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SERVANT LEADERS

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2007: A YEAR OF CHANGE AND RENEWAL FOR ILI

By Sara Tusek

This year has brought many changes for Jarda and me, some welcome, some painful and some a bit of both. We feel that the Lord has stepped up the pace of life for us, letting us know that our "Florida Interlude" (the fourteen years we've lived and worked in Ponte Vedra and Jacksonville) is drawing to a close. Change is upon us.

Changes we welcomed

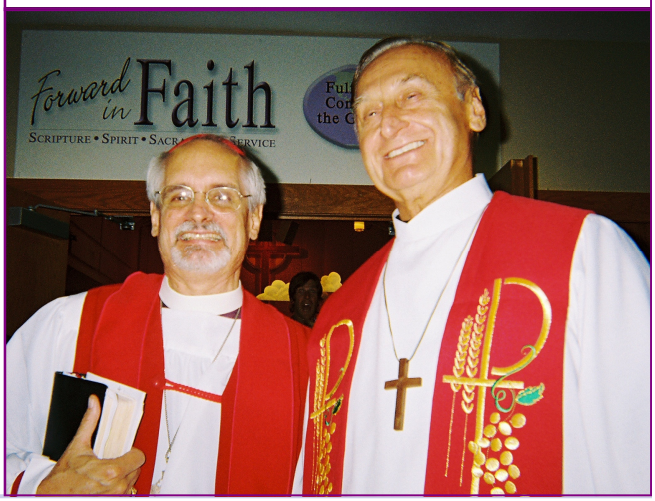
One significant change took place in Prague this August. Jarda, after years of negotiations with the city government in Prague 3, bought his parents' Prague 3 flat (the building is being rehabilitated and has been turned into a co-op) and then sold our share to his brother Zdenek's family. This solution to a complicated situation that's been pending since 2004 was most welcome by all involved. We will now be able to use our Czech resources to set up our Institute headquarters in the Czech Republic in 2010, either on the outskirts of Prague or in a nearby spa town.

Another very welcome change was Jarda's ordination as a presbyter in the Communion of Convergence Churches (CCC) in a ceremony at the CCC National Cathedral, Christ the Redeemer Church in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Jarda was already ordained as a deacon in 2005; his new office, presbyter, carries more responsibility and will allow him to enlarge the scope of his ministry activities, both in the US and in the Czech Republic. We are most grateful to the CCC for having confidence in Jarda's calling and embracing him into membership in its clergy.

Changes we didn't expect

Of course life is filled with unexpected changes, and we simply have to trust God to help us "walk through them." *to p. 2*

Our friend Bishop Bill Mikler celebrates with Jarda at Jarda's ordination in September 2007 at Christ the Redeemer in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.



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Sara and Jarda Tusek with Klaus in St. Mary's, Georgia

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Two difficult changes this year involved illness: my brother John and our daughter Melissa both faced very serious conditions that called for major surgery. Both recovered and are doing well now; in both cases, love and prayer were the keys to recovery. We were overwhelmed with the concern and compassion we experienced from our friends and church family in the midst of these challenging changes, and thank God for giving us people to care about John and Melissa, and to help us pray for them.

Changes that were painful

The death of our dear friend Boyd Fink in September was a painful event. He and his wife Kit have been our trusted friends since we arrived in Jacksonville in 1993. We have shared with them some wonderful trips, dinners, parties and just "sitting around and talking" times. We miss Boyd very much.

Jarda and Sara with Kit Fink, our friend and wonderful encourager for 14 years.

Changes that bring renewal

Every change is a chance to grow in the Lord. He celebrates with us, sharing our joy; He waits with us, sharing our uncertainty; He grieves with us, sharing our loss. This year Jarda and I have had the strengthening company of the Lord in each of our changes, bringing a spiritual renewal that's fragrant and fresh. We are taking our cue from this year's many changes that a really BIG change is on its way. In December we'll spend a few days at one of our favorite spots, Crooked River State Park in St. Mary's, Georgia, praying about the next series of changes and asking the Lord to give us wisdom and discernment as we continue to change.

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