it to be released by the end of this calendar year. This book will be of interest to anyone interested in the development of evangelical spirituality in the Russian-speaking context or the general history of the Russian Baptists. It covers the life of Ivan Kargel (1849-1937) whose theological writings are often quoted today among the Russian-speaking evangelicals. There are plans to translate and publish it in Russian as many Russian-speakers are seeking answers to their theological heritage and finding them in Kargel's writings. This will be the first book on Kargel in either Russian or English and I am very thankful to the LORD, our support team and my family for the completion of this project.



I am actually finishing this letter sitting at a dorm room of a Bible school outside Basel, Switzerland. I am attending a conference on Church Planting. I am not directly a church planter but lead twelve field leaders in Western Europe with Greater Europe Mission. These field leaders are church planters or lead church planters. This conference has pulled together many of our mission's church planters to discuss and consider various ways to empower the Europeans to plant reproducing churches. Over the past few years, we have noticed that some of the churches that we have helped start have become wonderful congregations, meeting the needs of their people but they have not reproduced themselves. We rejoice in the starting of all new churches. However, as we examine scripture, healthy local congregations should reproduce themselves. Congregations are not intended to be "sterile". The tweak that is coming out of this training is simple. We must be actively "training trainers" and "discipling disciplers". It is an easy thing to overlook. All that I do in the classroom, all I do in my leadership and all that our church planters do in the field has to be about passing on healthy "spiritual DNA"...from the start.

Speaking of DNA, our kids are doing well. Nic is in the midst of the IGCSE testing which is the standardized testing for British schools. As with most sixteen year old boys, he has other things on his mind (texting, Facebook, cars, guitar and hanging out) but is trying to buckle down and focus on his schooling. Selina is thirteen and enjoying some new freedoms like a cell phone, bus pass and hanging out. She seems to be developing her artistic side lately, wanting to re-design her room, experimenting with drawing and shadow boxes. I have been amazed at times as they walk into a room, catching me off-guard, wondering for a moment who those new seminary students are.

For His Kingdom in Europe

Gregory Nichols

Prayer requests

1. Pray for the students who have recently graduated, especially for them to hear God's calling in their lives.
2. Pray for the various ministries in Prague which will need new workers with the departure of our students.
3. Pray for a church planting movement in Europe.
4. Pray for our family as we shepherd our children into adulthood.